

Erev Shabbat Study Questions for March 19, 2010 (Parashah Va'yikra, Leviticus 1:1-5:26)

Leviticus 4:27-5:26 Isaiah 43:21-44:23 Matthew 5:23-26; Luke 12:57-59

Thematic Summary:

God calls to Moses from the Tent of Meeting, and communicates to him the laws of the *korbanot*, the animal and meal offerings brought in the Sanctuary. These include:

The "ascending offering," *olah*, that is wholly raised to God by the fire atop the Altar;

Five varieties of "meal offering," *minchah*, prepared with fine flour, olive oil and frankincense;

The "peace offering," *shelamim*, whose meat was eaten by the one bringing the offering, after parts are burned on the Altar and parts are given to the priests;

The different types of "sin offering," *chatat*, brought to atone for transgressions committed erroneously by the High Priest, the entire community, the king, or the ordinary Jew;

The "guilt offering," *asham*, brought by one who has appropriated property of the Sanctuary, who is in doubt as to whether he transgressed a divine prohibition, or who has committed a "betrayal against God" by swearing falsely to defraud a fellow man. Restitution, usually monetary must be made.

1. What is the general purpose of the sacrifices, *korbanot*, that were commanded to be offered in the Tabernacle/Temple of Israel?

2. In Matthew 5:23-24, did Yeshua distinguish as to whether the reconciliation between brothers must be accomplished by the "innocent" or the "offending" brother?

3. In Matthew 5:25 Yeshua speaks of being "sued." What does being sued have to do with Temple sacrifices?