

In preparation for the Tabernacle display at Scentsy Commons, the Meridian Idaho North Stake Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints requested that several members of the Stake write research papers on various subjects relating to the ancient Tabernacle revealed to Moses in the Old Testament. The authors of these nine papers are not Bible scholars, but spent significant time, effort, and prayer as they studied their subjects and honed their messages. Their hope was to provide meaningful information for readers of all faiths and backgrounds who want to gain a deeper understanding of the doctrine and symbolism of Jesus Christ surrounding the Tabernacle. The authors' intent was for the writings to be from a Christian perspective, yet free from bias towards any one Christian religion. Further, the facts and opinions represented in these papers are the work of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the doctrine and teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or its leaders.

We welcome your questions or feedback on how we can improve the content of these research papers:  
[treasurevalleytabernacle2019@gmail.com](mailto:treasurevalleytabernacle2019@gmail.com)

## Sacrifice and Offerings Under Mosaic Law - Executive Summary

By Justine Powell

- Sacrifice can be traced to the early days of the Old Testament
  - Abraham and Isaac (Gen. 22)
  - Each part of the sacrifice (offering) was symbolic and points to Christ's atonement.
  - Offerings were necessary to show devotion to God, express gratitude, for remission of sins/transgressions, and for peace in a man's life.
- Sacrifices (or rather offerings) were instructive as well as for worship.
  - They were a sign of a person's devotion and dedication.
  - They included prayer and specific rituals that brought a man closer to God.
- There were five different types of offerings under the Law of Moses; Burnt, Grain, Peace, Sin, and Trespass (or guilt).
  - Each had a specific purpose in either helping a person grow closer to God, expressing thankfulness or gratitude, or to make reconciliation with Him.
  - All were symbols of Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice.
  - The sacrifices focused on a variety of animals depending on the type of offering or the economic status of the offerer.
- **Voluntary Offerings**
  - Burnt -To make an atonement for general or inadvertent sins.
    - Unblemished male bull, lamb, he-goat, ram, turtle doves, or pigeons were used depending on the economic status of the offerer.
    - The entire animal was burnt unto the Lord.
  - Grain - To recognize the good will and gifts of God.
    - Finely milled flour or grains were used.
    - 4 options; fine flour, baked bread (similar to a thick pita), cooked bread (similar to a pancake), or fried bread (formed into a ball). All had to be salted and include olive oil and frankincense.
    - No leavening/yeast or honey could be used.
  - Peace -To bring peace to the offeror and his family.
    - 3 types; thanksgiving, renewal of covenants or making vows, or voluntary.
    - Unblemished, male or female goats, sheep, or cattle were used.
    - The fat portions were burned. The remainder was shared in a sacred meal with the priests, the offeror, the offeror's family, and the poor.
- **Mandatory Offerings**
  - Sin -To make atonement for sins ignorantly or involuntarily, or for uncleanness.
    - Focused on repentance and forgiveness.
    - Female goat or sheep, two turtle doves or pigeons, or finely milled flour.
      - A congregation offered a young bull,
      - A priest offered a bull,
      - A ruler offered a male goat.
    - The fat portions were burned and the rest was given to the priests.
  - Trespass (Guilt) - To make an atonement.
    - This one focuses on sinful acts towards others and to make restitution.
    - One must fully restore what had been taken or transgressed (when possible) plus 20 percent in order to repent and be forgiven.
    - Unblemished ram or lamb.
    - Fat portions were burned to the Lord, the remainder given to the priests

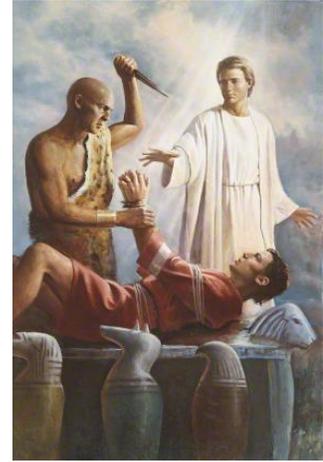
- **Six Steps/Acts under the Law of Moses, perhaps earlier although we lack precise knowledge**
  - Offerer
    - The presentation of the sacrifice or offering.
    - Laid his hands on the head of the animal and consecrated it to the Lord.
    - Slaughtered the animal
  - Priest
    - Collected the blood. sprinkled a portion of it on the sides of the altar, and poured the remainder at the base.
    - Depending on the sacrifice, all or some of the offering was burned.
    - Partaking of the sacrificial meal
- All sacrifices, rituals, offerings etc., were symbolic of Christ's atoning sacrifice.
  - They represented the heart, devotion, and desire of the offeror to be closer to his Savior.
  - Blood offerings ended with the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ
  - Today we partake of the sacrament/communion to remind us of our promises and covenants.
  - Jesus Christ specifically invited us to have a broken heart and a contrite spirit
  - We also show our devotion by offering our time, talents, and by serving others.

