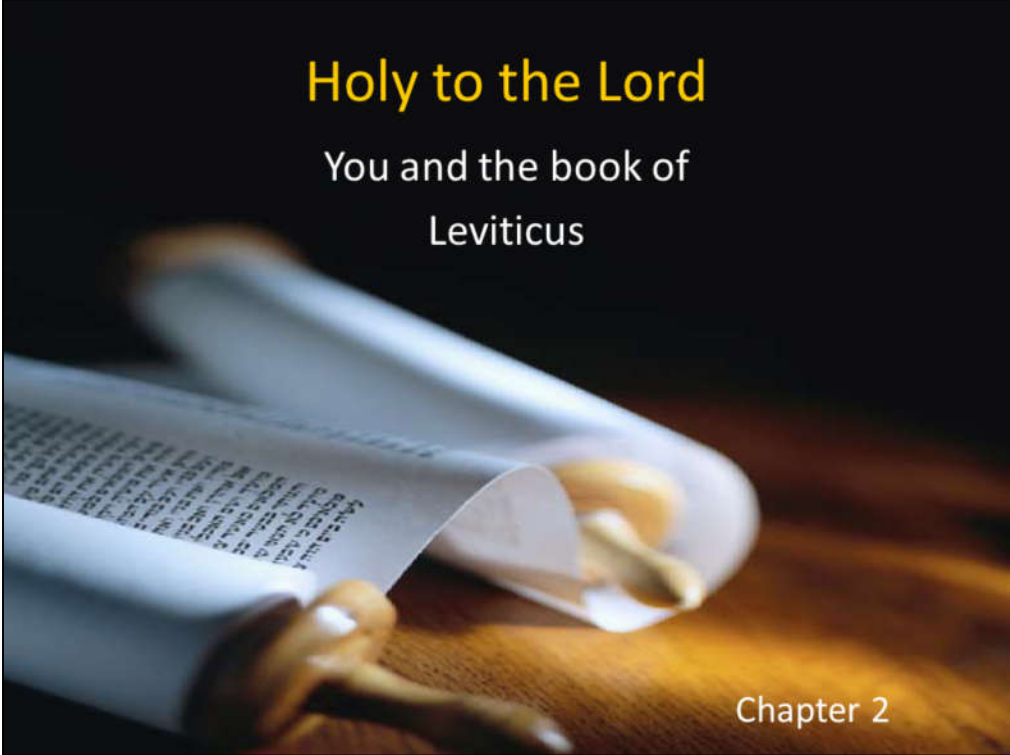


Holy to the Lord

You and the book of
Leviticus



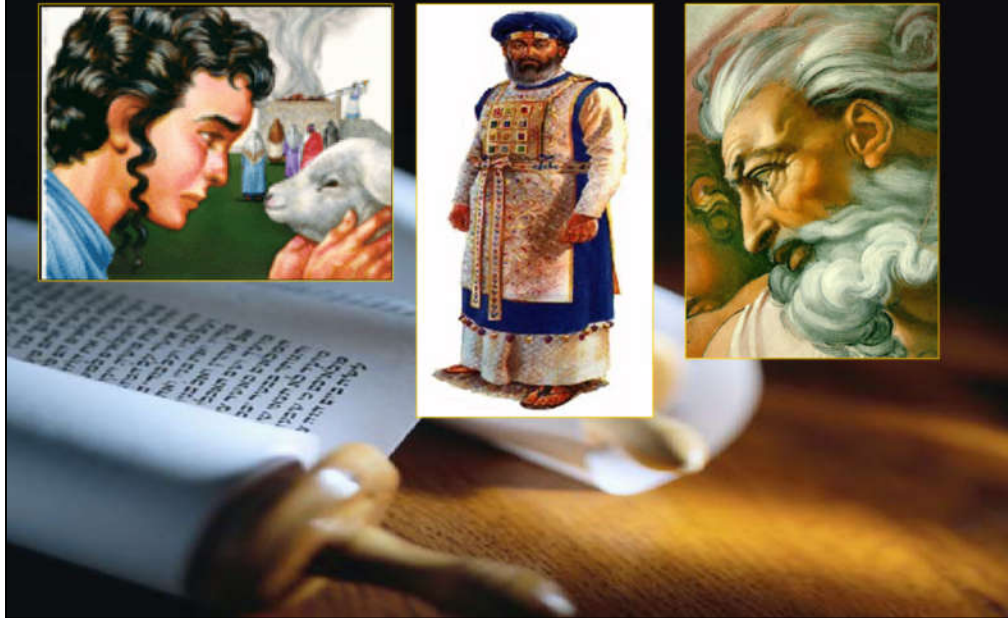
Chapter 2

What did we learn?



