

Video: Sacrifice and Atonement (The Bible Project): https://youtu.be/G_OIRWGLdnw

1. **The Royal House of YHWH.** The house that Israel builds for Yahweh at Mt. Sinai is a tent called the tabernacle. This house has “rooms” and “furniture”. It is a royal house (i.e., a palace).

<u>Tabernacle</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Furniture</u>
Courtyard	Kitchen	bronze altar (stove); also called the Lord’s “table” (Mal 1:7) bronze laver filled with water for washing priests’ hands/feet
Holy Place	Living Room	gold (overlaid) table of “face bread” gold lampstand that looks like an olive tree with branches/bulbs gold altar of incense to keep things smelling good
Most Holy Place	Throne Room	gold (overlaid) ark of covenant (footstool) with pure gold lid and two gold cherubim (throne seat)

2. **Bread of God (Leviticus 1-7).** Once Israel builds Yahweh’s house and He takes up residence there, Israel begins serving him in his house. Worship means “service in the Lord’s house.”

At the tabernacle, Israel worships God mainly through bringing animals, killing them, burning some or all of them on the altar, and eating portions of some of them as prescribed by Yahweh.

Offering an animal is like bringing a meal to Yahweh. He calls them his “food offerings” and the “bread of God.” Read Lev 3:11, 16; 21:6,21; Num 28:2

Of course, this doesn’t imply God physically eats their offerings or needs food to stay alive like humans do. Read Psalm 50:7-15. But He does symbolically eat their sacrifices and smell the aroma of their offerings.

We don’t just eat to stay alive. We eat to enjoy time with family and friends, and to celebrate special occasions. God eats Israel’s food as a sign He is their friend. He eats to make covenant with them and to continue the “wedding feast” that started on Mt Sinai.

Read Psalm 51:14-19. What type of sacrifice will God not despise? A **broken** and **contrite** heart. More than animal flesh, God desires people who love and obey him, and who are humble and sorry for their sins. That is the true sacrifice that pleases Him. He wants to eat *us*. Read Rev 3:16. Who is in Jesus’ **mouth**?

Read Malachi 1:6-8 and Isaiah 1:13 and Amos 5:21-24. Note the key phrases: “polluted food”, “vain offerings” and “I will not accept them.” God never intended an empty ritual, but always desired the ritual to reflect the inward heart of the one bringing the offering/sacrifice.

3. **Korban.** To understand Israel’s worship, we need to understand the word used in Leviticus for the various offerings. They were called “korban” (Strong 7133). This word means “gift” or “something brought near.” See Lev 1:2; 2:1; 3:1-2; 4:23; 5:11; 7:38.

Korban as Gift. When two people exchange gifts they are forming a friendship or continuing a friendship. Exchanging gifts is one way of making a “covenant” with someone, such as exchanging rings in a wedding. Yahweh, as the Husband of Israel promises many gifts to her, and to continue in the marriage covenant, Israel is supposed to bring gifts to Yahweh.

Korban as Something Brought Near. The Korban is something brought near to the altar. Due to sin, men cannot draw near to a holy God, but through animal offerings, God makes a way for Israel to draw near to Him. By offering an animal, the Israelite worshipper is offering himself to God, and that is the gift God really wants. The worshipper draws near to God through the animal offering.

Read Heb 10:19-22. Instead of using animal sacrifices to draw near to God, what gives us confidence to draw near to Him?

Korban mentioned in the NT. Read Mark 7:9-13. Here Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and Scribes for teaching people to withhold certain resources from parents by classifying those resources as Korban (gifts to God), thus breaking the commandment of God to honor parents.

4. **Overview of the 5 Main Offerings.** See handout chart for a comparative overview of the 5 offerings mentioned in Leviticus 1-7. The outline of these offerings is provided below:

Laws on Sacrifice

A. Instructions for Laity

1. The burnt offering (Lev 1)
2. The grain offering (Lev 2)
3. The peace offering (Lev 3)
4. The sin (purification) offering (Lev 4:1 - 5:13)
5. The guilt (reparation) offering (Lev 5:14 - 6:7)

B. Instructions for Priests

1. The burnt offering (Lev 6:8-13)
2. The grain offering (Lev 6:14-18)
3. The priest's grain offering (Lev 6:19-23)
4. The sin (purification) offering (Lev 6:24-30)
5. The guilt (reparation) offering (Lev 7:1-10)
6. The peace offering (Lev 7:11-36)
7. Summary (Lev 7:37-38)