

Offerings Brought Before the Lord

- I. Introduction –On To Maturity
 - a. Condition of our present economy
 - i. Presidential Candidates Debate
 1. A good portion of the debate was about the economy
 2. During the debate it was said by Senator Obama that our nation is going through the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression
 3. Many Banks and Lending Institutions are in trouble. Some have already been bought out.
 4. The reason so many banks are in trouble is because people are having trouble making their mortgage payments
 5. Foreclosures and bankruptcies are alarmingly high rates
 - a. I know that many of us in this room are feeling the pains of high mortgage payments.
 - b. And with the cost of gasoline being at an all time high with no chance of it every going back to what we would call reasonable,
 6. The Federal Government is planning a 700 Billion dollar bailout of all these banks.
 - ii. While that should eventually trickle down and help out those of you in crisis through the restructuring of Mortgage Payments,
 1. You say, “NO ONE IS BAILING ME OUT!”
 2. You still gotta pay the bills.
 3. And none of them seem to ever get smaller
 4. And the pay check doesn’t seem to grow at the same rate as the bills
 - iii. And I know that some of you are feeling helpless and overwhelmed and at the end of your rope.
 - iv. What you need is a blessing of some kind from God...
 1. You say, “Lord can you bless me.”
 - a. My ship has been on the horizon for a long time but it never seems to come in.
 - i. There’s that job opening I applied for making \$10,000 more a year... Lord I could use that extra money.
 2. Maybe not just one blessing, God, I don’t want to be greedy, but you see I’m in a pretty deep hole here and I’m not sure how I’m gonna get out. It might take a couple of blessings
 - a. I need to make some sales. I need people to start buying my product, Lord.
 - b. My car is on it’s last leg... I don’t have the money to fix it... Lord can you keep it running for me.
 3. It might even take a hole bucket full of blessings to lighten my load.
 - a. Lord the kids are sick and the doctor bills are growing and the medicine.

- b. Lord, Would you just turn the bucket over. Just dump the whole thing on me and my family.
 - v. Can you relate to what I'm saying?
 - 1. I can feel your pain...
 - 2. And God can feel your pain...
- II. What is the solution? Let's talk about that.
 - i. Do you believe that God is real?
 - ii. Do you believe God can deliver you from your troubles?
 - 1. If you don't think God can deliver his people from trials, from financial worries, just read 2 Kings 6: 24
 - a. So bad they were so desperate, they were eating their own babies.
 - b. The next day they were feasting.
 - iii. Do you believe God can BLESS like that?
 - iv. I CAN SHOW YOU A PLACE IN THE BIBLE WHERE GOD TELLS US WHAT TO DO IN ORDER TO GET HIM TO BLESS YOUR LIFE IN THE WAYS THAT I'M TALKING ABOUT HERE.
 - 1. Would you like to hear it?
 - 2. What if you don't like God's instruction?
 - a. Story of the man falling over the cliff, hanging from a limb
 - b. God says, "I'm here and I'll help you if you trust me"... "let go of the branch".
 - c. Man – "Is there anybody else up there?"
 - v. I'll show you the specific verse a little later on... but first I want to show you something about God.

Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart.

2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

We want a long life – v2

We only want a long life if we are healthy – v 8

We want a good name in the sight of God and men – v 4

We want straight paths

What do we need to do? Do things God's way

God wants us to TRUST him.

Like the man hanging from the limb.

If there is one thing that makes us not trust in God, it is money.

I heard one man say that we put the words “IN GOD WE TRUST” on the very thing that keeps us

III. The concept of bringing an offering to God

Corban - (Mark 7:11 NIV) But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God)

Qorban (pronounced kor-bawn) or Qurban (pronounced koor-bawn) H7133
Something brought near the altar, i.e. a sacrificial present:--oblation, that is offered, offering.

Qarab (pronounced kaw-rab) a prim. Root H7126
to approach (caus. bring near) for whatever purpose:--(cause to) approach, (cause to) bring (forth, near), (cause to) come (near, nigh), (cause to) draw near (nigh), go (near), be at hand, join, be near, offer, present, produce, make ready, stand, take.

An “offering” (Qorban) was a sacrificial present that was brought near to the altar that would allow the person making the offering to approach God and be accepted by Him.

Interesting thought.

God says in Ex 23:15 "No one is to appear before me empty-handed.

No one could appear “before the Lord” empty handed because the offering he brought was his “ticket” into the presence of God.

