

Leviticus 6:14-23 (How the Grain and Sin Offering relate to Jesus)

Lev 6:14 "These are the regulations for the grain offering: Aaron's sons are to bring it before the LORD, in front of the altar.

Lev 6:15 The priest is to take a handful of the finest flour and some olive oil, together with all the incense on the grain offering, and burn the memorial portion on the altar as an aroma pleasing to the LORD.

Lev 6:16 Aaron and his sons shall eat the rest of it, but it is to be eaten without yeast in the sanctuary area; they are to eat it in the courtyard of the tent of meeting.

Lev 6:17 It must not be baked with yeast; I have given it as their share of the food offerings presented to me. Like the sin offering and the guilt offering, it is most holy.

Lev 6:18 Any male descendant of Aaron may eat it. For all generations to come it is his perpetual share of the food offerings presented to the LORD. Whatever touches them will become holy."

Lev 6:19 The LORD also said to Moses,

Lev 6:20 "This is the offering Aaron and his sons are to bring to the LORD on the day he is anointed: a tenth of an ephah of the finest flour as a regular grain offering, half of it in the morning and half in the evening.

Lev 6:21 It must be prepared with oil on a griddle; bring it well-mixed and present the grain offering broken in pieces as an aroma pleasing to the LORD.

Lev 6:22 The son who is to succeed him as anointed priest shall prepare it. It is the LORD's perpetual share and is to be burned completely.

Lev 6:23 Every grain offering of a priest shall be burned completely; it must not be eaten."

- **God Provides for His Servants:** While a small portion of the grain was burned on the altar for God, the rest was given to Aaron and his male descendants to eat. God made sure his workers were fed.
- **No Leaven Allowed:** Leaven (yeast) was strictly banned. In the Bible, yeast is often used as a symbol for sin because a tiny bit can change a whole batch of dough. Using only unleavened flour showed that the offering was perfectly pure.
- **Total Devotion:** Unlike common offerings where the priests could eat the leftovers, the grain offering made by the High Priest each morning and evening was burned completely. It symbolized total, 100% devotion to God with no parts held back.
- **Set Apart as Holy:** The text notes that whatever touches these sacred offerings "will become holy". This means the items were so special that they transferred holiness to whatever came in contact with them. Because of this, priests had to be perfectly clean to eat them.

To better understand these rules, think of them in two simple ways:

1. **Like a Pastor's Salary:** In the same way the grain offering provided food for the priests working at the tabernacle, many modern churches take offerings to pay for the living expenses of their pastors so they can work full-time for their community.
2. **Like Treating a Special Tool:** Imagine you have a very expensive, delicate piece of equipment. You cannot use it for messy, everyday chores. You have strict rules to keep it safe and clean. The grain offering was like this—it was a "most holy" gift that required special rules and clean hands to handle.

The grain offering connects to Jesus Christ as a vivid visual prediction of His perfect life, His ultimate sacrifice, and His ongoing care for His followers.

In Christian theology, every element of this Old Testament ritual represents a specific detail of Jesus' character and mission.

Visual Breakdown of the Connections

[Grain Offering Element]	→	[Spiritual Meaning in Jesus]
Fine Flour rough edges)	→	Perfect, sinless life (no
No Leaven (Yeast) sin)	→	Absolute purity (free from
Frankincense God	→	Prayer and a pleasing life to
Anointed with Oil	→	Empowered by the Holy Spirit
Completely Burned sacrifice	→	Total, holding-nothing-back

The 5 Key Connections

- **The Fine Flour Represents His Perfect Life:** Grain had to be crushed and ground into fine flour, removing all lumps. This represents the sinless, perfect character of Jesus, who was crushed by suffering but remained entirely pure and without fault.
- **The Absence of Leaven Represents His Sinlessness:** Leaven (yeast) causes fermentation and symbolizes corruption or sin in the Bible. God strictly banned leaven from the grain offering because Jesus was completely free from sin and moral decay.
- **The Oil and Frankincense Represent the Holy Spirit and Prayer:** The offering was mixed with oil (which symbolizes the Holy Spirit) and topped with sweet frankincense. Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism, and His prayers and obedience were a beautiful, sweet aroma to God.
- **The High Priest's Offering Represents His Total Sacrifice:** As noted in Leviticus 6:22, the High Priest's grain offering had to be completely burned up, with nothing eaten. Jesus, our ultimate High Priest, gave 100% of Himself on the cross, holding absolutely nothing back.

- **The Bread of Life Sustains His People:** Just as the regular grain offering provided daily bread to sustain the priests, Jesus declared Himself to be the "Bread of Life." We as Christians believe that relying on Jesus spiritually is what truly feeds and sustains the soul.

