

Sheilaism

“I believe in God. I'm not a religious fanatic. I can't remember the last time I went to church. My faith has carried me a long way. It's Sheilaism. Just my own little voice... It's just try to love yourself and be gentle with yourself. You know, I guess, take care of each other. I think He would want us to take care of each other.”

(Sheila Larson, quoted in

Robert Bellah, *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life*, 1985)

Sacrificial Offerings in Leviticus

Voluntary

- Whole Burnt Offering (ch. 1)
- Tribute (grain) Offering (ch. 2)
- Fellowship Offering (ch. 3)

Unintentional Sin

- Offense Offering (4:1-5:13)
- Reparation Offering (5:14-6:7)




korban קרבן
sacrifice
AND HAS THE ROOT

karev קרב
to draw near
THROUGH THE SACRIFICE
WE MAY DRAW NEAR

TIFERET תפארת
YESHUA ישוע
TEL AVIV תל אביב

Joyful Sacrifices



And you shall offer peace offerings, and shall eat there, and rejoice before the LORD your God.

—Deuteronomy 27:7

Be Joyful At Your Feast-you,
Your Sons And Daughters,
Your Menservants And
Maidservants, And The Levites,
The Aliens, The Fatherless
And The Widows Who Live In
Your Towns.

Deuteronomy 16-14


“He who locks the door to his courtyard and eats and drinks this feast with his wife and family, without giving anything to eat and drink to the poor and the bitter in soul—his meal is not a rejoicing in the divine commandment but a rejoicing in his own stomach....Rejoicing of this kind is a disgrace to those who indulge in it.”

“JOY IS HAPPINESS SHARED”



Suffering, persecution, a common enemy, unite a people and turn it into a nation. But freedom, affluence, and security turn a nation into a collection of individuals, each pursuing his or her own happiness, often indifferent to the fate of those who have less, the lonely, the marginal, and the excluded. When that happens, societies start to disintegrate. At the height of their good fortune, the long slow process of decline begins. The only way to avoid it, said Moses, is to share your happiness with others.... Blessings are not measured by how much we own or earn or spend or possess but by how much we share.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



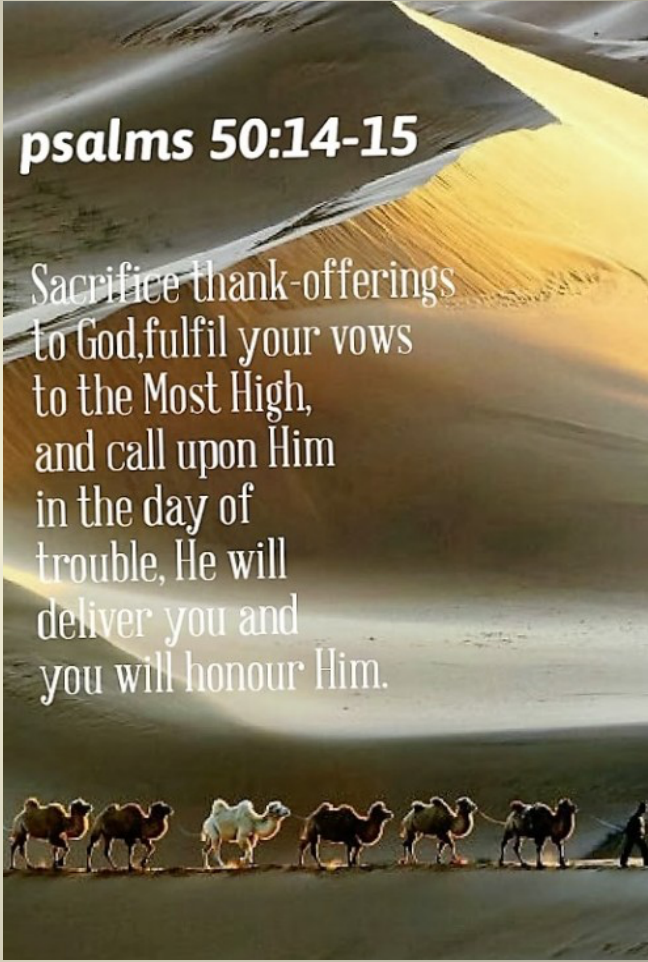
For the LORD your God is
God of gods and Lord of
lords, the great God, mighty
and awesome, who shows
no partiality nor takes a
bribe.