IV. What were the different kinds of offerings in the Old Testament?

Dt 12: 6 there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts (heave offerings KJV), what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.

Dt 12:11 Then to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name--there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the LORD.

Lev 7:37 These, then, are the regulations for the burnt offering, the grain offering, the sin offering, the guilt offering, the ordination offering and the fellowship offering,

38 which the LORD gave Moses on Mount Sinai on the day he commanded the Israelites to bring their offerings to the LORD, in the Desert of Sinai.

- a. Offerings / Sacrifices
 - i. Burnt Offerings
 - ii. Grain Offerings
 - iii. Sin Offerings
 - iv. Guilt Offerings
 - v. Ordination Offerings
 - vi. Fellowship Offerings (a.k.a. Peace Offerings)

- b. Tithes -
- c. Special Gifts (Heave Offerings of your hand)
- d. Choice Possessions
 - i. Freewill offerings
 - ii. First Born of the herds and flocks
 - iii. First Fruit

V. Specifics of The Different Offerings

a. Burnt Offerings / Sacrifices

Olah (o-law) (H5930)- fem. act. part of H5927; a step or (collect. stairs, as ascending); usually a holocaust (as going up in smoke):--ascent, burnt offering (sacrifice), go up to.

- i. Burnt Offerings – anything completely burned up as “an aroma pleasing to the Lord”
 - 1. Bull, Goat, Lamb, Dove/Pigeon
- ii. Fellowship Offerings –
- iii. Wave Offerings –
- iv. Grain Offerings & Drink Offerings
 - 1. Granaries & Vats (Wine)
 - Ex 22:29a "Do not hold back offerings from your granaries or your vats."

Sacrifices

Zebach (zeh'-bakh) (2077) from H2076; a slaughter, i.e. the flesh of an animal; sacrifice.

2076. zabach, zaw-bakh'; a prim. root; to slaughter an animal (usually in sacrifice):--kill, offer, sacrifice, slay.

- v. Sin Offering
- vi. Guilt Offering

b. Special Gifts / Heave Offering from your hand

8641. teruwmah, ter-oo-maw'; or terumah (Deut. 12 : 11), ter-oo-maw'; from H7311; a present (as offered up), espec. in sacrifice or as tribute:--gift, heave offering ([shoulder]), oblation, offered (-ing).

c. Choice Possessions

i. Free Will Offerings – Not a mandatory offering

Ex 25:1 The LORD said to Moses,

2 "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man **whose heart prompts him to give.**

3 These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze;

4 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair;

5 ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows ; acacia wood;

6 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense;

7 and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

8 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

Ex 35: 29 All the Israelite men and women **who were willing** brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.

ii. First Fruits -

1. Produce (From the threshing floor & Fruit) – Mandatory

(Lev 2:12 NNAS) 'As an offering of first fruits you shall bring them to the LORD, but they shall not ascend for a soothing aroma on the altar.

2. First Born Sons – Mandatory

Ex 22:29b You must give me the firstborn of your sons. 30 Do the same with your cattle and your sheep. Let them stay with their mothers for seven days, but give them to me on the eighth day.

d. Tithes –

i. What is a “tithe”?

Ma'aser (mah-as-ayr') or Ma'asar (mah-as-ar') (H4643) a tenth; espec. a tithe:--tenth (part)

1. A “tithe” is a tenth.

2. A “tenth” of what?

Lev 27:30 "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; *it is holy to the LORD.*

31 If a man redeems any of his tithe, he must add a fifth of the value to it.

32 The entire tithe of the herd and flock--every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod--will be *holy to the LORD.*

33 He must not pick out the good from the bad or make any substitution. If he does make a substitution, both the animal and its substitute become holy and cannot be redeemed."

34 These are the commands the LORD gave Moses on Mount Sinai for the Israelites.

a. Crops from the soil

b. Fruit from the trees

c. Every tenth animal from the herd or flock

3. Is it any “tenth”?

Ex 22:19 "Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God.

a. God demands the best of the first tenth.

ii. Where were the Israelites to take the tithe?

1. To the House of the Lord.

2. The place where the Lord will choose as a dwelling for his name.

3. The temple in Jerusalem.

Dt 12:17 You must not eat in your own towns the tithe of your grain and new wine and oil, or the firstborn of your herds and flocks, or whatever you have vowed to give, or your freewill offerings or special gifts.

