

4. The Whole Burnt Offering Sacrifice

We will proceed at this point to discuss the five basic sacrifices of the sacrificial system, this being the first in that discussion. I am still working out of the King James, comparing it with the New King James and the NIV. In my discussion in this syllabus I will highlight phrases that I think important. The wording is the KJV and I hope you can follow it otherwise. We proceed on a verse by verse basis and summarize frequently...and how long we can be this detailed is anyone's guess.

1:1...The Lord spoke...Jehovah is the source of the code of holiness
unto Moses...the Divinely appointed person
out of the tabernacle of the congregation...note the happy relationship between the Lord, His Servant, and His people. The Divine character of the instituted law is simply stated.

1:2...if any man...probably household is in view
bring an offering..."gift" is the concept, not payment
of the cattle, etc. ...the offering is not of inconsequential stuff but out of the meaningful belongings.

What is spoken of in this passage thus far is the right of any thoughtful party to give a gift to God. Somehow worship must begin at that level...a desire to honor God indeed.

1:3...a burnt sacrifice...that which goes up
a male without blemish...being unblemished means it is undefiled and so of primary value
own voluntary will...love cannot be compelled. This offering is one of volition
at the door...the presentation is open and therefore an act of testimony and encouragement.

The key feature of the sacrifice is its perfection.

The key in the offering is willingness.

Hence an offering that is inferior or given in compulsion is not an acceptable gift for God.

1:4...hand on the head ...the worshipper is identified with the sacrifice, hand and head representing will and intellect.
it shall be accepted...God receives the acts of love
to make atonement...it indicates how restoration is effective through death. Atonement is more than just "covering"...it is the release of the individual to be accepted with God.
Notice that the whole worship sequence is under the direction of the Divine will.

And note that no one can atone for himself...there must be a sacrifice of blood that gives the life of the individual to God.