

**The Book of Leviticus:
Why It Matters to Christians
“The Laws Of Sacrifice”
Leviticus 1-7**



Leviticus

| Week | Date | Topic |
|------|--------|---|
| 1 | Oct 1 | Leviticus Introduction |
| 2 | Oct 8 | Sacrifices: Leviticus 1-7 |
| 3 | Oct 15 | Priesthood of Aaron: Leviticus 8-10 |
| 4 | Oct 22 | Ritual Cleanliness: Leviticus 11-15 |
| 5 | Oct 29 | Day of Atonement: Leviticus 16 |
| 6 | Nov 5 | Holiness of Conduct: Leviticus 17-20 |
| 7 | Nov 12 | Holiness of Priests: Leviticus 21-22 |
| 8 | Nov 19 | Sabbath and Feasts: Leviticus 23 |
| 9 | Nov 26 | Preparation and Punishments: Leviticus 24 |
| 10 | Dec 3 | Sanctification of the Land: Leviticus 25 |
| 11 | Dec 10 | Promises and Warnings: Leviticus 26 |
| 12 | Dec 17 | Vows and Redemption of Tithes: Leviticus 27 |
| 13 | Dec 24 | Summary class |

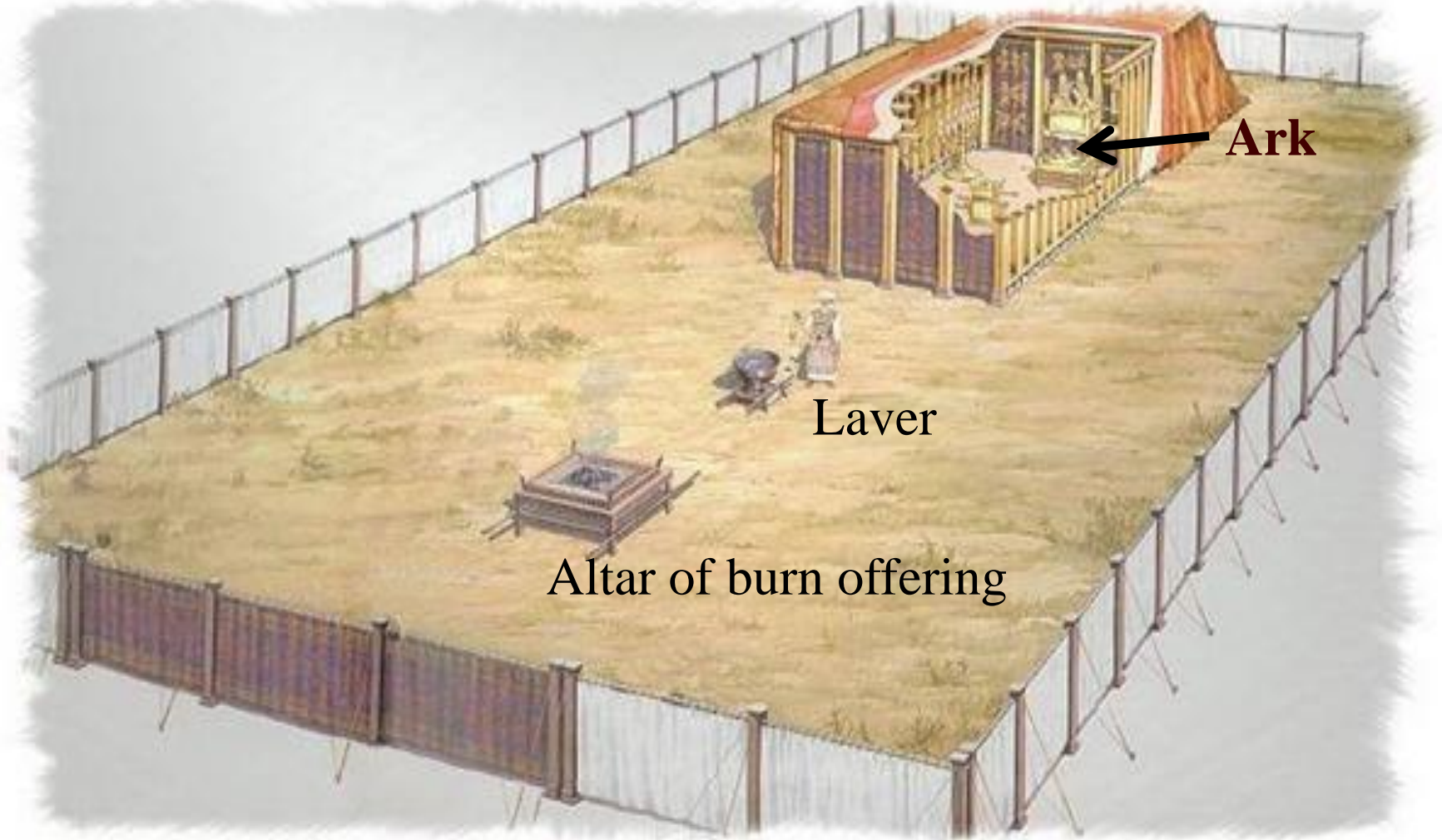
Today's Objectives

- Review the introductory lesson from last week
- Briefly review historical and geographic background
- Learn about the offerings of Israelites to God
 - Burnt offering
 - Meal offering
 - Fellowship offering
 - Sin offering
 - Trespass offering
- Learn about the role of the priests
- Relate these offerings to the New Covenant as found in Hebrews 10

Last week

- Provided a summary of events leading up to the book of Leviticus
- Provided an overview of Leviticus
- Reviewed geopolitical events that may have impacted upon the Jewish people of the time
- Reviewed the timeline of Leviticus
- Reviewed historical maps of the region
- Provided the foundation for the importance of the book of Leviticus to present day Christians