We learned about sacrifices of the heard, the flock, the aviary, and we heard that these sacrifices are to be turned into what? (Smoke)

What did we learn?



We learned that there were three different participants in the sacrifice. That is it took three people to “make smoke?” Who are they? 1) layman, 2) priest, 3) God

We also learned that the **primary** function of the burnt offering was so that the **Lord would graciously meet with His people.**

What did we learn?



We learned that it compares to our Lord's Supper. How many are involved there?
Layman, priest/pastor, God (Christ)

Like the burnt offering sacrifice, the primary reason for the ritual is so that God can meet with His people and sanctify them.

Lev. 2:1-3



Read Lev. 2:1-3

Who would bring this type of offering? (Farmers who don't have livestock. --It didn't matter if they were rich or poor)

Does the Bible make it sound like it is any less of an offering in the eyes of God?
(no)

How do you know this? (the same phrase is used here as in chapter 1: a pleasing aroma to the Lord)

“Make Smoke”



In verse 2 we have the phrase “the priest shall burn.” Do you remember what the phrase is literally? (Make smoke)

A family offering



How would this grain offering very much represent the “whole family?”

All members of the family had a part in it's preparation: The harvesting, the threshing, the grinding and the sifting –all members of the family had a role in it.

How would this affect the way that, say, a child would view the burnt offering? (The concept that they are connected to the sacrifice is there. There is a personal connection between them and God because they had a hand in bringing the flour to the altar.)

How have we gotten away from this personal connection with the Lord's Supper? (Gone are the days when a family would prepare a loaf of bread for Holy Communion)

Verse 3

1 Tim 5:17-18



Only a handful of the flour is made into smoke. What happens to the rest? (Given to Aaron and his sons <the priests>)

Why? This is their stipend. Their salary.

Can't they get a real job like everyone else? (This is to be their real job.)

See what St. Paul says about this in 1 Tim 5:17-18 (the part about wages, not the ox)

Later on when we get to chapter 6 we will see that the priests will get some of the meat of the offerings as well.

Verse 3



Most holy
Holy of Holies
“Holy thing of
holy things”

This part given to Aaron and the priests God calls a “most holy” part of the offering, but literally it is a “Holy of holies” or a “holy thing of holy things”

Two other items



What two other items are to be included with the grain offering? (Olive oil and frankincense)

Olive Oil



What practical purpose would olive oil have for the sacrifice? (It would make the flour more flammable)