18 Instead, you are to eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place the LORD your God will choose--you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites from your towns--and you are to rejoice before the LORD your God in everything you put your hand to.

19 Be careful not to neglect the Levites as long as you live in your land.

iii. How often were they to do this?

1. Every year – to Jerusalem

Dt 15: 19 Set apart for the LORD your God every firstborn male of your herds and flocks. Do not put the firstborn of your oxen to work, and do not shear the firstborn of your sheep.

20 *Each year* you and your family are to eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose.

Dt 14:22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce *each year*.

23 Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.

2. Every third year (the year of the Tithe) – to their own towns.

Dt 14:28 At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and *store it in your towns*,

29 so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

iv. What was the tithe for?

1. Rejoicing in the blessings from God

a. Party, Feast

b. Abundance

i. Brought 1/10 but only ate 1/52

ii. Brought 5 times more than they ate

iii. Fed the aliens, widows

2. Taking care of the Levites.

a. It is the Levite's inheritance... they got no land.

Numbers 18:23 It is the Levites who are to do the work at the Tent of Meeting and bear the responsibility for offenses against it. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to

come. They will receive no inheritance among the Israelites.

24 Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the LORD. That is why I said concerning them: "They will have no inheritance among the Israelites."

- b. The rest of it was to be considered their wages
 - i. After the Levites gave a tenth of what was given to them, they kept the rest as their wages

Num 18:31 You (the Levites) and your households may eat the rest of it anywhere, for it is your wages for your work at the Tent of Meeting.

32 By presenting the best part of it you will not be guilty in this matter; then you will not defile the holy offerings of the Israelites, and you will not die."

- v. How important is the "tithe" to God? **Look at the heart**

Dt 26:12 When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.

13 Then say to the LORD your God: "I have removed from my house the sacred portion and have given it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, according to all you commanded. I have not turned aside from your commands nor have I forgotten any of them.

14 I have not eaten any of the sacred portion while I was in mourning, nor have I removed any of it while I was unclean, nor have I offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the LORD my God; I have done everything you commanded me.

15 Look down from heaven, your holy dwelling place, and bless your people Israel and the land you have given us as you promised on oath to our forefathers, a land flowing with milk and honey."

16 The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.

17 You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws, and that you will obey him.

18 And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands.

19 He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised

- 1. Sacred, Holy

- b. We need God to pour out blessings on us.
- c. What does God call us to do for him to pour out the blessings on us?
 - Mal 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings.
 - 9 You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me.
 - 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.
 - 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty.
 - 12 "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.
- i. "God, you want me to give a tenth of what I make?"
 - 1. Do we trust God or are we like the man hanging from the limb?
 - a. Is there anybody else up there
- d. Your response is between you and God.
 - i. If you can afford a bull, but only bring a pigeon. That is between you and God. You will have to give account.
 - ii. If you are not bringing a worthy sacrifice, that is between you and God.
 - iii. Let's trust God and do what he tells us to do
- e. Get help...
 - i. Wally and TG Olopade
 - ii. Aaron Richardson

VIII. Extra Info (Not included in the Sermon)

- a. Festivals
 - i. 3 Festivals before the Lord
 - 1. Feast of Unleavened Bread – Passover – 14th day of Nisan (Abib) (March/April)
 - a. Grain Harvest lasted 7 weeks – Season of Gladness
 - b. Barley Harvest began during Passover
 - 2. Feast of Weeks (Shavuot) – Pentecost - Seven weeks after Passover – (Late May/Early June)
 - a. Wheat Harvest ended at Shavuot
 - b. Also Shavuot was the first day people could bring First Fruits into the Temple.
 - 3. Feast of Booths – Tabernacles (Late September / Late October)
 - ii. If you live too far away from Jerusalem

Dt 14:24 But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away),

25 then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose.

26 Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice.

27 And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.

b. Specifics to the Levites

18:1 The priests, who are Levites--indeed the whole tribe of Levi--are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire, for that is their inheritance.

2 They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them.

3 This is the share due the priests from the people who sacrifice a bull or a sheep: the shoulder, the jowls and the inner parts.

4 You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine and oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep,

5 for the LORD your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the Lord's name always.

c. The Offering of the First Fruits

Dt 26:1 When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it,

2 take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name

3 and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us."

4 The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God.

5 Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous.

6 But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labor.

7 Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression.

8 So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders.

9 He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey;

10 and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him.

11 And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.