

Shoresh'im Ministries

~ Hebrew for "Roots"~



www.shoreshim.co.uk

The Temple's Sacrifices & Worship

Erev Shabbat, 20th June 2008



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Ready To Blow Your Mind?



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In The Scriptures



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Biblical Foundation

- Temple mentioned 561 times in OT
- Temple mentioned 121 times in NT
- Sacrifice mentioned times in 329 OT
- Sacrifice mentioned times in 59 NT

Did Jesus teach against sacrifice?

Did Paul teach against sacrifice?



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In The Scriptures

Before and AFTER Jesus:

- Attended Festivals
- Prayed there regularly
- Taught there regularly
- Followed Jewish custom there
- Healed there
- ... not an end in itself.



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Qorbanot



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Qorbanot

Definition:

- Sacrifices / offerings, or a better translation;
- ...“to draw near”?

Three concepts:

- Giving – something that you own
- Substitution – happens to ‘it’ in my place
- Drawing closer – always the end goal!



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Purposes Of Qorbanot

- **NOT** primarily for forgiveness of sins, although sometimes a by-product of closeness to God
- Primarily for praise, closeness, thanks, love, gratitude, holy days, ritual impurity...
- ... and yes, **sin**.



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Qorbanot And Sin

- Only unintentional sin dealt with
 - Sin under duress or lack of knowledge didn't need atonement
- “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” (Luke 23:34)**
- Couldn't deal with malicious, deliberate sin unless...
 - ... the sinner was truly repentant and made restitution to the one harmed

Any different today?



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Types Of Sacrifice



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1) Olah – ‘Ascension’ ~ A Wholly Burnt Offering ~

- Means-tested offerings
- Cattle, sheep, goats or even birds
- Offering completely burnt – complete submission to God
- Sins dealt with as by-product of submission and closeness to God
- Not eaten or used for anything else, had no other purpose



עֹלָה

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2) Tzevach Sh'lamim - 'Peace'

~ Slaughter / Peace / Wholeness Offering ~

- Expresses thanks / gratitude to God
- Part bunt on altar, part eaten by priest, part eaten by offerer and family
- So everyone gets to celebrate!
- Includes thanksgiving and free-will offerings
- Nothing to do with sin (ref. Talmud)



זבח שלמים

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3) Chatat - 'Missing The Mark'

~ Sin Offering ~

Only atoned / restored for accidental ritual uncleanness, not intentional sin:

- Menstrual cycle (a dove / young pigeon)
- On conclusion of Nazirite vow (a ewe)
- Healing of leprosy (a dove)
- Individual and community offerings, e.g. on Yom Kippur (a bull)



חטאת

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4) Asham - 'Guilt' ~ Guilt Offering ~

- Only used when not sure if a sin has been committed or for breach of trust
- If later discovered a sin was committed, then a chatat was offered
- The sacrifice was a costly symbol of regret accompanied by actual recompense



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5) Min'chah – 'Meal' ~ Food & Drink Offerings ~

- Illustrated devotion to God
- Giving back to God the fruit of our work
- Part burnt on the altar, rest eaten by priest
- Also undiluted wine (Heb. *nesekh*)



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6) Parah Adumah – Red Heifer ~ The Red Heifer ~

- Used for purification, especially after contact with the dead.
- Needed to purify the priesthood before working in the Temple
- Rabbi's believe Messiah will perform this rite when he comes.
- Therefore, he can't come if no red heifer



פְּרַח אֲדוּמָה

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Jesus On Qorban

“And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, 'Honour your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Qorban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”



~ Mark 7:9-13 ~

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Application Today

- Can you give everything to God?
- The complete surrender of all you have?
- It will draw you closer to Him
- And sin is dealt with when our focus is on God



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Application Today

- Are you willing to express thanks to Him?
- Sharing that gratitude (in evangelism) also demands a sacrifice!
- But everyone around you gets to share
- Eat, be full of the choicest things
- Offer yourselves back to him, the work of your hands as a sacrifice in complete devotion to Him



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NT 'Pearls'



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Healing The Leper

~ Luke 5 ~

- Very rare:
 - Miriam (Numbers 12); Na'aman (2 Kings 5)
- A Messianic Miracle:
 - When performed by *touch* (would normally make both parties ritually unclean, therefore could only be done by Messiah)
- So Leviticus 14 becomes a direct claim to Jesus' Messiahship



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Salt in Sacrifice

- The “**Salt of Sodom**” (See Chulin 105b and Eruvin 17b) was a rock salt from the Dead Sea area
- Used in sacrifices.
- When used, and ‘saltiness’ gone, it was thrown out as ‘rock salt’ to stop you slipping over on icy roadways.



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Salt in Sacrifice

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men."

~ Matthew 5:13 ~



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Laying On Of Hands

- The 'offerer' must take ownership
- It costs all to make the sacrifice
- Associate yourself with the sacrifice
- Not just touching, but with weight
- Be involved!
- Be in the Great Court!



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Offering Ourselves

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”

~ Romans 12:1 ~



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For Us Today

Symbol, type or reminder:

- A Symbol
 - “a rite which has a present spiritual meaning is a symbol” - Edersheim
- A Type
 - “if it also points to a future reality... it is a type” - Edersheim
- A Remembrance
 - Christmas, WWJD, laying on hands...?



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Jesus – Every Sacrifice?

Certainly The Passover Lamb



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Jesus – Every Sacrifice?

“Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”

~ Hebrews 7: 26-27 ~



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Does It Add Value?



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For Us Today

Prayers at Temple Sacrifice Times?

- Shacharit (morning), 7 am
- Minchah (afternoon), 3 pm (see Acts 3:1)
- Aravit (evening), 8 pm



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Looking Forward

What if the Temple gets restored?

- Olah (Ascension)
- Tzevach Sh'lamim (Peace)
- Chatat (Missing the Mark, Sin)
- Asham (Guilt, 'unknown sin')
- Minchah (Meal, drink, devotion)



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Nothing Is Impossible!



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