## Sacrifice and Offerings Under Mosaic Law

By Justine Powell

### Introduction

The scriptures teach that sacrifice goes back to the earliest days of the Old Testament (Gen. 22). This included offering the firstlings of their flock in similitude of the sacrifice that would be made by Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God. All ancient sacrifices under the law of Moses point to Christ's atonement. Each part of the sacrifices were symbolic and necessary to show devotion to God, for the remission of sins, to express thankfulness and gratitude, and for peace in a man's life.



[www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/images](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/images)

### Background

Whenever there were true believers on earth with priesthood authority, sacrifices were offered to bring man closer to God. This continued until the death of Jesus Christ which ended sacrifice by the shedding of blood. Many partake of the sacrament/communion regularly in remembrance of the offering of Jesus Christ and what he's done for us.

Sacrifices (or a better translation of the Hebrew word "Korban" would be offerings, meaning "drawing closer to God"), were used for instructive purposes as well as for worship. They were a sign of a person's devotion and dedication. They included prayer and specific rituals that brought a man closer to God. It was his duty, but also a way to show thankfulness to the Lord for his life and blessings. Through the sacrificial offerings, one could repent for wrongdoings and make restitution before God.

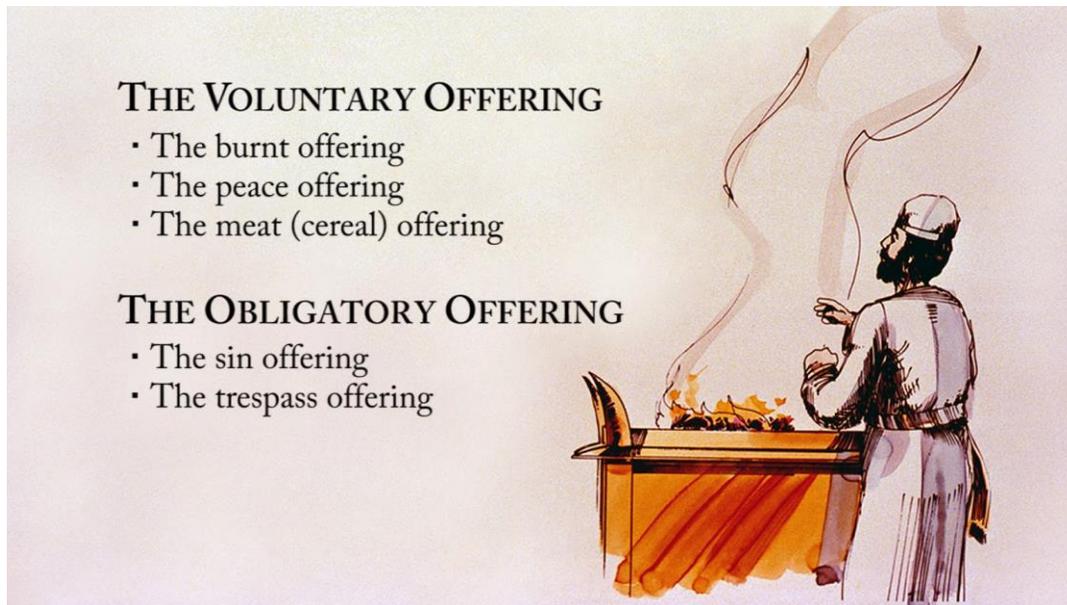
Under Mosaic law, there were many rules given to govern the procedure. Leviticus teaches us much concerning the types of offerings as well as the process.



[www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/images](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/images)

## Offerings

There were five different types of offerings under the Law of Moses; Burnt, Grain, Peace, Sin, and Trespass (or guilt). Each had a specific purpose in either helping a person grow closer to God, showing gratitude, or making reconciliation with Him. All were symbols of Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice. The sacrifices focused on a variety of animals, depending on the type of offering or the economic status of the offeror. In some cases grains or fine flours were used. All animals (or offerings) had to be owned and raised by the offeror. Some offerings were mandatory while others were voluntary. Some dealt with unintentional transgressions, while others atoned for willful or deliberate sins.



