

The Burnt Offering - A Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1-2 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

or "as a sacrifice which lives"

Galatians 2:19-20 - "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

The Zohar in Lev. fol. 4. 2. -

"worthy is the portion of the righteous, who offer every day this offering before the Lord; and what is it? , "their bodies and their souls", which they offer before him."

Under the Gospel all believers are priests; and the sacrifices they bring are not the bodies of slain beasts, but their own bodies, their whole selves.

The new life in the Spirit is spoken of by Paul as a sacrifice — a continual thank offering to God.

“Acceptable” - *euarestos* - reference to the acceptance offerings / sweet savor offerings.

- **Exodus 29:18** - "And you shall burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a burnt offering unto the LORD: it is a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire unto the LORD."

- **Ephesians 5:2** - "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour."

- **2 Corinthians 2:15** - "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savor of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

“Rational “

“a service of the reason,” i.e., a service rendered by the reason.

The Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs describes the Angels of the Presence who reside in the sixth heaven were closest to God, as priests, bringing sacrifices of a sweet savor to propitiate for the sins of ignorance of righteous. These were "reasonable" (*logiken*) and "bloodless" (*anaimakton*) - similar t the terms Paul uses.

Interestingly -

- **1 Peter 2:2** - "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word (*logiken*), that ye

may grow thereby:"

The NET translates milk of the word as "spiritual milk." (The rabbinical tradition often referred to the "milk of the Torah.")

logiken is from Logos - The idea of reason and rationality is mixed with the Greek philosophical ideas of Reason as the Logos, which Philo merged with the idea in the Targums and the rabbinical literature of the "Memra" as the manifestation of the divine power, or as God's messenger in place of God Himself. He called it Logos, "divine thought," "the image" and "first-born son" of God. In the Gospel of John the term was used to identify Christ as the Logos.

It refers to human reason as mediated by the Spirit of God, the mind of Christ.

"service" = *latreia* - service, often meaning the service and worship of God according to the requirements of the Levitical law.

Hebrews 9:1, 6 - "Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service (*latreia*), and a worldly sanctuary. ...Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God (*latreia*)."

Two of these words come into play here:

- **Hebrews 12:28-29** - "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve (*latreuó*) God acceptably (*euairetos*) with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire...."

Romans 12:2 - "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

conformed = *syschematizō* - to conform yourself to someone else's pattern.

world = *aiōn* - the world system and its value systems

transformed = *metamorphoō* - transfigured, changed

- **Matthew 17:2** - "And was transfigured (*metamorphoō*) before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light."

- **2 Corinthians 3:18** - "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed (*metamorphoō*) into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

renewing = *anakainōsis* - *ana* = upward *kaino* = renew, make afresh, a new kind

- **2 Corinthians 4:16** - "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed (*anakainoō*) day by day."

mind = *nous* - the mind, comprising alike the faculties of perceiving and understanding and those of feeling, judging, determining

- **Luke 24:45** - "Then opened he their understanding (*nous*), that they might understand the scriptures,"

prove = *dokimazō* - to test and by implication to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy

The rest of Romans 12 is a description of what this transformation looks like.

Romans 12: 16 - "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits."

"Let the lowly lead you by the hand."

Romans 12:17 - "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

provide = Take thought beforehand (*pronoēō*) to consider in advance. *noēō* is from *nous* - mind.

Again - when Jesus says "Take no thought for your life" in **Matthew 6:25** the key word we need to remember is "your," not "thought."

honest = *kalos* - good, excellent, beautiful, useful, commendable, noble, comforting and affirming. Also - good measure, ample, fitting what is expected and needed.

Romans 12:20 - "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."

-Not by torturing him, but creating pangs of conscience by your good works, thereby overcoming evil with good.

This is the sketch of what it means to be a living sacrifice.