

## Sacrifice and Worship

Sacrifice (n) : an act of offering to a deity something precious | especially : the killing of a victim on an altar: *Merriam-Webster*

An act of worship expressing submission to a deity and seeking his/her favor; in the Biblical context the sacrifice was also atoning for one's sins.

The Hebrew word for sacrifice comes from the root meaning "to approach" and signified that which is brought near, or offered to God. *Illustrated Dictionary of the Bible*

The first mention of a sacrifice in the Bible? (p. 6)

What about human sacrifice?

Leviticus – contains multiple rules for offering a sacrifice

Some reasons for making a sacrifice

- Sins committed – individual or corporate
- Desecration of a holy place
- Violation of oaths made before God
- Thanksgiving
- Fulfillment of a vow

Who could do sacrifices?

Did Jesus participate in ritual sacrifices? (Luke 2:22-24, p. 1591)

What did Jesus think about sacrifices? (Matt. 9:13, p. 1509; Mk 12:33, p. 1576)

Why don't Christians do blood sacrifices as a part of worship?

What does worship mean to you?

"Christian worship gives all glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving to the holy, triune God. We are gathered in worship to glorify the God who is present and active among us—particularly through the gifts of Word and Sacrament. We are sent out in service to glorify the same God who is present and active in the world." *Directory of Worship for PC(USA)*

"Real worship is not the offering to God of a liturgy, however noble, and a ritual, however magnificent. Real worship is the offering of everyday life to [God], not something transacted in a church, but something which sees the whole world as the temple of the living God." *William Barclay*