

Burnt Offering 1

The kingdom of heaven suffers violence (Mt 11:12). You can see the violent assault that is waged against the kingdom by how old Israel was divided and even destroyed. The northern kingdom was scattered throughout all the western world. The other half of Israel was taken into captivity, and though a small remnant returned and set up the temple, there was no Ark of the Covenant there, and YHWH did not dwell in Israel any longer. Later in 70 AD they too were scattered throughout the western world where both houses are today, for whom the new covenant is made (Eph 2:15; Heb 8:8-12).

All of Israel was called to repent and be baptized by John the Baptist and only those who received the baptism of John began the new Israel. All the others were cut off. The kingdom was taken away from old Israel and given to new Israel who would produce the fruit of it (Mt 21:43). Those who were baptized by John knew they were sinners. Their consciences were in anguish and they knew that they needed to repent, so they had a heart to receive YHWH's purpose for their lives. They were able to justify God (Lk 7:29-30) and see that He had visited His people (verse 16). But the Pharisees (just like Christianity today, people who thought they were good enough already) and the lawyers (people who justified *THEMSELVES* in their teachings and doctrines) rejected John's baptism, and in so doing, rejected God's purpose for themselves (Lk 7:30).

The first church, that new Israel, came into the covenant and vowed themselves to be violent men (Mt 11:12), but less than 50 years later their violence turned to passivity. They began in full moon and waned; we begin in new moon and wax until full moon, no longer to wane. Our moon will wane no more. The moon is under our feet (Rev 12:1).

We can only vow to be violent and forceful with our will. Some people's will hasn't been captured yet so that it would be violent against sin, accusations, etc., but our Father is in the process of circumcising our hearts and capturing our will so that we can be violent men who will come and take the kingdom by force. Thus, that kingdom will not be left to another people (Dan 2:44) as old Israel and the first church were, another people of a 50-year period, to bring about the Jubilee.

We are violent when our will is affected. Our will is affected through the salvation of our soul, which happens through the Holy Spirit, who moves into us through our human spirit. Just as the children of Israel moved into Israel to take the land, the Holy Spirit moves into us to take the land. He wants to take every bit of us — our spirit, soul, and body. We must be set apart for this purpose. When we are baptized, He moves into our spirit and then, as we live our lives in the Edah, hearing teachings, and coming into total surrender, he takes our soul, which is made up of our intellect, our emotions (which need to be stabilized), and our will). This process is how we acquire the mind of Messiah. The same soul we have now is going to reign in our immortal body forever and ever, but the Holy Spirit has come to regenerate it. The old man, the sin that made our human nature serve the enemy, dies, and we experience a rebirth of our human nature which is our personality, who we are, our humanity, our whole being. Our Father wants every aspect of us. Salvation comes first to our spirit, then to our soul, and then our body comes into obedience to our soul which is in obedience to our spirit, which is in obedience to the Holy Spirit, who is sent by the Father and the Son. This is being born again. The Holy Spirit has made progress in differing degrees in each of us, so don't be discouraged with where you are because He is an encouraging spirit and He wants to save us and give us understanding.

Our spirit prays without our knowing, but also our mind prays. When our spirit is filled up, it spills over to the soul and when our soul is filled up, it spills over to outward acts. If we are filled up with the spirit, nothing else will come out. If we aren't filled up with the spirit, then only flesh will come out.

The only way that our Father can get to our whole being and save us thoroughly is if we have cut a covenant with Him and therefore *belong* to Him and *understand* the things of the Spirit.

King David personally knew about YHWH. He told his son Solomon to acknowledge the God of your father and serve Him wholeheartedly because YHWH searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts (1 Chr 28:9). If you seek Him, He will be found by you. It is the same way with us — it depends on our spirit, on whether we seek Him or not. The first church sought YHWH long enough to establish the twelve

tribes (Acts 26:7; Jms 1:1), but didn't endure. In order to be strong and finish the work we have to do, we must endure in seeking Him until the end. Our work is not just to establish the twelve tribes, but that the twelve tribes would bring the light to the nations and salvation to the ends of the earth. We cannot stop before this is done — until the shofar is blown, which is the Yobel (Lev 25:9; 1 Ths 4:16).

