

Offerings and Sacrifices in the Bible – The Basics

- Sacrificial offering is very prevalent throughout the Bible.
- An “offering” was a gift to God.
- A “sacrifice” was an offering that involved the slaughter of an animal.
- Sacrificial offerings expressed certain sentiments to God and were made for a variety of reasons.
- The procedure included the offerer preparing the item in a certain way and burning it on an altar in a sacred place, often with the help of a mediator (or “priest”).
- Temples, priests and sacrificial offerings are closely linked. Where we read of one of these, we should assume that the other two are also present in some way.



Levitical priests offering sacrifices on the altar. Left: At the tabernacle in the wilderness. Right: At the first Jerusalem temple.

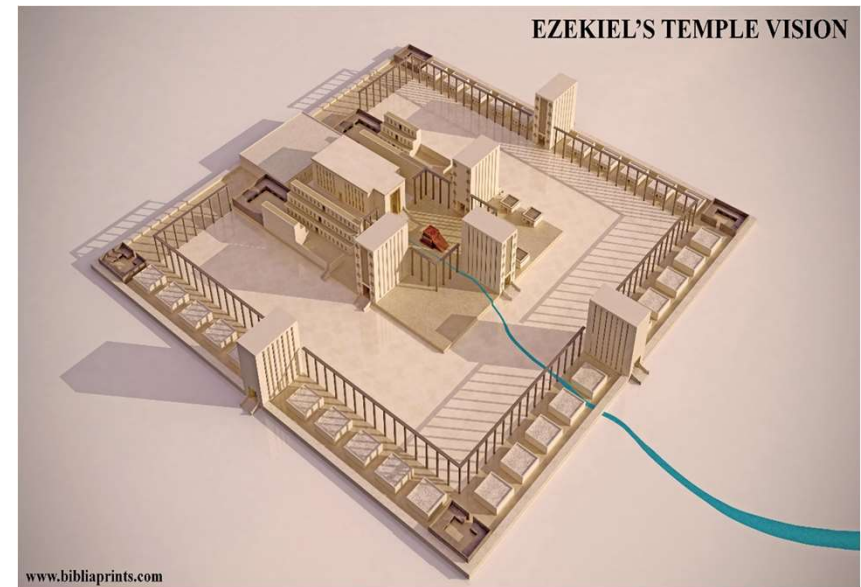
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If Christ has already fulfilled the sacrifices ... why will they be offered again in the future?

A few suggested answers:

- (1) To make atonement for Israel.
- (2) To bring about awareness of sin.
- (3) To commemorate Christ's sacrifice.
- (4) To be a witness to the Gentile nations, and to instruct them.



For further reading:

“Offerings and Sacrifices in the Bible”

www.systematicbiblestudy.com (find it on the home page)



Of particular relevance to this study:

Chapter 17: Offerings in Future Times