Tabernacle



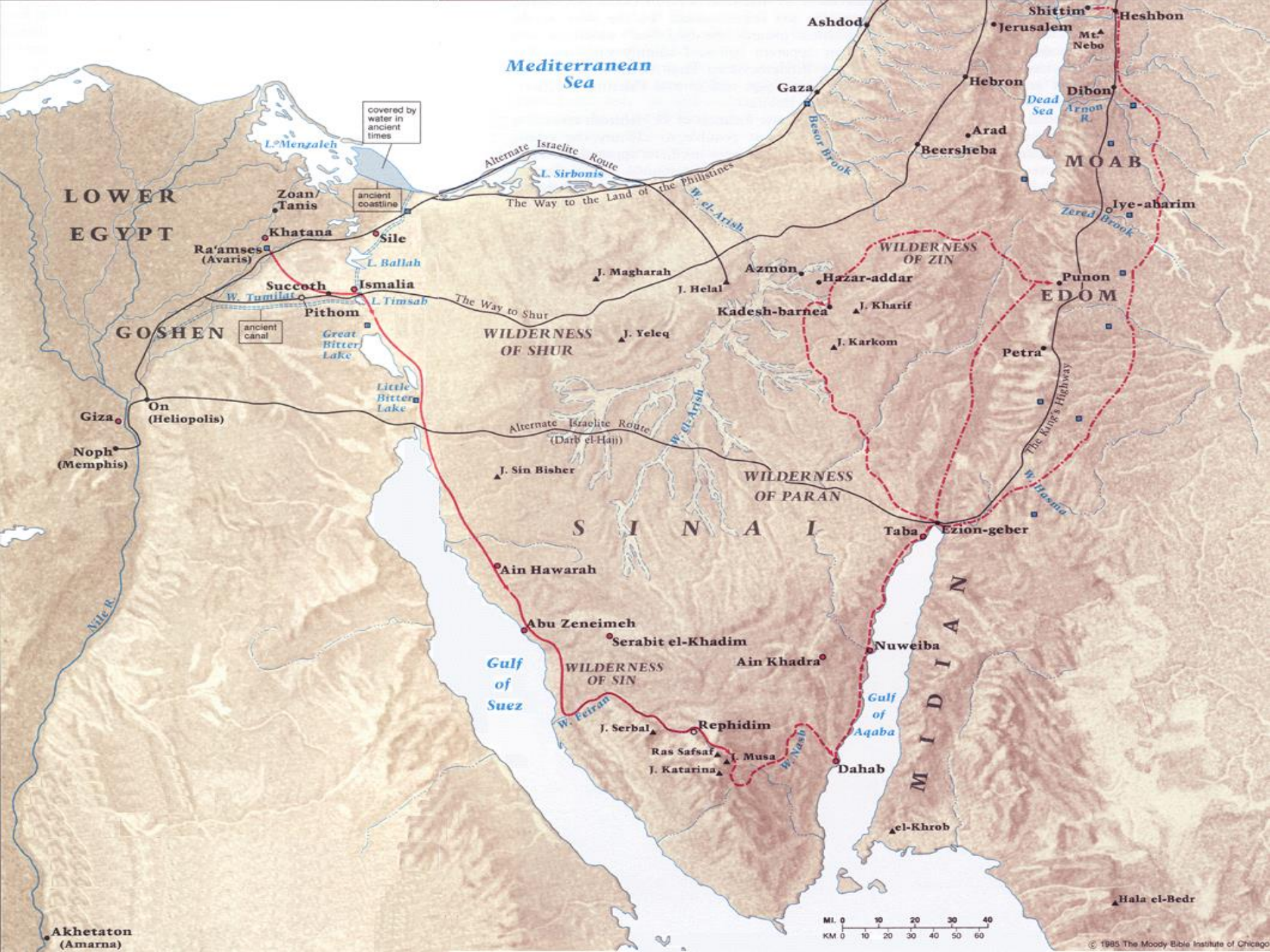
Ark

Laver

Altar of burn offering

Altar

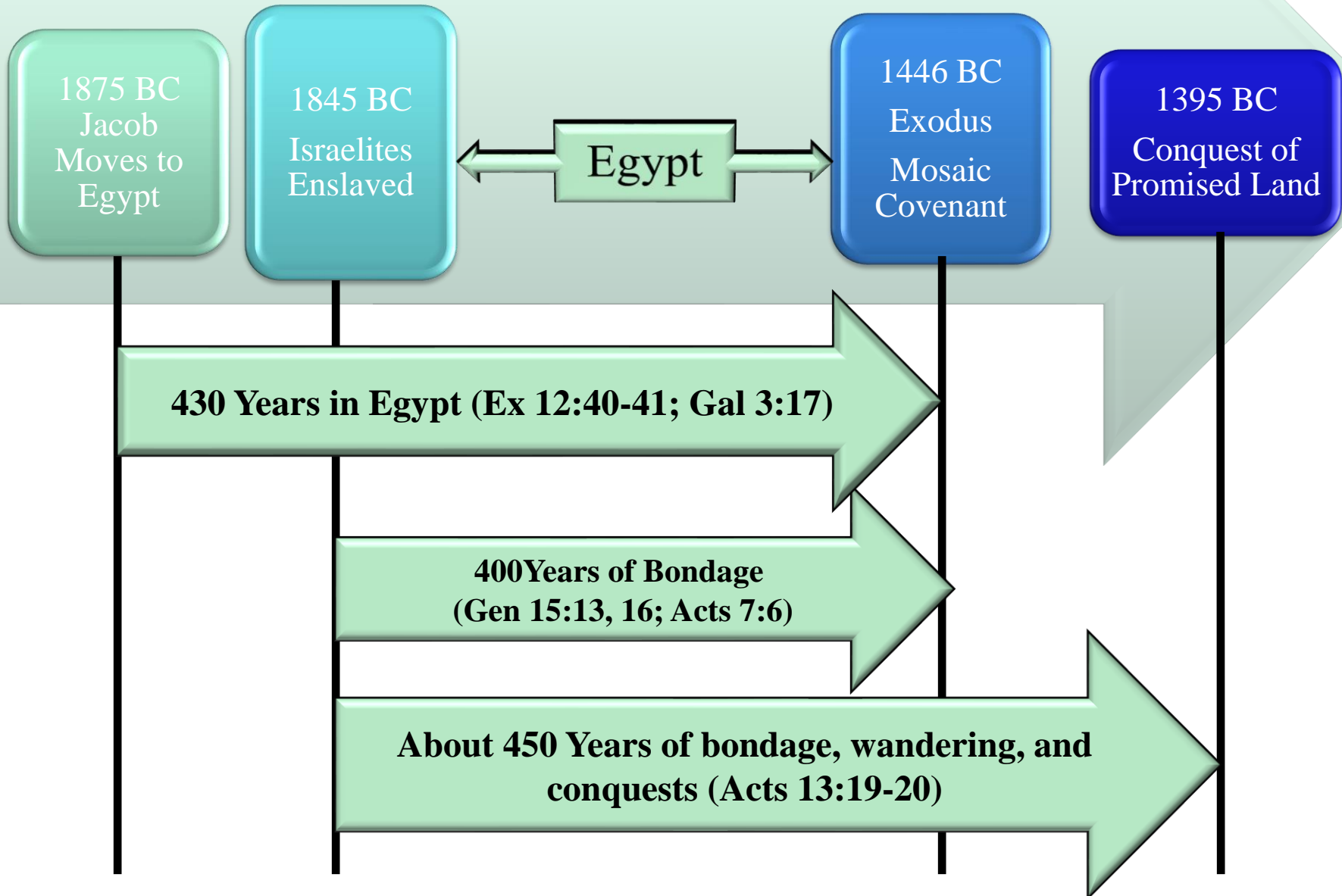




**The Egyptian Empire
XVth century B C**



Early Israelite Timeline



Key To Studying Leviticus

- We must examine the messages and determine what the passage represents in order to see the riches God has for us
- Does the passage provide a spiritual truth?
 - Is this passage or verse a picture of New Testament spiritual truth that we obey today?
 - If it is, is that its only importance?
 - If this answer is yes, once we have determined the meaning of the picture, our interpretation is finished
 - If not, then we ask if it is a moral or physical command

Key To Studying Leviticus

- Is it a moral or physical command:
 - Why did God give this verse/passage to the Israelites?
 - Is the command reflective of God's moral nature, and therefore one we need to follow, even today?
 - Did he want them to be different from the people around them?
 - If so, is the specific command relevant for us today, so that we might be different?
 - Did God give the command to them for health reasons? If so, is it relevant today? If we conclude that the specific command is not relevant for us, we must ask, What is the principle behind the commands of God? How does the principle apply to us?

Sacrifices To God

- God designed these offerings to
 - Enable the Israelites to worship God
 - Taught the Israelites conditions necessary to restore and maintain the believers' communion with God in view of their sin and defilement
- Each offering involved three objects