The twelve tribes in Paul's day were earnestly worshipping and serving with all their heart. They were earnestly praying and seeking the promise that their twelve tribes hoped to attain (Acts 26:7), serving fervently night and day. Though they did this (for the gospel had been preached all over the known world and twelve tribes were established), they failed to fulfill the prophesy of Isa 49:6, which is the same commission Paul received from our Master on the Damascus road (Acts 13:47), as our Master quoted Isa 49:6. The commission was this: Acts 26:17-18 —

a. To be His servant to raise up the twelve tribes on the earth, for first of all, spiritual Israel, the Commonwealth of Israel (Eph 2:12) must be restored to bring back His preserved scattered remnant from among the nations; then these twelve tribes could...

b. Be a light to the nations; and thereby

c. Bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

The commission was for all three of these things to be fulfilled, just as our salvation entails all three parts of us, our spirit, soul, and body (1 Ths 5:23) being redeemed by the Holy Spirit. We must not forsake that commission the way that Solomon forsook YHWH after he built the temple or the way the first church forsook their first love after the twelve tribes were established. When we are baptized, if our “yes” was truly ayes, we are making a covenant that we will never forsake.

B'rith — Agreement to Cut a Covenant by the Shedding of Blood

A blood covenant between two parties is the closest, most enduring, most solemn and sacred of all contracts. It is a contract that cannot be broken, for when you make it, you promise your life, your love, and your protection until death.

If, at your baptism, you are promising anything less than that, you have made a covenant with the evil one and you are not in the New Covenant because it is only an evil spirit that would lead you to say that you are putting your hand to the plow to never turn back, if you didn't mean it.

Our Master will never turn His back on His covenant with us. He ratified it with His death and sealed it with His resurrection. We seal it, too, with our death at baptism, because a dead man cannot change his will. The gospel must have had to cut your heart to make the covenant of baptism; otherwise you are cursed by your own words.

The covenant of marriage is a blood covenant. Throughout the scriptures, marriage is honored and in Mal 2:14 it says that God *hates* divorce. Marriage is consummated by physical union, so the blood covenant is sealed when the hymen is broken. In the old days, if there was no blood there was no contract and the marriage was annulled. This protected the sacredness and purity of the contract because when you married, you gave your heart to that person, which meant your whole being, your nature, your whole life.

The spirit and essence of our blood covenant with Messiah is that we would love Him with our whole heart and being. At baptism, we must be cut to the heart so that our blood, spiritually speaking, would be shed to make it a lasting covenant. To those who make such a covenant, Yahshua promises to keep you, help you, encourage you, grant you life and peace. He gives His Holy Spirit to us to do this.

When we baptize, after the person has confessed his repentance, we say, “We baptize you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins, that you may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

All nations have practiced blood covenants because it is instinctive in man to seek this kind of relationship. That is what love is — a desire for friendships to go deeper than casual acquaintances. We all sought and desired this because it is in us, but in this wicked and perverse generation, most people have lost touch with this instinct for

such a relationship. They have become dull to it and their conscience is seared so they cannot listen to their hearts. Thus the gospel means nothing to them when they hear it because they do not know what a *covenant* is. We have to be delivered from this unfaithful generation (Acts 2:40).

In Acts 2:37, the people Peter was speaking to were cut to the heart, so they capitulated and were baptized, joining themselves to our Master, and receiving the Holy Spirit. Through our covenant with Yahshua, we have been joined with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:17) who is purifying us from every spot, wrinkle, or evil thought so that one day we will be just like our Master and we can be joined to Him in marriage.

Burnt Offering

Rom 12:1 — Since we have been joined to Him, our spirits are revived for communion with Him and we walk in the newness of life. The burnt offering expresses our willingness and readiness for communion with Him, our spiritual service of worship. We must present our bodies of our own free will, therefore, if we are not ready to present ourselves, then we are not ready to have communion with Him.

The Roman church was cut off because they did not present their bodies as a living sacrifice and so were unwilling to have communion with the Holy Spirit (Rom 11:22). When we are ready to have communion, nothing is held in reserve. More and more, they fell away from presenting themselves unreservedly until, without them realizing it, an evil spirit came and (2 Cor 11:4) replaced the Spirit of Messiah; all those added to them received a different spirit. Thus sorcery (which is praying, teaching, exhorting, encouraging, etc., without the Holy Spirit, but in another spirit's power, Mt 7:21-23) began to be practiced in the Roman church and to this day they falsely represent Messiah (Rev 18:23-24; 19:2-3).

Sacrifice Acceptable to God

In the old covenant, the priest of old caught the blood of the sacrificial animal, which the person had raised from its youth, and sprinkled it on the altar. The person had laid his hand on the animal's head in pure faith that our Father was going to cleanse his conscience. This was the sin offering. They did this to escape from the second death. Not until Messiah came could we be saved even from the first death.

Messiah went down into the earth to save His people from the first death.

Then, after the sin offering is made, the priest takes the animal for the burnt offering. He skins it to expose the inward parts and then very carefully dissects the animal to make sure there are no defects. In the same way, our Father knows the motive behind everything we do or say in the Body (1 Chr 28:9). Only if our offering is made from a pure motive is it accepted. If any part of the sacrificial animal was sick or cancerous, it was not offered up because it meant that the person didn't choose the best of his flock and so he wasn't sincere. Our Father can only accept our sacrifice if it is pure.