Frankincense



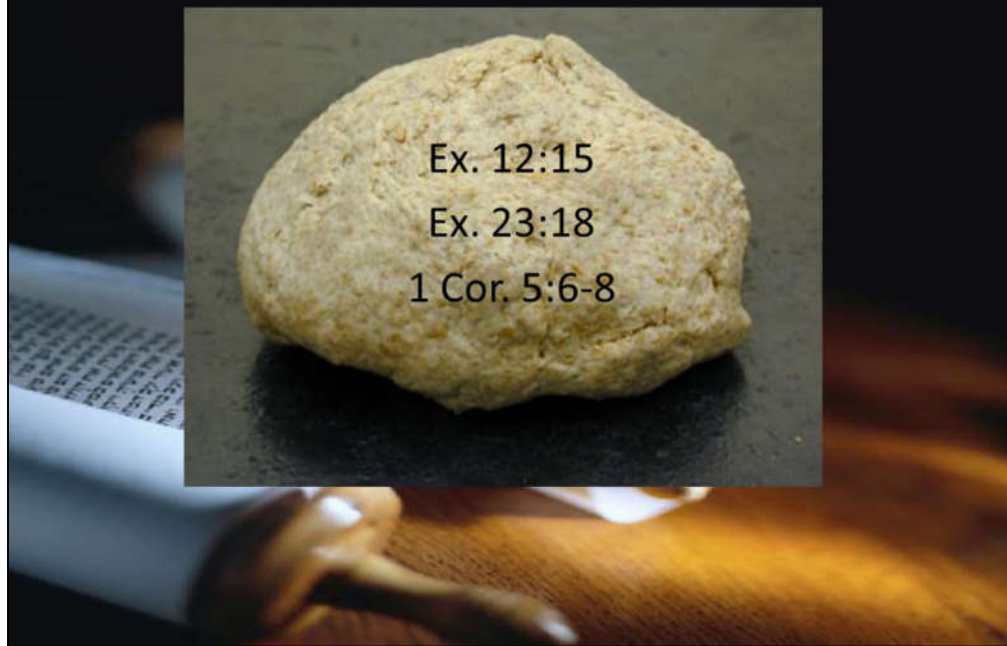
Ex 30:34

-38

God required frankincense to be added to the sacrifice. In fact, frankincense itself was to be set aside (made holy) for God alone. Read Ex 30:34-38

What practical purpose would frankincense have? (Give the offering a sweeter smell)

Lev. 2:4-9

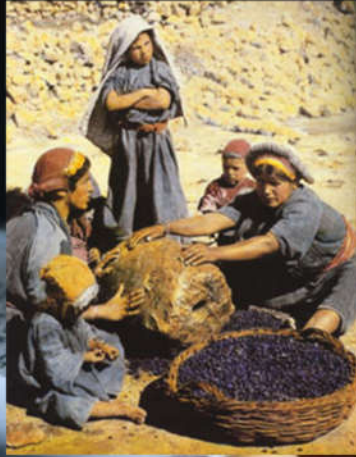


The grain offering can also be brought in the form of baked bread.

What is the stipulation placed upon the bread? (It must be unleavened.)

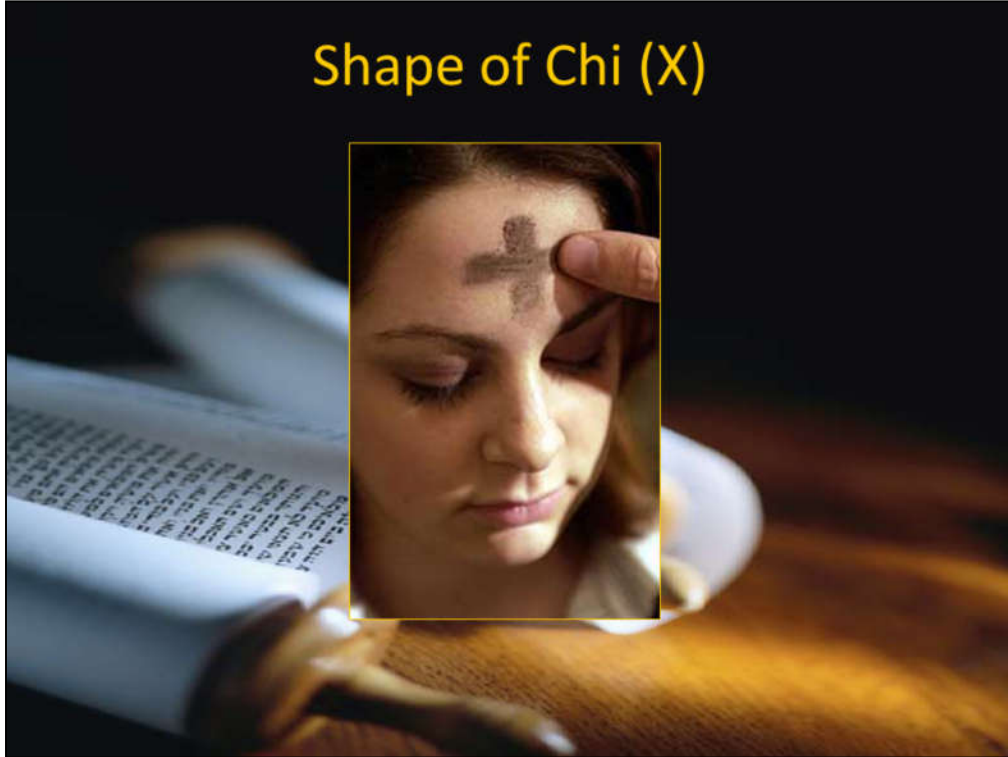
Why? Leaven is often associated with corruption, decay, sickness, and death. Since all of these deal with uncleanness they are incompatible with God's holiness and not fitting for a holy sacrifice. Look up Ex 12:15, 23:18 and 1 Cor 5:6-8

