

Handout 1: Leviticus Lesson 4

The order of sacrifice in the ritual for sin and communion offerings:

1. The offerer presented the acceptable animal victim at the altar.
2. The offerer laid his hands upon the animal's head and gave a confession of his sin for a sin sacrifice, but for a communion sacrifice the offerer gave a confession of praise, thanking God for His loving-kindness (*hesed*) to His servant.
3. Slaughtering of the animal at the altar. The "gesture of offering" by the donor in the communion sacrifice and by the priest in the sin offering.
4. Priest's ritual of the blood in contact with the altar.
5. Burning the fat on the altar.
6. In a sin sacrifice the pronouncement of forgiveness.
7. In a sin sacrifice, God shared the meat of the victim and grain offerings with the officiating priest who ate the parts of the animal designated to him in a sacred meal with brother priests descended from Aaron in the courtyard of the Sanctuary in front of the Tabernacle in the presence of God. In the case of a communion sacrifice, God shared the meat of the victim and the grain offerings in a sacred meal with His covenant people (the donor, other covenant members, and the priests).

Communion sacrifices and the resulting sacred meal could be offered in these three forms:

1. The *todah/toda* sacrifice of "thanksgiving" to Yahweh for His restoration of the offerer to health or for rescuing him from some life threatening event. The meat of the sacrifice must be eaten the same day. In the Greek Septuagint translation this communion offering is called the *eucharistia* = "thanksgiving" offering. In Lev 7:13 the *todah* communion offering is called *zevah todah shelamav*: "the sacred thanksgiving greeting" (Lev 7:11-15/ 7:1-5).
2. The *neder* "votive" or "vow" sacrifice was offered as payment in completion of a vow often made in association with a petition for God's protection, for example after making a safe journey. The meat of the sacrifice could be eaten over a two day period within the camp of God (Lev 7:16-17/ 6-7).
3. The *nedavah* sacrifice was a "free-will" or "voluntary" communion sacrifice. When offered on sacred feast days this sacrifice was known as the *hagigah/chagigah* "festival communion offering." The meat of the sacrifice could be eaten over a two day period within the camp of God (Lev 7:16-17/ 6-7; *Mishnah: Hagigah*).

The *todah* "thanksgiving" communion sacrifice was eaten in the Sanctuary courtyard in front of the Tabernacle by the offerer, his family and covenant members together with the officiating priest and other priests descended from Aaron who ate the communion meal in the presence of God. The other communion meals were eaten within the camp of God.

The Messianic *todah* psalms are Psalm 22, 40, 51, and 69.

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