After the priest is satisfied with his examination, he burns the entire animal on the altar, except the skin, which is the evidence that a complete, pure offering had been made. This is the burnt offering where we lay our bodies on the altar, doing everything in sincerity and truth. If you are a mother, you wholeheartedly give yourself to being the best mother; if a wife, you are entirely submissive to your husband, etc., otherwise our sacrifice is not a complete sacrifice.

If the first church had presented themselves in sincerity and truth, it would not have fallen. They were warned in Sardis (Rev 3:2) that their deeds were not found complete, but apparently they did not heed the warning. Our task is to be a perfect sacrifice without one bad motive, complete and whole (Mal 3:3). He is going to refine us until we make pure sacrifices.

We must always seek for YHWH, as David told his son Solomon, because He is one who hides Himself. But if you seek for Him, He will let you find Him. We must never assume that He is inside our heart like the Laodecian church who thought that they had Him and were rich, but who were actually poor because He was outside of their heart. Thus their works were done in pretense and were not accepted.

In the burnt offering of the old covenant, the offering of an entire animal expressed a person's readiness to give himself entirely. When a person offered that animal, which he had raised from its youth, loved, pitied, and pet, it was the same thing as the person offering himself to be burned on the altar. As far as our Father is concerned, there was no difference between the animal's life and the person's life. The offering and the offerer are the same thing in our Father's eyes. You cannot separate the offering (what

you sacrifice) from yourself (2 Cor 5:14,15,21).

So, too, to our Father, our baptism means we died and our fallen human nature that loved to sin is dead. There is no difference between baptism and death to Him. If someone is baptized and it doesn't mean the same thing as death to him, then his baptism was merely a ritual and didn't save him (Rom 6:1-8).

In the same way, we cannot separate the wine from His blood or the bread from His body, because although they are not the blood and the body, they are the same thing as the blood and the body.

Likewise, the lamb is not you, but is the same thing as if it were you. Likewise, the water of baptism is not the grave, but it is the same thing as the grave. Anything short of this — if one tiny piece of the offering is not fully pure and given over — it pollutes the whole offering and makes the whole thing an empty ritual with no effect (Mal 3:3). He is going to refine us UNTIL we make acceptable offerings so that we will be the Bride (Rev 19:7) without spot or blemish, ready to marry Yahshua.

We must be willing to do Rom 12:1-2 and thus have communion with Him. It is not too hard; it is our reasonable service, the least we can do to be a disciple. It is this offering that makes everything we do valid. Unless we give up our bodies as this burnt offering, a living sacrifice, our meal offering (giving up our possessions) and our peace offering (breaking of bread) will just be an empty ritual (1 Jn 5:3).

What are we living for? We know the will of our God by doing Rom 12:1-2 and 2 Tim 2:15. David knew specifically the will of God. He told Solomon to build the temple, but to serve with his whole heart, for YHWH searches the heart and there is no way we can fool Him.

We have to be strengthened in order to do the task set before us — to provide a light to the nations that salvation may reach the ends of the earth (Isa 49:6; Mt 5:14).

If we are not willing to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, then we are not willing to have communion with Him. The way we can have communion with Him is to do Rom 12:1.

Nahum: Shared that he saw the significance of the skin being taken off the sacrifice to check whether it was pure. It makes it really clear that nothing could go unnoticed, nothing is hidden. All of our thoughts and intentions are revealed. The old covenant sacrificial system reveals the spiritual things of the new covenant and that shows everything about our Master and what He did. If that goes into our heart and we can really communicate the spirit of sacrifice, it will cut the people to the core. The gospel is going to cut people's hearts.

ha-Emeq: There is something deep in the heart of man that longs for covenant. Covenant is a deep, binding commitment to which we will be loyal unto death, unto the shedding of our blood. That is why blood is shed at the time you make a covenant. It means that this agreement is made at the expense of your own life. The commitment is worth more to me than my own life. One who breaks this covenant deserves death.

Because they are created in image of God, men desire to be bound in a covenant. We have a covenant-making nature because our God has this nature. This covenant is behind the desire in man to marry. The marriage covenant is sealed in blood upon the union of the man and woman — it is a covenant until death. Men make covenants with one another to seal their loyalty to fulfill what has been agreed upon. Love makes covenants — it is what naturally flows from man's heart as his love grows (like the covenants of David and Jonathan).

Baptism is our entrance into the blood covenant with our Father. This covenant cannot be broken, for it was a covenant that was sealed with my death in the water. I am no longer alive to change my will — it is sealed. I have made the ultimate commitment, unto death.

