

Dr. Elaine Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 14, Ritual Torah, Part 2

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 14, Ritual Torah, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This document presents a lecture on Old Testament literature, specifically focusing on rituals, Sabbaths, and feasts. It explores the significance of sacrifices, emphasizing their symbolic nature and the lessons they teach about sin and atonement. The lecture then transitions to Sabbath observance, discussing its grounding in creation and redemption and its importance as a sign of the Sinai covenant. It also examines the seventh-year procedures and the Jubilee, highlighting their environmental and social implications. Finally, the lecture addresses festivals, including Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, as well as vows and tithes.

**2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 14 – Double
click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Old Testament → OT Introduction → OT Lit).**



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on 14.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 14, Ritual Torah, Part 2

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided lecture excerpts, along with direct quotes:

Briefing Document: Old Testament Literature, Lecture 14 - Sacrifices, Sabbaths, and Feasts

Overall Theme: The lecture explores the significance of sacrifices, Sabbaths, and feasts within the Old Testament, emphasizing their symbolic importance, practical implications for ancient Israelite society, and connections to New Testament concepts and Christian practices. The lecture aims to derive lessons from the OT practices, which are applicable today.

I. Sacrifices

- **Central Idea:** Sacrifices were a crucial aspect of Israelite religious life, embodying atonement for sins, consecration, and fellowship with God. While blood sacrifices are no longer practiced, the lessons learned from them remain relevant.
- **Key Points: The Act of Bringing the Sacrifice:** The act itself was meant to be sacrificial, costing the worshiper something significant. "Am I going to give something to the Lord that hasn't cost me something?" God made provisions for the poor, permitting them to offer doves instead of larger animals.
- **Symbolic Transfer and Identification:** Placing hands on the animal's head symbolized both the transfer of sin and identification with the sacrificed animal. "Is this symbolic transfer of sin taking place? In other words, my sins are put on the head of that animal, but also, it's an identification with the animal." The shedding of blood represented the forfeit of the worshiper's life.
- **Worshiper's Role:** The individual bringing the sacrifice was responsible for killing the animal, highlighting the "horror of sin" and its consequences.
- **Priest as Mediator:** The priest sprinkled the blood on the altar, representing the need for a mediator between humanity and God's holiness. "He's the one who's going to sprinkle it on the altar, so clearly representative of the fact that between me and God's holiness in his sanctuary, there is a person who is individually mediating, and again, that's a picture of the role that Jesus fulfills."
- **Types of Sacrifices: Whole Burnt Offering:** Atonement for sin on a daily basis.

- **Sin Offering/Guilt Offering:** Covering unintentional sins, particularly those related to holy things, even potentially addressing intentional sins followed by repentance. "That's why I think there is some covering here for even our intentional sins, and I'm kind of glad to know that. Aren't you? We're in the business of intentionally doing things all the time that we know are wrong."
- **Grain Offering:** Non-blood sacrifice, often accompanying other offerings.
- **Fellowship Offering:** Celebrated reconciliation with God and within the community.
- **Lessons for Today:** Emphasizes the importance of sacrifice and atonement, even in the absence of blood sacrifices.

II. Sabbath Observance

- **Central Idea:** The Sabbath, a day of rest, is designed to set God's people apart and provide rest for both humans and the land. It is rooted in both creation and redemption.
- **Key Points:**
Theological Basis: Exodus 20: Grounded in creation; God rested on the seventh day.
 Deuteronomy 5: Grounded in redemption from Egypt.
- Exodus 31: Sabbath as a sign of the covenant; breaking it carried the death penalty.
- **Seventh-Year Procedures:** Exodus 23 & Leviticus 25: Land to lie unplowed, allowing the poor to glean. The land *must* have a rest.
- Deuteronomy 15: Cancellation of debts; freeing of Hebrew slaves. Averted the emergence of a permanent underclass.
- **Jubilee:** Leviticus 25 outlines return of property to families, rest for the land, and freedom for slaves. "Proclaim liberty throughout the land" - comes directly from Leviticus 25.
- **Jesus and the Sabbath:** Jesus challenged the legalistic interpretations of the Sabbath, emphasizing that "The Sabbath is made for us," and declaring himself "Lord of the Sabbath." He advocated doing good on the Sabbath.

