

# Jesus Fulfilled the Burnt Offering

Michael Heiss—September 6, 2014

Good morning, everyone! What we're going to do is to take what we discussed in the sermon *Meaning of Burnt Offerings* and specifically condense it into seven aspects, seven conditions, seven descriptions—whatever term you want to use—to show how the burnt offering that I talked about was fulfilled by Jesus Christ. **He was the burnt offering!**

Lev. 1—All the characteristics of a burnt offering are found in here. Leviticus 1:2<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup>: "...If any man of you brings an offering to the LORD... [v 3]: ...If his offering *is* a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer <sup>l#1</sup>**a male**..." The burnt offering is to be a male.

Verse 2: "...you shall bring your offering of the <sup>l#2</sup>**domestic animals** of the herd and of the flock." No wild beasts, no birds of prey. It must be a *domestic animal* subject to the shepherds or farmer.

"...let him offer a male <sup>l#3</sup>**without blemish**..."... [no defects, no physical defects, no spiritual defects] ...He shall offer it of his <sup>l#4</sup>**own voluntary will**..." (v 3). This is to be a *voluntary offering*—not demanded, not forced.

Verse 5: "And he shall kill the young bull before the LORD. And the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the <sup>l#5</sup>**blood** and **sprinkle the blood** all around against the side of the altar..." The blood must be sprinkled.

Verse 4: "...it shall be accepted for him to make <sup>l#6</sup>**atonement** for him." This burnt offering is to make atonement.

It is to be a sweet fragrance, a very fine smelling aroma, v 13: "...wash the inward parts... It is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a <sup>l#7</sup>**sweet fragrance** to the LORD."

The same thing is also found in v 9: "...a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a **sweet savor** to the LORD."

## I. Male

We are going to show how these seven characteristics were, indeed, fulfilled by Jesus Christ. The first one we don't have to think much about. It was a male, Son of God, a man-Child (Luke 2). No need to dwell much on that.

## II. Domestic

The second part is kind of interesting in a way. Jesus Christ was subject to His parents. That's how He was domesticated. Today, scientists or child

psychologists would call Him a child prodigy. Oh, was He ever a **child prodigy!** This was God manifested in the flesh! You think of great musicians, and there are great ones. The first one that comes to mind as a child prodigy is Mozart. At the age of three and four he was playing. I couldn't even think of cops and robbers, and he was playing and conducting!

Let's get our bearings absolutely straight on that. Let's not just take anybody's word for it. 1-Timothy 3:16: "And undeniably, great is the mystery of Godliness: God was **manifested in the flesh**, was justified in *the* Spirit, was seen by angels, was proclaimed among *the* Gentiles..." You bet He was a child prodigy!

John 1:1: "In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... [v 14]: ...And the Word became flesh..." Here was Jesus Christ; let's see how He was truly a domestic animal in a way, because He was to be the Lamb of God, the burnt offering.

Sometimes we read right over this and don't think about it, Luke 2:41: "Now, His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years *old*, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the Feast. But when they departed after completing the days, the Child Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, and Joseph and His mother did not know *it*" (vs 41-43).

How could they not know it? I know! Shades of *Home Alone*—right? Got to be something like that. Jesus was a rather responsible young man. Obviously, He probably proved that He was very, very mature and capable.

Verse 44: "But supposing Him to be in the company, they went a day's journey... [finally they looked for Him and couldn't find Him] ...And when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him" (vs 44-45). They're pulling their hair out! Where is this kid! Three solid days!

Picture yourself, you've gone on a trip, a vacation, and you can't find your son, can't find your daughter, three days you can't find them. It's time to call missing persons, time to call the hospitals, time to call the highway patrol. They were looking for Him. Where did they find Him?

Verse 46: "Now, it came to pass *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, **sitting in the midst of the teachers, both hearing them and questioning them.**" Oh yes, a child prodigy! Teaching and listening to the 'great teachers' of the Law.