But in these last days, men will forbid marriage; they will not be people who make covenants. They have totally hardened themselves to their deep need for *blood covenant*. So now men will only live together with their mates, making no *binding* agreement. They are taught that commitment is bondage. This has become a generation of puny men who will not let blood flow, will not let their heart be pierced to the point of covenant, like on the day of Pentecost. Circumcision lets blood flow — men today won't be circumcised. They are growing further and further from the heart of their Creator. Commitment unto the shedding of blood is the character of our Father.

Regardless of what we have to suffer to maintain the covenant, our devotion to our covenant remains.

The first communities understood well this covenant. They were faithful, but their love grew cold. They did not overcome. They failed. Will the same thing happen to us? No, because we are being trained to be violent men. Violent men are men who are controlled (in their souls) by their will. Out of a generation who have been taught to be ruled by our emotions, we have been chosen to live by our will. The soul is comprised of the intellect, emotions, and will. Considering our upbringing we seem the least likely to be able to make it, for our wills are so weak and puny. But our Father is using extra care upon us to make sure we are trained right. Like a father who has had one son who failed and fell away from him, he will put an extra *tight hand* upon his next son to make sure he does not fall in the same way his older brother did. So we are receiving much discipline by our Father who lost the first community but will make sure that this son does not fail.

Our emblem is a pregnant woman clothed with the sun and with the *moon* under her feet (Rev 12:1). So we must put the moon under our feet. The moon has always been known for its great effect upon the *EMOTIONS* of men. It is very true that the moon in its different phases (which includes not only the moon, but actually the positions of all the stars in the universe) has a dramatic effect on man's behavior. In the days of old, when men's lives were lived in a simpler manner, they noticed the moon and the stars more. They were able to see clearly how at different times of the month man seemed to act differently.

The weaker the will of a man was, the more he seemed to be effected by it. The extreme cases were seen in people who were called *lunatics*. *Lune* means *moon*. Their soul was totally controlled by emotions, so when the forces of the universe put certain pressures upon these people they went "crazy" (so to speak).

Yet this principle applies to all men — not just lunatics. The tides of the earth, the growth of plants and trees, the birth of babies, etc., are all greatly effected by these pressures of the moon and stars. As men observed this, they were even able to chart men's behavior in horoscopes by watching how people's actions changed at different times. Women, who are *weaker vessels*, more influenced by their emotions, are the ones who are chosen to be pictured in this sign in Rev 12. Women are the weaker part of MAN, but of course it is not only the woman who is effected by the moon or who must put the moon under her feet. But when the woman does it (especially in a pregnant condition, which is well known to be the time when a woman is the most emotional), men will also find the grace to rule over their feelings. These will be the violent people who will take the kingdom.

Yes, Yahshua will find faith on the earth when He returns because this woman will be using her will to obey. She, the twelve-tribed Israel, the community, will be giving herself wholly as a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1), an acceptable burnt offering with a pleasing aroma to our Father (Mal 3:3-4).

For a sacrifice in the old covenant to be *acceptable* it had to be a pure, unblemished offering. Upon receiving the lamb for sacrifice, a true priest examined the lamb *thoroughly*. He not only checked the lamb out externally, but the priest *DISSECTED* the animal completely. He looked every part of it over to make sure that it was not impure or imperfect in any way.

The one who had brought this lamb in to be sacrificed stood by as the priest dissected his offering. If he had a good heart, the offerer looked on anxiously, hoping that nothing would be found in his sacrifice that would disqualify it as a pure offering. He desired with all his heart to give a pure sacrifice to his God. What joy flooded his heart as the priest gave him a nod signaling to him that this truly was a pure offering, acceptable to YHWH.

In the same way, not only at our baptism when the sacrifice of our new life is first presented to our Father, but daily after that (Lk 9:23) as our works of service are also offered up to Him, this dissecting must go on.

Whether it is the searching of the Holy Spirit within our own conscience, or the probing care of our covering brothers, this examination is necessary. Every thought and motive of our heart must be checked. And what joy comes when our offering is received. But also, when discipline is necessary, because something impure is found, we must also rejoice, for healing and change can come to us. Our Father will burn out all the impurities from the sons of Levi in the last days, so that He can have a pure people who will offer right offerings upon His altar (Mal 3:3-4).

This second little son of His will make it — but only through a fiery ordeal. He will not lose this son. But it will

only be if that son will be a violent man.

We must learn to put our emotions (feelings) in their place in order for us to be that violent people who will climb up on that altar, laying ourselves bare before the searching eyes of the priest (Ps 139:23-24). We must be *willing* to submit to the burning, which will eventually make that sacrifice pure (if it is not yet pure). What anguish we feel in this dissection process, but what joy comes in the morning (Ps 30:5; Heb 12:11).