[www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/images](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/images)

## Voluntary Offerings

**The Burnt Offering** - The purpose of the burnt offering was to make an atonement for general or inadvertent sins. The animal needed to be male without blemish. Depending on the economic status of the offeror, a bull, lamb, he-goat, ram, turtle doves, or pigeons were used. The entire animal was burnt unto the Lord (Ex. 29:38-42; Lev. 1:3-17; 6:8-13; Num. 28:3-8).

**The Grain Offering** - The purpose of the grain offering was to recognize the good will and gifts of God. Finely milled flour or grains were used. There were four options; fine flour, baked bread (similar to a thick pita), cooked bread (similar to a pancake), or fried bread (formed into a ball). All offerings had to be salted and be accompanied with olive oil and frankincense. No leavening or yeast could be used and no honey. A portion was burned at the altar. The rest was given to the priests (Lev. 2:1-16).

**The Peace Offering** - The purpose of the Peace Offering was to bring peace to the offerer and his family. There were three types; 1) an offering of thanksgiving 2) a renewal of covenants or making a vow 3) a voluntary offering. The animals used were unblemished, either male or female. Depending on the economic status, goats, sheep, or cattle were used. The fat portions were burned. The remainder was shared in a sacred meal with priests, the offeror, his family, and the poor (Lev. 3:1-17; 7:11-34).

## Mandatory Offerings

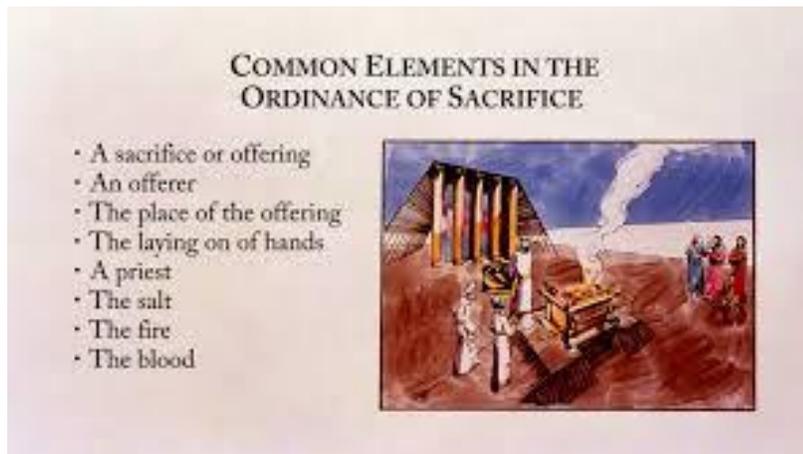
Mandatory offerings were presented to atone or repent of wrong doings; either for sins or transgressions.

**The Sin Offering** - The purpose of the sin offering was to make atonement for sins performed ignorantly or involuntarily, or for uncleanness. This offering focused on repentance and forgiveness. An individual would bring a female goat or sheep to the door of the Tabernacle. The poor would bring two turtle doves or pigeons, or finely milled flour. A congregation offered a young bull, a priest brought a bull for his offering, and a ruler was to offer a male goat. The fat portions were burned and the rest was given to the priests (Lev. 4:1-5, 13; 6:24-30).

**The Trespass (or Guilt) Offering** - The purpose of the Trespass Offering was also to make an atonement. This one focused on sinful acts towards others and to make restitution. One had to fully restore what had been taken or transgressed (when possible) plus 20 percent in order to repent and be forgiven. The offering for this was an unblemished ram or lamb. The fat portions were burned to the Lord, the remainder was given to the priests (Lev. 5:14-19; 6:7; 7:1-7).

The people longed to draw closer to God and make a personal, heartfelt connection. When they wanted to draw closer to God, they came to the temple/tabernacle. It was a tangible means to approach God and receive peace or make restitution.

## Steps of Offering a Sacrifice



[www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/images](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/images)

There were six acts or steps of offering a sacrifice to the Lord. Three were performed by the offeror and three were performed by the priest.

