

Leviticus 1:1-17 A Gift for YeHoVaH

Leviticus' title, meaning "relating to the Levites", is a theological term as discussed in **Leviticus - The Introduction**, and is not found in Scripture. However, it is the name that has been given to a segment of the Instructions Moses was commanded by YeHoVaH to write. Leviticus, also known as Vayikra in Hebrew, comes from the first word in the Hebrew text of the Book and means, "And he [i.e., the Lord] called."

The title of the Book of Leviticus can be somewhat misleading for it gives the impression that it is about the special duties of the Levites and Priests who come from the Tribe of Levi. The opening Chapters of Leviticus reveal that the writing is about much more than the Levites and the Priests. It is also about YeHoVaH's Instructions to His people to reciprocate the special relationship He desires to develop and foster with Israel and all who join themselves with the House of Israel.

In this study, we will examine the Instructions YeHoVaH gives to His people on how to properly respond to His love for them and how they can develop and maintain their special relationship with Him.

Lev 1:1 And YeHoVaH called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,

Lev 1:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto YeHoVaH, ye shall bring your offering of the **cattle**, *even* of the **herd**, and of the **flock**.

Cattle – 0929 בְּהֵמָה behemah

{be-hay-maw'}

Meaning: 1) **beast**, cattle, animal 1a) beasts (coll of all animals) 1b) cattle, livestock (of domestic animals) 1c) wild beasts

Origin: from an unused root (probably meaning to be mute); TWOT - 208a; n f

Usage: AV - beast 136, cattle 53; 189

Two categories of cattle are mentioned in this verse:

Herd

Flock

Herd – 01241 בָּקָר baqar {baw-kawr'}

Meaning: 1) cattle, herd, oxen, ox 1a) cattle (generic pl. but sing. in form - coll) 1b) herd (particular one) 1c) head of cattle (individually)

Usage: AV - ox 78, herd 44, beeves 7, young 18, young + 01121 17, bullock 6, bullock + 01121 2, calf + 01121 2, heifer 2, kine 2, bulls 1, cattle 1, cow's 1, great 1; 182

Flocks – 06629 צֹאן tsone {tsone} or צֹאֲנֵי tse'own (Ps 144:13) {tseh-one'}

Meaning: 1) *small cattle*, sheep, sheep and goats, flock, flocks 1a) small cattle (usually of sheep and goats) 1b) of multitude (simile) 1c) of multitude (metaphor)

Usage: AV - flock 138, sheep 110, cattle 15, shepherd + 07462 2, lamb + 01121 2, lamb 1, sheep + 04480 1, sheepcotes + 01448 1, sheepfold + 01448 1, sheepfold + 04356 1, sheepshearers + 01494 1, shepherd + 07462 1; 274

Notice: The age of the animal is not specified.

Lev 1:3 If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before YeHoVaH.

The burnt sacrifice offering must be a male without blemish and offered voluntarily at the door of the Tabernacle.

The burnt offering was the most frequent of offerings given. After the consecration of the Brazen Altar, the burnt offering was offered every day, twice a day.

The first time we see the burnt offering being voluntarily offered is after Noah came off the ark.

Ge 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to YeHoVaH and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

The second time we see this offering, YeHoVaH was instructing Abraham concerning his son Isaac.

Ge 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*. Ge 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

- The burnt offering was to be wholly consumed on the Altar, while in other animal sacrifices only the fat portions were burned.
- The purpose of the offering was to express an entire consecration to YeHoVaH.
- The voluntary burnt offering expressed devotion, commitment, and complete surrender to serving YeHoVaH.

This offering could be what Paul had in mind when he wrote Romans 12:1.

Ro 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*.

Blemish – **08549** תַּמִּיּוּם {taw-meem'}

Meaning: 1) complete, whole, entire, sound 1a) complete, whole, entire 1b) whole, sound, healthful 1c) complete, entire (of time) 1d) sound, wholesome, unimpaired, innocent, having integrity 1e) what is complete or entirely in accord with truth and fact (neuter adj/subst)

Usage: AV - without blemish 44, perfect 18, upright 8, without spot 6, uprightly 4, *whole* 4, sincerely 2, complete 1, full 1, misc 3; 91

YeHoVaH makes clear what is considered to be blemished in Leviticus 22.

Lev 22:17 And YeHoVaH spake unto Moses, saying,

Lev 22:18 Speak unto Aaron, and to his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them, Whatsoever *he be* of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, that will offer his oblation for all his vows, and for all his freewill offerings, which they will offer unto YeHoVaH for a burnt offering;

Lev 22:19 *Ye shall offer* at your own will a male without blemish, of the beeves, of the sheep, or of the goats.

Lev 22:20 *But* whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you.

Blemish – **03971** מומאמ'uwm {moom} usually muwm {moom}

Meaning: 1) blemish, spot, defect 1a) of physical defect 1b) of moral stain

Usage: AV - blemish 16, spot 3, blot 2, variant 1; 22

Lev 22:21 And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto YeHoVaH to accomplish *his* vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein.