 - The person bringing the offering
 - The object being offered (animal, for example)
 - The mediator (priest)
- Differences in offerings
 - Each offering was different from the other offerings
 - Within each offering there were different options of what the offerer could present and how he could present it

Burnt Offering (1:1-17)

- Most common and most important offering
 - Expressed the offerer’s complete consecration to God
 - Worshipper sought to please God and find acceptance into His presence
 - This is, in a sense, the “Good News” for the day; a way for the redeemed Israelites, who were still sinners, to find acceptance with God – what is our “Good News?”
 - Offered every morning and every evening, more frequently on holy days
- Leviticus clearly spells out what the worshipper is to do and what the priest is to do
 - Worshipper provides the sacrifice and does the work
 - Priest sprinkles blood on the altar and carcass on the fire

Notes about the Burnt Offering

- It was a soothing aroma (1:9)
 - God was happy to receive it because it was an offering of worship as well as payment for sin
- It was for acceptance (1:3-4)
 - Satisfied God's desire for the love of His redeemed
 - Worshiper offered a whole perfect animal in place of himself
- Worshiper gave up a life on the altar (1:5)
 - Symbolically giving life that God had given him
 - Our sacrifice is a living sacrifice (read Rom 12:1-2)
- The animal perished completely in the fire, except for the skin (1:6), focusing on what was inside

Variations in the Offering

- Animals acceptable for the offering varied