Deuteronomy 10:17 NKJV



IT'S ALL GOD'S

"I have no need of a bull from your stall or
of goats from your pens, for every animal
of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a
thousand hills." Psalm 50:9-10



psalms 50:14-15

Sacrifice thank-offerings
to God, fulfil your vows
to the Most High,
and call upon Him
in the day of
trouble, He will
deliver you and
you will honour Him.



The Gift of Giving



Eventually, in some shop I found a plastic model of a silver trophy. Underneath it was a plaque that read, “To the best father in the world.” Today, all these years later, I cringe at the memory of that object. It was cheap, banal, almost comically absurd. What was unforgettable, though, was what he did after I had given it to him. I can’t remember what he said, or whether he even smiled. What I do remember is that he placed it on his bedside table, where it remained—humble, trite—for all the years that I was living at home. He allowed me to give him something, and then showed that the gift mattered to him. In that act, he gave me dignity. He let me see that I could give even to someone who had given me all I had.

Rabbi Sacks “What Do We Receive When We Give?”

Replacing Sacrifices



Rav Shmuel bar Unya said: “Torah study is greater than sacrificing the daily offerings.” (*Megillah 3b*)



Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai

Re-inventor of Judaism

“Deeds of loving kindness not sacrifice”

Avot d'Rabbi Natan 4:21

Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai was once leaving Jerusalem. Rabbi Joshua was walking behind him and saw the Temple in ruins.

Rabbi Joshua said, “Woe unto us for the destruction of the Temple, the place of atonement for the sins of Israel!”

Yohanan replied, “My son, do not worry – we have another form of atonement like it. What is it? Acts of lovingkindness. As it is written: *For I desire acts of lovingkindness and not sacrifice. [Hosea 6:6]*”

A Torah of Hesed

Doing righteous deeds of charity (*tzedakah*) is greater than offering all of the sacrifices, as it is written, “Doing righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than an offering.” (Prov. 21:3)

The sages taught that acts of kindness (*hesed*) are superior to charity in three ways: charity can be done only with money while acts of kindness can be done with one’s person and with one’s money; charity is giving to the poor while acts of kindness are for both the poor and the rich; charity is giving to the living while acts of kindness are for both the living and the dead.

R. Elazar ben Pedat

(3rd century)



“Prayer is greater than sacrifices” R. Elazar

*To what purpose
is the multitude of your sacrifices
unto me? saith the LORD:
I am full
of the burnt offerings of rams,
and the fat of fed beasts;
and I delight not in the blood of bullocks,
or of lambs, or of he goats.
Isa. 1:11*

I will praise the name of God with song
And magnify Him with thanksgiving. And it
will please the Lord better than an ox Or a
young bull with horns and hoofs.

Psalm 69:30-31

George Welty

Hosea 14:1-3 KJV

**O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast
fallen by thine iniquity.**

**Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto
him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously:
so will we render the calves of our lips.**

THEN HE PROCEEDED FROM THERE TO THE MOUNTAIN ON THE EAST OF BETHEL, AND PITCHED HIS TENT, WITH BETHEL ON THE WEST AND AI ON THE EAST; AND THERE HE BUILT AN ALTAR TO THE LORD AND CALLED UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD.



GENESIS 12:8

Knowing-Jesus.com

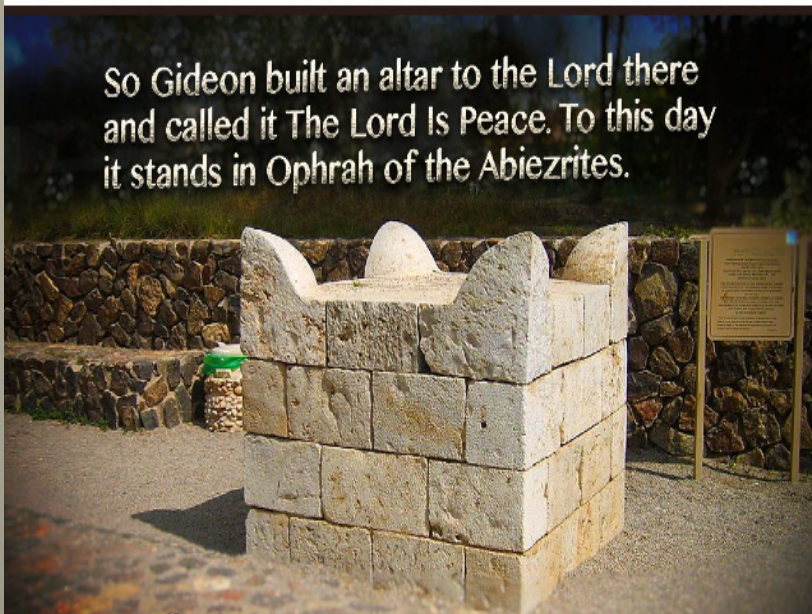
GOD

"THE (TRUE) GOD OF ISRAEL"

לְאֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא
'el 'elohe yisrael

Jacob set up an altar to God at Shechem. This worshipful act on Jacob's part identified "God of his fathers" with "the true God of Israel." [Gen 33.20]

So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

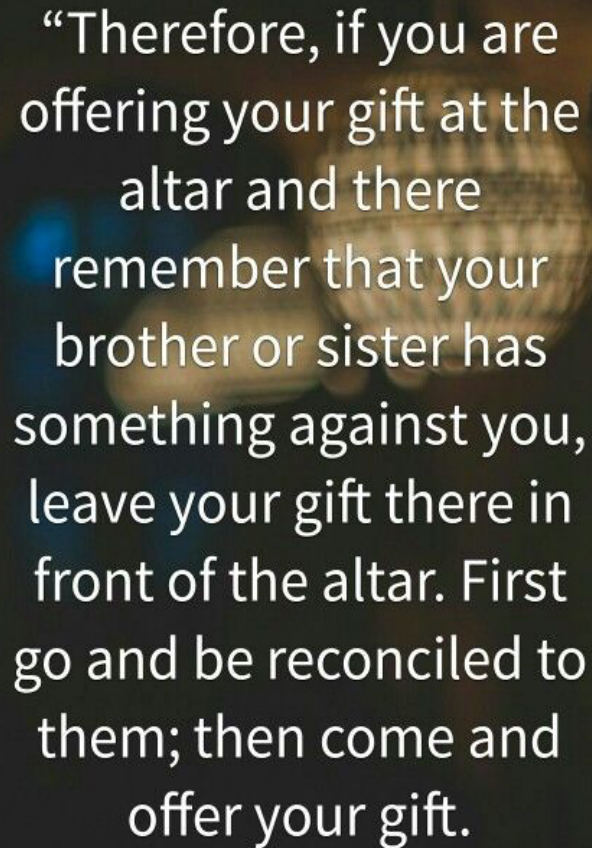


Judges 6:24

...to the designated place of worship, the place YaHWeH your God chooses for his name to be honored. ¹² "You must celebrate there in the presence of YaHWeH your God with your sons and daughters and all your servants.... ¹³ Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings just anywhere you like. ¹⁴ You may do so only at the place YaHWeH will choose within one of your tribal territories.

Deut. 12:11-14

Christian Sacrifices

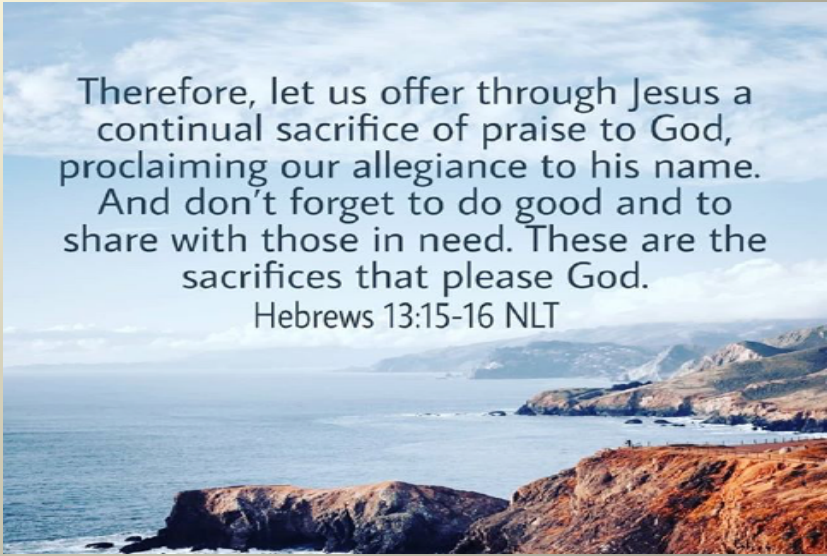


“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24

Acts 21:26, Paul Offered A Sacrifice

- ^{NAU} Acts 21:26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purifying himself along with them, went into the temple giving notice of the completion of the days of purification, until the sacrifice was offered for each one of them.



Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

Hebrews 13:15-16 NLT