

**Psalm 50: Sacrifices**  
**08-11-19 PM**

Psalm 50 is unique in that part of the Psalm is God himself speaking on worship and sacrifice. The author begins by declaring that worshipping God is dangerous because of the nature of God. God then steps in and calls all those who are in a covenant with Him to worship and sacrifice. But He then tells us this: the sacrifice of animals is not what He values. He accepts these things as acts of obedience, but He does not need them. Indeed, He has created all of the creatures of the world; why would He. God then declares what the true sacrifices He desires are: thanksgiving, honor, and righteous living.

The story of sacrifices in the bible is very important. Adam and Eve in the Garden is where the first sacrifice occurred (when God took the life of an animal to use its skins to cover their nakedness). Cain and Abel reveal the standard of sacrifice (that it must be blood and it must be what God desires). Abraham and Isaac reveal the nature of sacrifice (it all points to a great human sacrifice). Then came the sacrifices of the Law of Moses, which regulated sacrifices in preparation for the coming of Jesus. Finally, the sacrifice of Christ was the last sacrifice for sin.

The Old Testament taught us important things about sacrifices. Sacrifices must be what God has desired, not what we want to give. As well, we cannot be in sin when we bring them (Proverbs 15:8). Even more dangerous is to offer a sacrifice while in sin with evil motivations (Proverbs 21:27), such as Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5.

In Hebrews 8:1 we are told that sacrifice is for two purposes: as an offering for guilt (a sin sacrifice) and as a gift to God). Sin sacrifices are to satisfy God's wrath over sin; we use words like propitiation and atonement. Gifts and offerings sacrifices are to demonstrate our love for God. Jesus was the END of propitiation sacrifices (Hebrews 10:12). Bu he was the beginning of the true gift sacrifices to God. 1 Peter 2:5, Hebrews 13:10-17, and Romans 12:1-2 teach us this. These passages tell us that the true sacrifices to God are true worship, purity in our lives, good deeds, submission and being the temple of God. These are the very things that the Psalmist taught us in Psalm 50.

When we consider sacrifices, we need to ask ourselves what sacrifices do we make to God? Are you worshipping Him with your heart? Are you obeying Him with your life? Do you honor Him with your brethren? Are you giving Him gifts in your life? Then we need to affirm that our sacrifices are acceptable to God. Are you living a holy life, without sin? Is your intention in sacrifice pure?

These are the lessons of Psalm 50 for us today.

***Whoever offers praise glorifies Me;***  
***And to him who orders his conduct aright***  
***I will show the salvation of God.***

Psalm 50:23