Verse 47: “And all those who were listening to Him were amazed at *His* understanding and His answers. But when they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, ‘Son, why have you dealt with us in this manner? Look, Your father and I have been *very* distressed *while* searching for You.’” (vs 47-48). Your father and I have been very distressed! What was Jesus’ response?

Verse 49: And He said to them, ‘Why *is it* that you were looking for Me? Don’t you realize that I must be about My Father’s *business?*’” Nonchalantly, He’s saying this. They didn’t get it. I’m not so sure that I would have gotten it had I been Joseph.

Verse 51: “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He **was subject to them....**” They told Him to do this, and He did it! They told Him to do that, and He did it. They were His authority as long as they did not ask Him to do anything opposed to the will of God. Yes, He was domestic.

### III. Spotless

That is without blemish. 1-Peter 1:17: “And if you call upon the Father, Who judges according to each man’s work without respect of persons, pass the time of your *life’s* journey in *the fear of God*; knowing that you were not redeemed by corruptible things, by silver or gold, from your futile way of living, inherited *by tradition* from *your* forefathers; but **by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**”

Again, Jesus Christ is described as having no defects: no spiritual defects, no physical defects. Again, He fulfilled this aspect.

### IV. Voluntary

This is supposed to be voluntary—remember? John 10:14: “I am the good Shepherd, and I know those who *are* Mine, and am known of those who *are* Mine. Just as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring those also, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one flock *and* one Shepherd. On account of this, the Father loves Me: because I lay down My life, that I may receive it back again. No one takes it from Me, but **I lay it down of Myself. I have authority to lay it down and authority to receive it back again....**” (vs 14-18).

Nobody made Him do this. He voluntarily did it. How many humans do you know of who voluntarily died for God? *There were martyrs, yes,*

*that is true!* But who said, ‘Oh, good, I get to be a martyr’? There are some, yes, who long to be martyrs, that is true. But not the way Jesus was; *the burnt offering*. He said, ‘I do it voluntarily.’ God loved Him for that, and accepted Him for that.

### V. Blood

The burnt offering was to have its blood sprinkled. Hebrews 9:14: “To a far greater degree, **the blood of Christ**, Who through *the* eternal Spirit offered Himself **without spot** to God... [physical or spiritual] ... shall purify your conscience from dead works to serve *the* living God.” Here’s where we find it was His blood.

John 19—clearly describing the crucifixion, Jesus is on the cross, He’s suffering. John 19:31: “The Jews, therefore...” Something interesting that you might consider: When you read the Gospels and you hear the phrase *of fear of the Jews*, or *the Jews this*, or *the Jews that*, that is true, but it is not necessarily Jews as such. Where does the word *Jew* come from? *Judean! Judea!*

Many times when you read the word *Jew* you need to think of Judean, *for fear of Judeans!* Jesus didn’t have too many enemies in Galilee, but Galilee was filled with Jews. When it talks about the Jews, we have to be careful: Is He talking about Jews? He was a Jew, Peter, James, John, Philip—they were all Jews; but they weren’t all Judeans. As you read through the Gospels in the New Testament about Jews, think! Are we talking about Jews in general? *or* Is it trying to describe Judeans in particular? Jesus had many enemies among the Judeans. The Pharisees were centered in Jerusalem, in Judea.

John 19:31: “The Jews, therefore, so that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, because it was a preparation *day*... [this was the 14<sup>th</sup>; Jesus was dying and that night was to be the Night to be Much Observed] ... (for that Sabbath was a High Day), requested of Pilate that their legs might be broken and *the bodies* be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first *one*, and *the legs* of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus *and* saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers had pierced His side with a spear, and immediately **blood** and water had come out” (vs 31-34). Here again we find Jesus shedding His blood.