Why more oil?



Why add more oil? Again to help the sacrifice burn, but also the creation of the oil involves all members of the family and personalizes the sacrifice.

Shape of Chi (X)



The word used here (smear) literally means “to anoint.” It is the same word from which we get the title “Messiah” or anointed one.

What makes this even more interesting is that Rabbis record the bread was also anointed with oil in the shape of the Greek letter chi which looks like an X or a cross.

Today in our church we have returned to the practice of anointing with oil at baptism. Right after the person is baptized, when the pastor says, “The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life (make the sign of the cross in oil) everlasting.”

Anointing with oil can also be done when someone is very sick. This takes them back to their baptism and reminds them that they carry the mark of Christ on their forehead and they belong to Him.

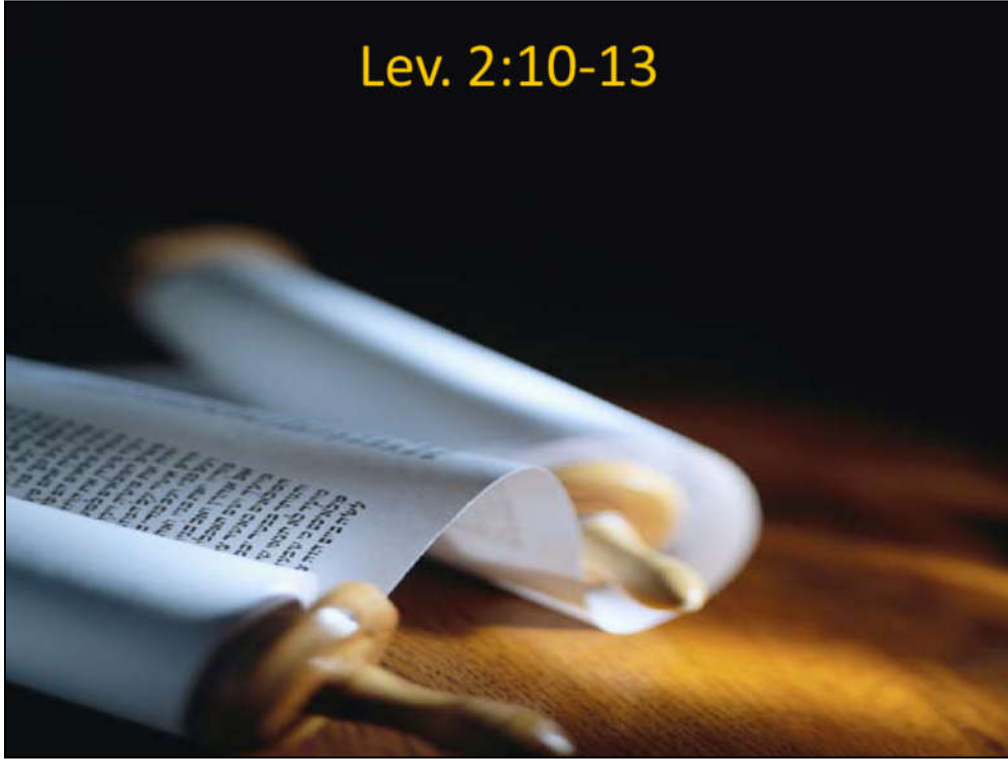
When else do we make the sign of the cross on our forehead? Ash Wednesday.

What does the priest do with the bread?