- **Modern Application:** Encouragement to dedicate one day in seven to God, avoiding legalism while recognizing its importance. "Don't let anybody judge you in regard to Sabbaths, new moons, or festivals." (Colossians 2:16).

III. Festivals

- **Central Idea:** Festivals served as times of worship, educational tools, and opportunities to appear before the Lord in obedience. They served as a special time of worship and education.
- **Key Points:** Purposes: Worship and sacrifice.
- Educational tools, reminding Israelites of God's redemption from Egypt.
- Obedience to God's command to appear before Him.
- **Pilgrim Festivals: Passover/Unleavened Bread:** Celebrated redemption from Egypt. Linked to Easter in Christianity.
- **Feast of Weeks (Shavuot/Pentecost):** Celebrated 50 days after Passover, traditionally associated with the giving of the Torah. Related to the giving of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.
- **Tabernacles (Sukkot/Ingathering):** Associated with the harvest and God's provision. Possible connection to the Transfiguration in the New Testament.
- **Additional Major Festivals: Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah):** Commemorates the creation of the world (traditionally).
- **Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur):** Focused on atonement for the high priest, the sanctuary, and the people. Involved two goats: one sacrificed for the Lord, the other (Azazel) sent into the wilderness, symbolically carrying away the people's sins.

IV. Vows and Tithes

- **Vows:** Highlighted the seriousness of vows in the Old Testament, with emphasis on the Nazirite vow (Numbers 6) as a commitment to being set apart for the Lord, exemplified by Samson and John the Baptist. The lecture emphasizes that vows should be kept.
- **Tithes:** Were both a celebration before the Lord and a means of providing for the needy (widows, aliens, orphans), especially in the third year (Deuteronomy 14).

- **Dedication and Redemption:** Leviticus 27 emphasizes the process of giving something to the Lord and the concept of redeeming (buying back) what was dedicated.

V. Red Heifer Ritual

- Numbers 19 described a fascinating ritual.

Conclusion:

The lecture provides a comprehensive overview of key elements of the Old Testament law, highlighting their historical and theological significance, and prompting reflection on their potential relevance for contemporary Christian faith and practice. The importance of obedience was underscored, and the teacher said the lesson should be studied carefully in preparation for the exam on Wednesday.

4. Study Guide: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 14, Ritual Torah, Part 2

Old Testament Ritual & Observance: A Study Guide

I. Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What was the significance of the worshiper placing their hands on the head of the sacrificial animal?
2. What provision did God make for those who were too poor to offer a standard sacrificial animal?
3. What are the two stated purposes for observing the Sabbath based on Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5?
4. What were the three major social implications built into the concept of the seventh year in the Old Testament?
5. What did Jesus mean when He said "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath"?
6. What does Colossians 2:16 state regarding Sabbaths, new moons, and festivals?
7. Name the three pilgrim festivals described in Exodus 23 and Deuteronomy 16 and describe the historical reason for their observance.
8. How was Passover linked to the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and what did leaven come to symbolize?
9. Describe the unique ritual associated with Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) involving the two goats.
10. What were the main restrictions associated with the Nazirite vow in Numbers chapter 6?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The laying on of hands symbolized a transfer of sin from the worshiper to the animal. It also showed identification with the animal, highlighting that the animal's blood was taking the place of the worshiper's forfeit life.