 - Oxen, lambs, goats, doves, and pigeons were acceptable
 - People with greater responsibility were expected to make a greater offering
- How animals were processed before the priest varied
 - Oxen, lambs, and goats cut into four parts
 - Not so with birds, which were concessions for the poor
- Summary
 - Burnt offering was an act of worship
 - Symbol of total consecration to God
 - Sacrifices were voluntary, as is a living self-sacrifice of the Christian to God

Meal Offering (2:1-16)

- Offering of Worship
 - Symbolized sacrifice and commitment of one's person and works to God
 - Worshiper's willingness to keep the law (Heb 13:15-16)
 - Always followed the official daily burnt offering (Num 28:4)
 - Hebrew word *minhah* translates to tribute
- Meal offering was distinctive
 - Soothing (2:2,9), because it was an act of worship
 - Fruit of human labor, e.g. the unleavened cakes
 - Only acceptable when given with a burnt offering, meaning good works of human labor was only acceptable when one was consecrated to God

Additional Notes – Meal Offering

- Baked (2:4), grilled (v.5), fried (v.7), roasted (v.14)
- Fine flour represented the staff of life (2:1)
- Olive oil was symbolic of God's enabling Spirit that bound the flour into a cake
- Frankincense, when cooked, made the offering more pleasing to God
- Salt is specified and symbolized an object that could not be destroyed by fire or time, it was eternal
- Not all of the meal offering was consumed by fire, the priest ate part (2:9-10)
 - Symbolized man's work for fellow man
 - The offerer received not of the sacrifice himself