The New Testament links Jesus to the imagery of the Old Testament **grain offering** through passages that focus on His sinless life, His broken body, and His ultimate sacrifice.

While the New Testament rarely uses the exact phrase "grain offering," it frequently uses the specific symbolic elements—such as fine flour, unleavened bread, oil, and the crushing of grain—to describe Jesus' ministry.

1. Fine Flour & The Crushed Grain

The grain offering required grain to be crushed and ground into fine flour to remove all lumps. The New Testament connects this physical crushing to the suffering that proved Jesus' perfect character.

John 12:23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

John 12:24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2. The Absence of Leaven (Absolute Purity)

God strictly forbade leaven (yeast) in the grain offering because it causes fermentation and decay, symbolizing sin. The New Testament directly contrasts the "leaven" of sin with the "unleavened" purity of Jesus' sacrifice.

1Corinthians 5:7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

1Corinthians 5:8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- **Hebrews 4:15:** Confirms Jesus' perfect "unleavened" nature:

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin."

• 3. The Anointing of Oil

Grain offerings were heavily mixed or anointed with olive oil, which represents the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:37 You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached--

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Luke 4:16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

Luke 4:17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

Luk 4:19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

4. The Bread of Life Sustaining God's People

The regular grain offering served as daily food to physically sustain the priests. Jesus fulfilled this by offering His own body as spiritual food.

John 6:35: Jesus proclaims, *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*

Luke 22:19: At the Last Supper, Jesus directly connects grain (bread) to His sacrifice: *"And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"*

5. A Fragrant Offering to God

When the priest burned the memorial portion of the grain on the altar, it created a "soothing aroma pleasing to the Lord".

- Paul applies this exact sacrificial terminology to Jesus

Ephesians 5:1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children

Ephesians 5:2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Leviticus 6:24 The LORD said to Moses,

Lev 6:25 "Say to Aaron and his sons: 'These are the regulations for the sin offering: The sin offering is to be slaughtered before the LORD in the place the burnt offering is slaughtered; it is most holy.

Lev 6:26 The priest who offers it shall eat it; it is to be eaten in the sanctuary area, in the courtyard of the tent of meeting.

Lev 6:27 Whatever touches any of the flesh will become holy, and if any of the blood is spattered on a garment, you must wash it in the sanctuary area.

Lev 6:28 The clay pot the meat is cooked in must be broken; but if it is cooked in a bronze pot, the pot is to be scoured and rinsed with water.

Lev 6:29 Any male in a priest's family may eat it; it is most holy.

Lev 6:30 But any sin offering whose blood is brought into the tent of meeting to make atonement in the Holy Place must not be eaten; it must be burned consumed by male priests in the tabernacle courtyard, and any vessel touching it required destruction or thorough cleansing. Crucially, if blood was brought into the Holy Place, the entire sacrifice was to be burned outside the camp.

The rituals from **Leviticus 6:24-30** are seen in Christian theology as profound typological foreshadowings of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ:

- **Slaughtered in the designated place:** The sin offering was to be killed where the burnt offering was slain. In the New Testament, Jesus was crucified at Golgotha (Calvary), the specific location of sacrifice.
- **The prohibition of blood and being burned outside the camp:** Leviticus dictates that if the blood was brought into the Holy of Holies for atonement, the animal could not be eaten and had to be incinerated. **In Hebrews 13:11-12, the author explicitly connects this to Jesus: "*The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.*"**
- **The uncontainable nature of sin and holiness:** Leviticus 6:27 states that anything touching the flesh of the sin offering became consecrated. This is beautifully inverted in the Gospels; whereas the Old Testament law states impurity spreads to the clean, Jesus—who became the ultimate sin offering—reverses this by transmitting healing and holiness to those who touch Him (e.g., the bleeding woman in Mark 5:25-34).
- **Mark 5:25** And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.
- **Mark 5:26** She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.
- **Mark 5:27** When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,
- **Mark 5:28** because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."
- **Mark 5:29** Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.
- **Mark 5:30** At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, **"Who touched my clothes?"**
- **Mark 5:31** "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, **"Who touched me?"**"
- **Mark 5:32** But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.
- **Mark 5:33** Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.
- **Mark 5:34** He said to her, **"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."**

- **Vessels destroyed or purified:** The broken clay pots and scoured bronze pots of the Old Testament represented the physical separation and removal of sin. Through Christ, the believer is thoroughly cleansed, having been washed by the offering of His blood.

1Jn 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

1Jn 1:6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1John 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1John 1:10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.