

LEVITICUS 2:1-16

SCRIPTURE

V. 1 “When anyone offers a **grain offering**¹ to the LORD, his offering shall be of **fine flour**.² And he shall pour **oil**³ on it, and put **frankincense**⁴ on it.”

1. **Grain Offering:** Hebrew *minhâ* (meen-haw) *qārbān* (corrr-bawn)
 - Translated as gift, tribute, bloodless sacrifice.
 - Also known as the meal or meat offering.
 - The grain offering represents Jesus’ humanity
 - John 6:35 – “And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger; and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”
 - Matt. 26:26 - While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”
2. **Fine flour:**
 - “The flour was of wheat (Exodus 29:2), and was double the value of the ordinary barley flour (2 Kings 7).” ~ Ellicott
 - Presented in a bowl (Num. 7:13)
 - Fine – no flour mills back then, must be ground by hand. The fineness of it meant they spent a great deal of time working on it, it was “well-crushed”. ~McGee.
 - Is. 53:5a “But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities ...”
3. **Oil:**
 - “The offering was drenched with oil in many different ways.” ~ McGee
 - Oil here represents the Holy Spirit.
 - The oil was poured upon it just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus.
 - Matt. 3:16 – “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.”
4. **Frankincense:**
 - Frankincense is a fragrant dried tree sap, a resin, that comes from Boswellia trees in the Middle East and Africa.
 - Frankincense is most fragrant when it is burned.
 - “The frankincense was designed to counteract the offensive smell arising from the quantity of the flesh burnt there, as is evident from the following verse, where it is stated that it is wholly to be burnt.” ~ Ellicott
 - Frankincense represents prayer.
 - “May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.” ~ Ps. 141:2
 - “The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders ... were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.” ~ Rev. 5:8

V. 2-3 “He shall bring it to Aaron’s sons, the priests, one of whom shall take from it his handful of **fine flour**¹ and oil with all the frankincense. And the priest shall burn it as a **memorial**² on the altar, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD. The rest of the grain offering shall be Aaron’s and his sons’. It is most holy of the offerings to the LORD made by fire.”

1. **Fine flour:** Verses 1-3 cover the **first kind of grain offering** – a handful of fine flour, presented in a bowl.
2. **Memorial:** Hebrew ‘*azkārâ* (azkara) – that which calls to memory, a remembrance.

The **second kind of grain offering** could be oven-baked cakes or wafers.

V. 4 – “And if you bring as an offering a grain offering baked in the oven, it shall be unleavened cakes of fine flour mixed with oil, or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.”

The **third kind of grain offering** could be pan-baked cakes or wafers.

V. 5-6 “But if your offering is a grain offering baked in a pan, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened, mixed with oil. You shall break it in pieces and pour oil on it; it is a grain offering.”

The **fourth kind of grain offering** could be boiled and baked in a deep pan.

V. 7-10 “If your offering is a grain offering baked in a covered pan, it shall be made of fine flour with oil. You shall bring the grain offering that is made of these things to the LORD. And when it is presented to the priest, he shall bring it to the altar. Then the priest shall take from the grain offering a memorial portion, and burn it on the altar. It is an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD. And what is left of the grain offering shall be Aaron’s and his sons’. It is most holy of the offerings to the LORD made by fire.”

V. 11 “No grain offering which you bring to the LORD shall be made with leaven,¹ for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey² in any offering to the LORD made by fire.” (NKJV)

V. 12 “You may bring them to the LORD as an offering of the firstfruits, but they are not to be offered on the altar as a pleasing aroma.” (NIV)

- No grain offering could have leaven or honey. You could bring them separately as an offering of firstfruits from your crop, but it could not be mixed in the grain or burned on the altar.
- 1. **Leaven**, according to Oxford Dictionary, is a substance, typically yeast, that is used in dough to make it rise; OR a pervasive influence that modifies something.
 - In the Bible, leaven represented sin. If the grain offering represents Jesus, then it cannot have sin.
 - “Also, this was forbidden, partly to remind them of their deliverance out of Egypt, when they were forced through haste to bring away their meal or dough unleavened.” ~ Matthew Poole
- 2. **Honey** also caused fermentation, so it was forbidden.
 - Some commentators have theorized that honey is also a sweetener and can represent inauthenticity. God doesn’t want us to be fake when we come to Him.
 - It was also thought to have been used by the pagans in their sacrifices, therefore God commanded it not be used.

V. 13 – “And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt.”

- Salt represented multiple things:
 1. “The expression “a covenant of salt,” which also occurs in Numbers 18:19, and 2 Chronicles 13:5, denotes an indissoluble alliance, an everlasting covenant.” ~ Ellicott
 2. Leaven corrupts, salt preserves.
 - Matthew 5:13 - “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”
 - Mark 9:50 – “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”
 - Col. 4:6 “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

The **fifth kind of grain offering** is the offering of the firstfruits of your crop.

V. 14-16 “If you offer a grain offering of your firstfruits¹ to the LORD, you shall offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits green heads of grain² roasted on the fire, grain beaten³ from full heads. And you shall put oil on it, and lay frankincense on it. It is a grain offering. Then the priest shall burn the memorial portion: part of its beaten grain and part of its oil, with all the frankincense, as an offering made by fire to the LORD.

1. Firstfruits:

- “If a man, with a thankful sense of God's goodness in giving him a plentiful crop, was disposed to present an offering to God, let him bring the first ripe and full ears. Whatever was brought to God must be the best in its kind...” ~ Matthew Henry
- 1 Cor. 15:20 – *“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”*

2. Green heads of grain

- The KJV translates this as “ears of corn”, which is confusing because they don’t mean maize.
- The Hebrew word, *’āḥīḇ* (awbeeb) actually translates as green heads of **barley**.

3. Beaten:

- Not rubbed out by the hands, as described in Luke 6:1, but bruised or crushed so as to form kernels, removing the outer husk.
- Is. 53:10-11 *“Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin... After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.”*

CONCLUSION

- Every aspect of the grain offering required work on the behalf of the offerer. They had to till the soil, plant the crops, tend the grain, harvest the grain, de-husk the grain, crush the grain into a fine flour, grow the olive trees, harvest the olives, press the olives into oil, find the Boswellia tree, collect the resin, extract the frankincense oil, make the unleavened dough, bake the dough, harvest the salt, etc. It was a lot of work!
- Lucky for us, Jesus in His humanity did the work. The grain offering represents Jesus’ body as the bread, but also the work He did as a suffering servant. He was beaten and crushed for us, and could only do that as a human.
- Phil. 2:7-8 *“He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross.”*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the three main components of a grain offering, and what do they symbolize?

2. How do the principals behind the following concepts apply to our Christian walk?

- No Leaven Allowed:
- No Honey Allowed:
- Requires Salt:
- Bringing Your Firstfruits:

3. How can we regularly show our gratefulness to God for the work Jesus did in our place?