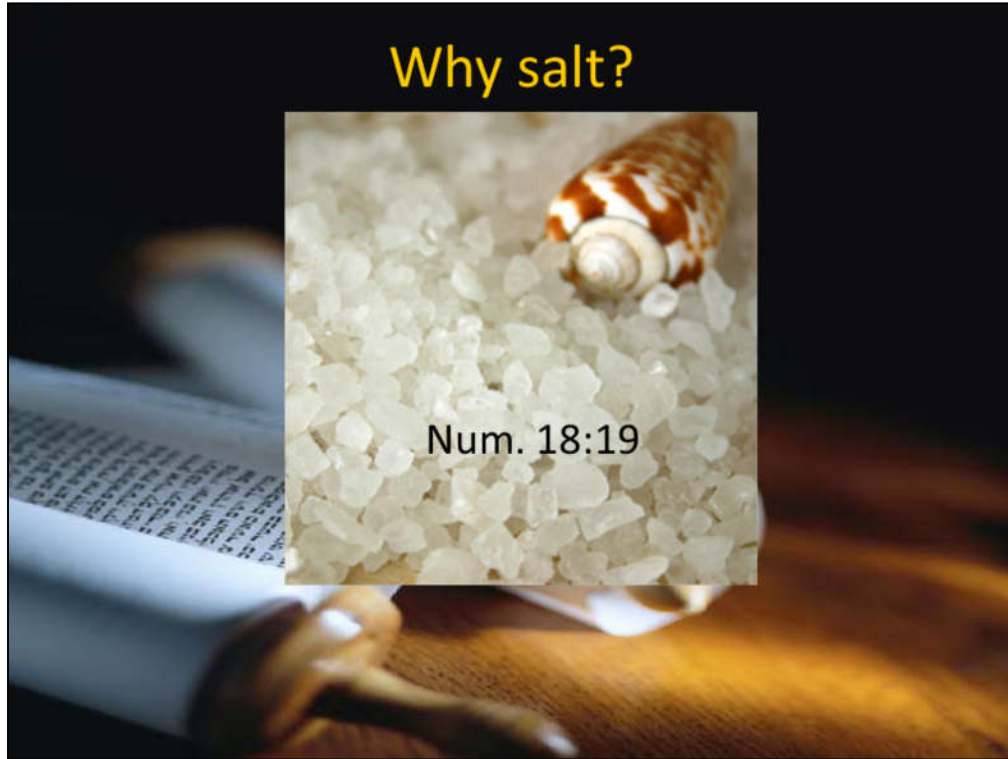
Makes smoke

Lev. 2:10-13



Read Lev. 2:10-13

Why salt?



What practical purpose would salt have? (It is a preservative so the bread offering would not mold or decay before it was brought to the altar.)

Salt was also seen symbolically have having permanence. Salt has an effect on things. It changes them. In Num. 18:19 God speaks of a covenant of salt and attaches the word "forever" to it (permanence). More on this in a few minutes.

Lev. 2:14-16



What does the priest do with the grain offering? (Make smoke)

Why is this phrase repeated for each stage? (A reminder that the offering becomes God's, it ascends to Him, and is received by Him)

Salt



As we wrap up this section, let's talk a little more about salt. 2 Chron. 13:5 talks about God having a Covenant of Salt with His people, meaning a permanent relationship with them. Culturally salt had a way of creating or sustaining relationships in ancient Israel.

Salt



Salt was normally shared with kinsfolk at common meals in the ancient world. It was used to extend and perpetuate the ties and privileges of kinship to guests who were present but were not kinsfolk. It was a tool for being inclusive.

This helps us understand better the phrase “a covenant of salt” when it is used between God and His people. God extends the privilege of kinship to people that really don’t deserve it, but ones whom He wants to have a relationship with anyway.

What does it mean then that God insists that salt be added to the grain offering? (It is a reminder of the relationship He extends to His people)

***Note to leader: consider handing out small packets of salt to participants and encourage them to think about their permanent relationship with God when they use the salt in a meal.

What does Jesus say?



What does Jesus say about salt? What does it mean for us to be salty? How can that be connected to our relationship with God, with others?

Next Week:



Next week we talk about peace offerings. (Do you think this guy ever “makes smoke?”)