Lev 22:22 Blind (visually impared), or broken (crippled, torn), or maimed (mutilated, cut) or having a wen (sores, ulcers), or scurvy (scabs), or scabbed (skin sores, diseased), ye shall not offer these unto YeHoVaH, nor make an offering by fire of them upon the altar unto YeHoVaH.

Lev 22:23 Either a bullock or a lamb that hath any thing superfluous (disfigured) or lacking in his parts (deformed, handicapped), that mayest thou offer *for* a freewill offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted.

Lev 22:24 Ye shall not offer unto YeHoVaH that which is **bruised**, or **crushed (beat down)**, or **broken (torn apart)**, or **cut (cut or parts cut off)**; neither shall ye make *any offering thereof* in your land.

This was an issue for YeHoVaH as He spoke to Malachi concerning the Priests after returning from the Babylonian Captivity.

Mal 1:6 A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a father, where *is* mine honour? and if I *be* a master, where *is* my fear? saith YeHoVaH of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Mal 1:7 Ye offer **polluted bread** upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of YeHoVaH *is* contemptible.

Mal 1:8 And if ye offer the **blind** for sacrifice, *is it* not evil? and if ye offer the **lame** and **sick**, *is it* not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith YeHoVaH of hosts.

Lev 1:4 And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

The one giving the offering must put his hands on the head of the burnt offering.

The burnt offering could also be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

Lev 1:5 And he shall kill the **bullock** before YeHoVaH: and the priests, Aaron's **sons**, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that *is by* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Bullock – **01241** בקרbaqar {baw-kawr'}

Meaning: 1) cattle, herd, oxen, ox 1a) cattle (generic pl. but sing. in form - coll) 1b) herd (particular one) 1c) head of cattle (individually)

Usage: AV - ox 78, herd 44, beeves 7, **young 18, young + 01121 17**, bullock 6, bullock + 01121 2, calf + 01121 2, heifer 2, kine 2, bulls 1, cattle 1, cow's 1, great 1; 182

Son – **01121** בןben {bane}

Meaning: 1) son, grandson, child, member of a group 1a) son, male child 1b) grandson 1c) children (pl. - male and female) 1d) youth, young men (pl.) 1e) young (of animals) **Usage:** AV - son 2978, children 1568, old 135, first 51, man 20, **young 18, young + 01241 17**, child 10, stranger 10, people 5, misc 92; 4906

Lev 1:6 And he shall flay the burnt offering, and cut it into his pieces.

Lev 1:7 And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire upon the altar, and lay the wood in order upon the fire:

Lev 1:8 And the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat, in order upon the wood that *is* on the fire which *is* upon the altar:

Lev 1:9 But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water: and the priest shall burn all on the altar, *to be* a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto YeHoVaH.

Lev 1:10 And if his offering *be* of the **flocks, namely, of the sheep, or of the goats**, for a burnt sacrifice; he shall bring it a male without blemish.

Flocks – 06629 יֵאֲסוֹ'נ {tsone} or יֵאֲסוֹ'נ (Ps 144:13) {tseh-one'} **Meaning:** 1) *small cattle*, sheep, sheep and goats, flock, flocks 1a) small cattle (usually of sheep and goats))

Usage: AV - flock 138, sheep 110, cattle 15, shepherd + 07462 2, lamb + 01121 2, lamb 1, sheep + 04480 1, sheepcotes + 01448 1, sheepfold + 01448 1, sheepfold + 04356 1, sheepshearers + 01494 1, shepherd + 07462 1; 274

Lev 1:11 And he shall kill it on the side of the altar northward before YeHoVaH: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall sprinkle his blood round about upon the altar.

Lev 1:12 And he shall cut it into his pieces, with his head and his fat: and the priest shall lay them in order on the wood that *is* on the fire which *is* upon the altar:

Lev 1:13 But he shall wash the inwards and the legs with water: and the priest shall bring *it* all, and burn *it* upon the altar: it *is* a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto YeHoVaH.

Verse 14 introduces a 3rd option.

Lev 1:14 And if the burnt sacrifice for his offering to YeHoVaH *be* of **fowls**, then he shall bring his offering of **turtledoves**, or of young **pigeons**.

Fowl – **05775** עֹפֹת {ofe}

Meaning: 1) flying creatures, fowl, insects, birds 1a) fowl, birds 1b) winged insects

Origin: from 05774; TWOT - 1582a; n m

Usage: AV - fowl 59, bird 9, flying 2, flieth 1; 71

The term blemish is not mentioned in relation to the fowl.

Lev 1:15 And the priest shall bring it unto the altar, and wring off his head, and burn *it* on the altar; and the blood thereof shall be wrung out at the side of the altar:

Lev 1:16 And he shall pluck away his crop with his feathers, and cast it beside the altar on the east part, by the place of the ashes:

Lev 1:17 And he shall cleave it with the wings thereof, *but* shall not divide *it* asunder: and the priest shall burn it upon the altar, upon the wood that *is* upon the fire: it *is* a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto YeHoVaH.