

God Delivers



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 8: February 18–24, 2017

Day 1

February 20



Pray / Thank God for always making a way for atonement.

WE ARE GUILTY, and God has always provided atonement to us.

People have been sinning against God since Adam and Eve, and the book of Romans says that the wages of sin is death. But God, in his immense love, created us to be in relationship with him, so he has always provided a way of atonement—forgiveness for our sins. In the Old Testament, it was by way of grain and animal sacrifices. While sacrifice had been the custom in Bible times, even to God, Leviticus is where we see God lay out very clear and elaborate expectations for atonement for his people.

The first sacrifice was the burnt offering in which the choicest, most pure and unblemished animal in a person's own flock was to be brought to the temple to be completely burned as an offering to God, signifying complete devotion and surrender. The offerer was to lay a hand on the head of the animal, signifying a connection between the two as the animal essentially took on the sins of its offerer. Done to the specifications, this would be “a pleasing aroma to the Lord.” God would fully accept this gift as atonement for sin.



Read / Leviticus 1:3–9; Hebrews 9:12



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Why were the Israelites required to bring one of their flock rather than an animal caught in the wild?

Why was this animal to be the choicest and purest of the flock?

In Hebrews 9:12, how does Jesus take the place of this burnt offering?

Day 2

February 21



Pray / Ask God how your worship can be a service to others.

ATONING FOR OUR sins enables us to serve.

The second offering was an offering that again was costly in both its ingredients and its preparation. It was made of flour, which was a staple in the Israelites' daily diet, and made it potentially difficult to give away. It was also to be very finely ground with oil and an expensive spice added to it, and then baked. Preparing this offering was a gift of both time and currency.

This particular sacrifice required that no death be involved, and it was offered in thanksgiving to God as a request for God's favor and as a way of honoring God as the giver of everyday life. Everything the worshiper had to offer came from God and was therefore given back to him in praise. Like the burnt offering, a portion of this sacrifice would be burned while the rest was given to the priests as their form of sustenance. They relied on this offering, and like the burnt offering, this would be "a pleasing aroma to the Lord."



Read / Leviticus 2:1-3



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

How were the Israelites enabled to serve while sacrificing in this way?

In what ways can your gifts of thanksgiving and memorial to God be used to serve others?

The Israelites' diet, and therefore their day-to-day lives, were dependent on these grains. How can you take the things you use daily as an offering to God, giving back to him a portion of everything he has given to you?

Day 3

February 22



Pray / Come, Lord Jesus, be my guest, my friend, my king.

A MEAL WITH a friend, the Lord of lords and King of kings.

“Come Lord Jesus, be our guest” is part of a familiar prayer said around many dinner tables, which takes on a whole new meaning with this third sacrifice, called a peace offering or “the fellowship offering.” This offering was often offered in thanksgiving to God for answered prayers, as a vow expressing gratitude, or as a freewill offering simply because the offerer felt inclined to do so. Its instructions for preparation were as detailed as the other two, with one exception. The first sacrifice is burned completely. Part of the second is burned, and part of it is eaten by the priests. But the third offering may be partially eaten by the offerer. Not only would this sacrifice also be “a pleasing aroma to the Lord,” but it also signified the closeness of being in right relationship with God. It was like sitting down to a meal with a friend!



Read / Exodus 39:32–42



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Why do you think God provided a sacrifice that not only atoned for sins but also signified being in right relationship with him?

Consider a relationship you are in that has had conflict and resolution. If you have true resolution and reconciliation, consider how your feelings toward that relationship and that person have changed. What does this then tell you about God's provision of an atoning and reconciling sacrifice for his people?

How can you freely offer yourself to God in thanks for his forgiveness and subsequent friendship?

Day 4

February 23



Pray / Praise God for always making a way to be close to you!

THE REWARD FOR atonement far outweighs its steep cost.

As we have seen this week, these sacrifices were just that— a sacrifice. God asked the Israelites, just as he asks us, to sacrifice our time and resources to him. Some may wonder why this God would demand gifts and sacrifice, but when we consider the alternatives, when we consider all that God has done, the sacrifice seems small in comparison, perhaps too small. Consider again the verse from Romans in Day 1 that tells us the wages of sin. It's death. Death is a costly price to pay. Eternal separation from God is a costly price to pay. And fortunately, this is not what God has in mind for us. He wants a relationship with each one of us. When we consider this, as the old hymn says, "The things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."



Read / Ephesians 2:13



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

What does the price for atonement tell you about how seriously God takes sin?

Make a list of all the ways God has been good to you, small and large. Meditate on his goodness!

Consider when has God asked you to sacrifice or give something up for him and how you have reacted. Pray that he would give you a heart willing to give everything you have for him and the friendship and eternal life he offers you.

Day 5

February 24



Pray / Ask God to show you the power of Jesus' sacrifice for you.

CHRIST'S SACRIFICE: a pleasing aroma to our Lord.

God always has provided a way for atonement for sins as we've seen in this week's passages. There have been priests, tabernacles, costly sacrifices, laying on of hands, burning, service, and fellowship. The Israelite priests were allowed into God's presence through elaborate instructions and purity, which was a step closer to God than had been previously allowed. And then in the New Testament, God sends Jesus to take us yet another step closer—Jesus, who was fully God and fully man; Jesus, who served God and us by becoming high priest, sacrifice, and fellowship with the Father for us in the Heavenly tabernacle; Jesus, whose blood was shed once and only once forevermore in atonement for our sins so that we could forever serve our God. Jesus' sacrifice for us was, and always will be, “a pleasing aroma to our Lord.”



Read / Hebrews 9:11–14



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

What kind of love is this that God allowed for hodge-podge sacrifices throughout the books of Genesis and Exodus; allowed for more specific sacrifices in the Old Testament, and then took on all responsibility for our sins by becoming the ultimate, lasting sacrifice for us?

Turn Hebrews 9:14 into a question to answer: “How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God”?

How can you now be a pleasing aroma to our Lord?

Portions of this study were adapted from Ed Stetzer and Trevin Wax, eds., The Gospel Project Chronological: God Delivers, Vol. 2, Adult Personal Study Guide ESV (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2015). Used by permission.

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