Talking about the Father, Ephesians 1:5: “Having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will, to *the* praise of *the* glory of His grace, wherein He has made us objects of *His* grace in the Beloved *Son*; in Whom we have redemption **through His blood**...” (vs 5-7). Again, the blood;

the burnt offering shed blood; Jesus shed His blood.

## VI. Atonement

We're going to see why it took the blood of the burnt offering to remove sin. Remember, in Lev. 1 the burnt offering was to make atonement. Why is that?

The book of Hebrews is one of the most fascinating books in the New Testament. It is a transitional book where the Apostle Paul is preparing the *early* Church to separate itself from the Old Testament reading to the New; from temple worship to God being with you; wherever 'two or three are gathered in My name there I will be' with them. Paul was preparing them for this, showing them that Christ was far greater than any Old Testament sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:4: "Because *it is* impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." In order to the fulfill the burnt offering, Jesus Christ, as a human, Son of God had to come to shed His blood. That's how He fulfilled the shedding of blood of the burnt offering to make atonement. There was simply no other way to do it.

Talking about those who come out of the Tribulation, Revelation 7:14: "Then I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' And he... [the angel] ...said to me, 'They are the ones who have come out of the Great Tribulation; and they have washed their robes... [there's atonement] ...and have made **their robes white in the blood of the Lamb.**'"

Not only are their robes white, but let's see what Isaiah says about white and red—not specifically talking about the blood, but only through the blood of Christ could it happen.

Isaiah 1:18: "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD. 'Though your sins are as scarlet [red], they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool.' Why are they going to be able to be white and like wool? *Because the blood of Christ is going to wash them clean!* Again, burnt offerings.

## VII. Sweet Fragrance

Jesus Christ was also a sweet fragrance; we found that out in the burnt offering (Lev. 1). But let's see how Paul describes Jesus.

Ephesians 5:2: "And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us, and gave Himself for us **as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.**" Which is the same thing as a sweet smelling fragrance. So, Paul describes Jesus as a sacrifice with a sweet smelling savor.

Remember, the only sacrifice described as a sweet smelling fragrance was the burnt offering. In

reality the burnt offering was the sum total of all the offerings. And if you had the time to go through the whole burnt offering system, you will find that every single burnt offering, every single offering—period!—from bulls, goats, lambs, down to turtledoves when you ring the neck—every one of them—*pictured the sacrifice of Jesus Christ* in one way or another. It's a fascinating study.

- Why was Jesus Christ such a sweet smelling sacrifice to God?
- What made Him that way?

Hebrews 10:5: "For this reason, when He [Christ] comes into the world, He says, 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire...'"—talking to His Father. Remember, this goes back, way back before time began almost, if we want to look at it that way. When the One Who became the Father and the One Who became the Son were conversing together:

- How are we going to do this?
- How are we going to generate this creation?
- How are we going to mold it?

They would talk back and forth as to Who was going to do what. {note sermon series: *Covenants of God*} Review them, it's inspiring.

Jesus says, "...Sacrifice and offering You [the Father] did not desire, but You have prepared a body for Me" (v 5).

- You made sure that I was going to come from good stock.
- You made sure who My mother was going to be—Mary.
- You made sure who my physical adopted father would be—Joseph.
- You did this!

Verse 6: "You did not delight in burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin. Then said I, 'Lo, I come (as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book) to do Your will, O God'" (vs 6-7). **Obey My voice!** Over and over God said, '**Obey My voice!**' Jesus said, 'I came to obey Your voice!' And He always did!

Verse 8: "In the saying above, *He said*, 'Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin (which are offered according to the *priestly* law) You did not desire nor delight in.'" This is a matter of emphasis. Yes, God, in a sense, delighted in the offering. He ordered them! He prescribed them! But the real thrust was **obey My voice!** That's what God wants more than anything. It's a matter of emphasis.