- 1) The first was the presentation of the sacrifice or offering. The worshipper came to the door of the tabernacle or the north side of the altar. Here, the animal was inspected. This was done more of an accountability for the worshipper that he may be accepted of the Lord (Lev. 1:3; 3:2).
- 2) Next, the worshipper laid his hands on the head of the animal he was offering and consecrated it to the Lord. The sacrifice became the offeror's substitute. He was transferring his heart to the animal (Lev. 1:4; 16:21).
- 3) The worshipper then slaughtered the animal, an act that pointed to Jesus' sacrifice. At this point, the animal was given to the priest (Ex. 29:11; Lev. 1:5; 3:2; 4:4; 8:15; 17:11; Num. 18:17)

- 4) The priest collected the blood and sprinkled a portion of it on the sides of the altar and then poured the remainder at the base. Why blood? “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that taketh an atonement for the soul” (Lev. 17:11). “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission” (Heb. 9:22). “Forasmuch as ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold... But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet. 1:18-19). All sacrificial offerings symbolized Christ and His atonement. The blood was an important part.
- 5) Depending on the sacrifice, all or some of the offering was burned. It was completely given to God. Seeing the smoke billowing up to the heavens was a tangible way for people to see that God was accepting their offerings. It represented their hearts drawing nearer to God.
- 6) Partaking of the sacrificial meal was the final step. Those who participated was dependent on the type of offering. In the case of a peace offering, worshippers as well as the priests partook (Lev. 7:11-36). Other offerings were consumed by the priests and their families (Lev. 10:14; 22:10-12; Num. 18:14). Then there were some that only the priests partook of such as the sin offerings (Lev. 6:16, 26; 7:6; 24:9).

### Conclusion

All of the sacrifices, rituals, ceremonies, and offerings under the Mosaic Law were symbols of Jesus Christ’s atoning sacrifice. The offerings served in similitude of the sacrifice of the only begotten of the Father. The worshipper raised the animal or grain himself, it was dear to his family and very valuable. It was a representation of his heart and devotion to grow closer to his Savior. Sacrificial offerings in this manner ended with the sacrifice of our beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He took upon himself our sins in the Garden of Gethsemane and then was crucified on our behalf. He arose again after three days making it possible for us to repent and turn our hearts to Him. Christ’s death was the final sacrifice. Blood offerings ended with the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, however the responsibility and opportunity we have to devote and turn our hearts to Him is the same. Jesus Christ specifically invited each of us to come to Him with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Many do this by partaking of the sacrament/communion regularly. The sacrament is a reminder/covenant to always remember Him. We also show our devotion by offering our time, talents, and by serving others.



(Chart and descriptions adapted from Donald W. Parry)

NAME	OFFERING	PURPOSE	PORTION BURNED AND EATEN	REFERENCE
Burnt Offering	Male without blemish—bull, lamb, he-goat, ram, turtledoves, young pigeons (depending on offerer's economic status)	A voluntary offering to make atonement for general inadvertent sins	Whole animal burned	Ex. 29:38-42; Lev. 1:3-17; 6:8-13; Num. 28:3-8
Grain Offering	Flour or grain, at times with oil, salt, or incense; no honey or leavening permitted; regularly offered with peace offerings and burnt offerings	A voluntary offering to recognize God's good will and gifts	Portion burned; remainder eaten by priests	Lev. 2:1-16
Peace Offering	Unblemished male or female—goats, sheep, cattle	To bring peace to offerer. Three varieties: 1) offering of thanksgiving; 2) renewal of covenant or making a vow; 3) voluntary offering	Fat portions burned; remainder shared in a sacred meal by offerer(s) and priest(s)	Lev. 3:1-17; 7:11-34
Sin Offering	Congregation offered young bull; individual offered female goat or sheep; poor offered two birds or flour; priest offered a bull; ruler offered a male goat	A mandatory offering to make atonement for sins performed ignorantly or involuntarily or for uncleanness; focused on repentance and forgiveness	Fat portions burned; remainder eaten by priests	Lev. 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30
Trespass (or Guilt) Offering	Unblemished ram or lamb	A mandatory offering to make atonement for sinful acts against others; focused on repentance, restitution (full plus 20 percent), and forgiveness	Fat portions burned; remainder eaten by priests	Lev. 5:14-6:7; 7:1-7

All of the sacrifices, rituals, and ceremonies that were part of the Mosaic law code were ordered as symbols of Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice

The sacrifices included burnt, grain, peace, and trespass offerings. The sacrifices focused on animals—sheep, goats, birds, bulls—and the shedding of their blood. Or, if the offerer's economic status did not permit the sacrifice of an animal, then flour or grain served as acceptable substitutes. Some offerings were voluntary, others were mandatory; some dealt with the unintentional transgressions of the children of Israel, and others atoned for their willful or deliberate sins. One enlightened biblical scholar, Andrew Jukes, has written that in every sacrificial "offering there are at least three distinct objects presented. . . There is the offering, the priest, the offerer. By *offering* is meant the sacrificial victim, such as the lamb, the pigeon, the fowl, the bull, the ram, and so on. By *priest* is meant the temple officiant who performs the sacrifice. By *offerer* is meant the man or family of Israel who presents the offering to the priest...What, then is the offering? what the priest? what the offerer? Christ is the offering, Christ is the priest, Christ is the offerer...As offerer, we see Him man under the law, standing our substitute, for us to fulfil all righteousness. As priest, we have Him presented as the mediator, God's messenger between Himself and Israel. While in the offering He is seen the innocent victim, a sweet savour to God, yet bearing the sin and dying for it" (Jukes, 1976, 44–45).

References and Additional Reading:

Jukes, Andrew. *The Law of Offerings* Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1976.  
Sacrifices under the Law of Moses—Six Acts (Adapted from Donald W. Parry)

(Chart and descriptions adapted from Donald W. Parry)

Action Number	Action	<i>Three acts conducted by the worshipper</i>
1	<b>Presentation of the Sacrifice</b>	The worshipper presented the sacrifice at the door of temple or on the north side of the altar (Lev. 1:3; 3:2)
2	<b>Laying on of Hands</b>	The worshipper laid his hands on the sacrifice to consecrate the offering to God and to make the sacrifice the offerer's substitute (Lev. 1:4; 16:21; cf. Num. 8:10; 27:18, 20)
3	<b>Slaughter of the Animal</b>	The worshipper slaughtered the animal, an act that pointed to Jesus's sacrifice; later in history, the priests performed the sacrifice
		<i>Three acts conducted by the Priests</i>
4	<b>Sprinkling or Pouring of the Blood</b>	For most animal sacrifices, the priest collected the victim's blood and sprinkled a portion of it on the sides of the altar and poured the remainder at the altar's base (Ex. 29:12; Lev. 1:5; 3:2; 4:7; 8:15; Num. 18:17; cf. Lev. 17:11)
5	<b>Burning of the Sacrifice</b>	Depending on the sacrifice, the priest burned all or part of the animal on the altar
6	<b>Partaking of the Sacrificial Meal</b>	Participants of the sacrificial meal included (depending on the sacrifices): (a) Worshippers and priests (in the case of the peace offerings) (Lev. 7:11–36) (b) Only the priests and their families (Lev. 10:14; 22:10–12; Num. 18:14) (c) Only the priests (Lev. 6:16, 26; 7:6; 24:9)

The accompanying chart lists six acts, together with a brief explanation for each of the acts. Note that worshippers conducted acts 1–3, and acts 4–5 pertained to the priests. Act 6, partaking of the sacrificial meal, pertained either to priests alone, to worshippers and priests, or to priests and their families.

The entire six-part process of the animal sacrifices focused on Jesus Christ and his atonement, because sacrifices were offered as a “similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father” (Moses 5:7). For example, act 2: When the offeror laid his hands on the animal’s head, this served to transfer the offerer’s sins to the animal. The symbolism of laying on of hands is explained in Leviticus 16:21, where Aaron lays his hands on the scapegoat: “And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat.”

After the offerer’s sins are transferred to the victim, then act 3 takes place, the slaughter or sacrifice of the victim. Acts 2 and 3 then teach us about Jesus. He first took upon himself our sins in Gethsemane, and then he was sacrificed when he died upon the cross. Each of the six acts held some significance with regard to the atonement.

References and Additional Reading:

Kurtz, J. H. 1998. *Offerings, Sacrifices and Worship in the Old Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.

## Works Cited

*The Bible*. Authorized King James Version.  
Intellectual Reserve. Inc., 1979

Parts adapted from Donald W. Parry

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheTabernacleMan>, Terry Harmon PHD

[https://youtu.be/Tpmqs6\\_E8L8](https://youtu.be/Tpmqs6_E8L8)

<https://youtu.be/pkShglfHzbM>

<https://youtu.be/AH2Kq6Dpk2o>

<https://youtu.be/6QqzWwT8cAI>

<https://youtu.be/qrHzXQctLNU>

<https://youtu.be/AnL1TvtPU8>

Sacrifice and Offerings of the Law of Moses

<https://youtu.be/72TRcJMgQFE>

A. James Hudson EDD