Fellowship Offering (3:1-17)

- The third sacrifice of worship
 - Represented the fellowship between God and man
 - Resulted from the relationship God had established with the redeemed individual
 - Peace and fellowship resulted from redemption
- Optional sacrifice
 - An Israelite could bring it if and when he desired
 - Not a daily offering by the priests
 - Although God ordered its presentation at the feast of the Pentecost (23:19)
- Major distinctions
 - Soothing aroma (3:16)
 - Fed together: offerer, priest, and God (symbolically)

Additional Notes – Fellowship Offering

- People who ate this ritual meal together committed themselves to one another
 - Burnt offering – only God partook; Meal offering – God and the priest partook; Fellowship offering – all three partook
- Significant variations
 - Several grades of animals were permitted
 - Females were allowed
 - Israelites could present these offerings for three reasons
 - Thanksgiving offering
 - Freewill offering
 - Fulfill a vow or vow offering

Sin Offering (4:1-5:13)

- Sin and trespass offerings
- Was to be offered before any of the other offerings
 - Played a key role in the Day of Atonement (or Yom Kippur – Sep 18)
 - Most important was the type of sin that called for a sacrifice, the sinner was secondary
- Two types of occasions that called for a sin offering
 - Inadvertent sins (4:1-35)
 - Sins of omission (5:1-13)
 - Sins were unintentional
- Sin offering was compulsory, like burnt or meal offerings

Additional Notes – Sin Offering

- Three notable distinctions
 - Not a soothing aroma
 - Smearing blood on the horns of the altar symbolized purification of the whole sanctuary from the sins of the offerer
 - Unintentionally committed sins (5:14-16), but demonstrated a sinful nature
- Variations permitted
 - Less expensive animals or flour by the poor (5:11)
 - Higher social status meant more expensive sacrifices
 - God allowed procedural differences depending upon the offerer's position in the nation

Trespass Offering (5:14-6:7)

- Close relationship to the Sin Offering
 - Removed the guilt of certain sins that involved trespassing against God
 - Trespassing means going beyond the limits of what is right
- Parts of the Trespass Offering
 - Inadvertent sin (5:14-19)
 - Deliberate sin (6:1-7)
 - Violating the Lord's "holy things", e.g. Tabernacle, etc.
 - Stealing property and then lying when confronted

Additional Notes – Trespass Offering

- Distinctions
 - Not a soothing aroma offering
 - Offered only when they had wronged someone, either God or another Israelite (5:15, 17) or both (6:2)
 - Offending Israelite had to pay restitution in some cases (5:16, 6:5), restoring whatever the victim had lost
 - Event had to add 20 percent
- Variations
 - Only a ram or male lamb was acceptable
 - Could substitute the value of the animal with silver

Instructions for Priests (6:8-7:38)

- Main theme
 - Who may eat what parts of the offering
 - Where the offering may be consumed
- Law of the burn offering for the priests (6:8-13)
 - Fire on the alter was to never go out while the Israelites were encamped
 - Taught the Israelites that God was always present and accessible through the Tabernacle
 - Taught them the continuing need for atonement to cover their ever-recurring sins (Read Heb 7:25)
- Law of the meal offering for the priests (6:14-18)
 - Clarified the priests right to eat part of the offering, but only in a holy place

Instructions for Priests

- Meal offering (6:19-23)
 - Offered daily for himself and the other priests
- Law of the Sin offering (6:24-30)
 - Emphasis on what they could and could not eat
- Law of the Trespass offering (7:1-10)
 - More detail than provided in Chapter 5
 - Procedures for processing, e.g. only fatty parts burned
- Law of the Fellowship offering (7:11-36)
 - Clarifies who could eat what part and when
- Summary of the laws of the offerings for the priests (7:37-38)
- Read Hebrews 10:1-14

Review

- Reviewed the introductory lesson from last week
- Reviewed historical and geographic background
- Learned about the offerings of Israelites to God
 - Burnt offering
 - Meal offering
 - Fellowship offering
 - Sin offering
 - Trespass offering
- Learned about the role of the priests
- Studied the relationship of the offerings and the New Covenant described in Hebrews 10