Verse 9: "Then He said, 'Lo, I come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first *covenant* in order that He may establish the second *covenant.*"

Jesus Christ came to do *the Father's* will; that's why He was such a sweet smelling fragrance to God. He was always dedicated to His Father. If you want a full description of what we just read in Heb. 10, read Psa. 40:1-11; Paul is summarizing that in Heb. 10. Let's see what Jesus Christ says of Himself and His relationship with the Father, how He pleased the Father:

John 8:28: "Then Jesus said to them, 'When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you yourselves shall know that I AM, and *that* I do nothing of Myself. But as the Father taught Me, these things I speak. And He Who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone because I always do the things that please Him'" (vs 28-29).

If only I could say that of myself! But Jesus could and did say it of Himself! ***He obeyed the voice of His Father, always!***

Jesus was having a dispute with the leaders of the Jews, the Judeans, v 38: "**I speak the things that I have seen from My Father,** and you do the things that you have seen from your father." That's why the sacrifice is so greatly appreciated and accepted by the Father.

One thing, a small aspect maybe, we will see that in Jesus' busy life—healing people, preaching the Gospel—in all His activities in doing the work of God He never let His Father get lost in the shuffle, so to speak.

Mark 1:28: "And His fame swiftly spread into all the country around Galilee. And as soon as they had gone out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. And Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever. And they spoke to Him at once about her. And He came to *her*, and took her by the hand and raised her up. And immediately the fever left her, and she served them. Now, in *the evening*, when the sun had gone down, they brought to Him all who were diseased, and those who were possessed by demons; and the entire city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and He cast out many demons; but He did not allow the demons to speak because they knew Him. And *at the time* of the morning watch... [2-6 a.m.] ***...while it was still night...*** [still dark and couldn't see much of anything] ***...He rose up; and going out, He departed into a desert place, and was praying there***" (vs 28-35).

He never let communication between Him and His Father lapse! He never did that! He knew, as He told His disciples on earth, that they were the branches, He was the vine, and the branches couldn't do anything unless they were tied into the vine. So, Jesus, in other places, said, 'Of Myself I can do nothing! I am nothing! I no one! ***But My Father in***

***Me does the works!***'

He always kept the lines opened to His Father, at all times. ***That's what made Him a sweet smelling fragrance!*** You might ask yourself, as I've asked myself many times: Have we ever let the lines of communication lapse? A little bit, maybe? *I think we have!* But Jesus never did! ***Never!***

Finally, in conclusion, we'll see that Jesus fulfilled the purpose of the burnt offering, Colossians 1:19: "For it pleased *the Father* that in Him [Christ] all the fullness should dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of His cross... [the blood of Christ's cross] ...by Him [Christ] to reconcile all things to Himself [the Father]; by Him [Christ], whether the things on the earth, or the things in heaven. For you *were* once alienated and enemies in *your* minds by wicked works; but now He has reconciled *you*" (vs 19-21). That was the purpose of the burnt offering. A perfect sacrifice to God by which all humans could be reconciled to the Father. Jesus Christ was indeed the perfect burnt offering!

***Let's give thanks to the Perfect Burnt Offering that was, is and always will be our High Priest and soon coming King: Jesus the Christ!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 1:2-3, 2-3, 5, 4, 13
- 2) 1 Timothy 3:16
- 3) John 1:1, 14
- 4) Luke 2:41-49, 51
- 5) 1 Peter 1:17
- 6) John 10:14-18
- 7) Hebrews 9:14
- 8) John 19:31-34
- 9) Ephesians 1:5-7
- 10) Hebrews 10:4
- 11) Revelation 7:14
- 12) Isaiah 1:18
- 13) Ephesians 5:2
- 14) Hebrews 10:5-9
- 15) John 8:28-29, 38
- 16) Mark 1:28-35
- 17) Colossians 1:19-21

Scripture referenced, not quoted: Psalm 40:1-11

Also referenced:

- Sermon: *Meaning of Burnt Offerings* (Michael Heiss)
- Sermon Series: *Covenants of God*

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Transcribed:

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