

The Five Torah Offerings

NAME	ELEMENTS	PURPOSE	GOD'S PORTION	PRIEST'S PORTION	OFFERER'S PORTION
Burnt Offering Lev 1; 6:8-13; 8:18-21; 16:24	Bull, ram or bird (dove or young pigeon for the poor); wholly consumed; no defect	Voluntary act of worship; atonement for unintentional sin in general; expression of devotion, commitment and complete surrender to God	Entire animal	Skin (to be sold)	Nothing
Grain Offering Lev 2; 6:14-23	Grain, fine flour, olive oil, incense, baked bread (cakes or wafers), salt; no yeast or honey; accompanied burnt offering and peace offering (along with drink offering)	Voluntary act of worship; recognition of God's goodness and provisions; devotion to God	1. Priest's own offering: Entire portion to God 2. Others: Memorial portion (a handful)	1. Priest's own offering: none (all the reminder to be burnt) 2. Others: all the reminder (had to be eaten within court of tabernacle)	Nothing
Peace Offering Lev 3; 7:11-34	Any animal without defect from herd or flock; variety of breads	Voluntary act of worship; thanksgiving and fellowship (it included a communal meal); included vow offerings, thanksgiving offerings and freewill offerings	Fatty portions (fat covering inner parts; fat tail, kidneys, lobe of the liver)	Breast given to High Priest (wave offering), right foreleg given to officiating priest (heave offering)	1. Thanksgiving offering: all the reminder (to be eaten the same day); no left over allowed 2. Vow or freewill offering: reminder (to be eaten the same day and the next day); any left over to be burnt on the 3rd day
Sin Offering Lev 4; 5:1-13; 6:24-30; 8:14-17; 16:3-2	1. Young bull: for High Priest and whole congregation. The blood was to be sprinkled in front of the veil and put on the horns of the altar of incense (see notes) 2. Male goat: for leader. The blood was to be put on the horns of the altar of burnt offering 3. Female goat or lamb: for common person. The blood was to be put on the horns of the altar of burnt offering 4. Dove or pigeon: for the poor. The blood was to be put on the horns of the altar of burnt offering 5. 1/10 ephah of fine flour: for the very poor	Mandatory atonement for specific unintentional sin; confession of sin; forgiveness of sin; cleansing from defilement	Fatty portions (fat covering inner parts; fat tail, kidneys, lobe of the liver)	1. Atonement for High Priest and congregation: none (all the reminder was to be burnt outside the camp where the ashes were thrown) 2. Atonement for others: all the reminder (had to be eaten within court of tabernacle)	Nothing
Trespass Offering Lev 5:14-19; 6:1-7; 7:1-6	Ram	Mandatory atonement for unintentional sin requiring restitution; cleansing from defilement; make restitution; pay 20% fine	Fatty portions (fat covering inner parts; fat tail, kidneys, lobe of the liver)	All the reminder (had to be eaten within court of tabernacle)	Nothing

When more than one kind of offering was presented (as in Numbers 6:16-17), the procedure was usually as follows: (1) sin offering or trespass offering; (2) burnt offering; (3) peace offering and grain offering (along with a drink offering). This sequence furnishes part of the spiritual significance of the sacrificial system. First, sin had to be dealt with (sin offering or trespass offering). Second, the worshiper committed himself completely to God (burnt offering and grain offering). Third, fellowship or communion between the Lord, the priest and the worshiper (peace offering) was established. To state it another way, there were sacrifices of expiation (sin offerings and trespass offerings), consecration (burnt offerings and grain offerings) and communion (peace offerings). (A portion of the table and the above information are extracted from the NIV Study Bible.) From: <http://www3.telus.net/public/kstam/en/tabernacle/details/offerings.htm> / Reprinted with permission.