2. God provided for those in poverty by allowing them to bring doves as a sin offering. This made atonement more accessible to those who couldn't afford larger animals.
3. According to Exodus 20, the Sabbath is based on creation, as God rested on the seventh day after creating the earth. Deuteronomy 5 states that Sabbath observance is based on redemption from slavery in Egypt.
4. The seventh year involved canceling debts to prevent a permanent underclass, freeing Hebrew slaves to avoid a permanently indentured population, and allowing the land to lie fallow to care for the environment.
5. Jesus meant that the Sabbath was intended as a gift for humanity to provide rest and freedom from the anxiety of labor. It should be a time to recognize Jesus as Lord and for good deeds, not a day of burdensome legalistic restrictions.
6. Colossians 2:16 states that no one should judge others regarding Sabbaths, new moons, or festivals. This warns against legalism and imposing rigid rules on others' observance of these religious practices.
7. The three pilgrim festivals are Passover (celebrates the Exodus from Egypt), the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost (celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai), and the Feast of Tabernacles/Ingathering (commemorates God's provision during the Israelites' wilderness wandering).
8. Passover was linked to the Feast of Unleavened Bread through the seven-day period of purification, with the removal of all leaven from homes. Leaven came to symbolize sin, emphasizing the need to remove moral corruption.
9. On Yom Kippur, two goats were brought: one was sacrificed to the Lord, and its blood was sprinkled in the most holy place, and the other, the "goat for Azazel," had the sins of the people confessed over it. Then the goat was sent into the wilderness, symbolically carrying away the people's sins to their source.
10. Nazirites were restricted from cutting their hair, consuming the fruit of the vine (including wine), and touching anything dead. These restrictions symbolized their separation and dedication to the Lord.

II. Essay Questions

1. Discuss the symbolism and significance of blood sacrifices in the Old Testament, and how they prefigure the role of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.
2. Explore the social justice implications embedded within the Sabbath year and Jubilee, and discuss their relevance to contemporary society.
3. Analyze the debates between Jesus and the Pharisees regarding Sabbath observance, and explain how Jesus both upheld and reinterpreted the Sabbath commandment.
4. Compare and contrast the three pilgrim festivals (Passover, Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles/Ingathering), highlighting their historical origins and theological significance.
5. Discuss the ongoing significance of vows and tithes in the Old Testament. What do they mean for believers today?

III. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Sacrifice:** An offering made to God, often involving the killing of an animal, to atone for sin, express gratitude, or consecrate something.
- **Burnt Offering:** A type of sacrifice in which the entire animal is burned on the altar as a complete offering to God.
- **Sin Offering:** A sacrifice to atone for unintentional sins or ritual impurities.
- **Guilt Offering (Trespass Offering):** A sacrifice to atone for unintentional sins, particularly those involving holy things or offenses against others.
- **Grain Offering:** A sacrifice made of grain, flour, or bread, often offered in conjunction with other sacrifices.
- **Peace Offering (Fellowship Offering):** A voluntary offering expressing gratitude and fellowship with God, part of which was eaten by the worshiper.
- **Sabbath:** A day of rest and worship observed every seventh day (Saturday) in Judaism, commemorating God's rest after creation.
- **Sabbatical Year (Seventh Year):** Every seventh year, the land was to lie fallow, debts were to be canceled, and Hebrew slaves were to be released.

- **Jubilee:** Every fiftieth year (after seven cycles of sabbatical years), land was to be returned to its original owners, and slaves were to be freed.
- **Torah:** The first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), containing God's laws and teachings.
- **Mishnah:** A collection of oral Jewish laws and traditions compiled around 200 AD, providing interpretations of the Torah.
- **Pharisees:** A Jewish sect known for their strict adherence to the law and their emphasis on ritual purity.
- **Pilgrim Festivals:** The three major festivals (Passover, Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles/Ingathering) during which Israelites were required to travel to Jerusalem to worship.
- **Passover:** A festival commemorating the Exodus from Egypt, when God "passed over" the houses of the Israelites during the final plague.
- **Feast of Unleavened Bread:** A seven-day festival observed in conjunction with Passover, during which no leavened bread is eaten.
- **Feast of Weeks (Pentecost):** A festival celebrated fifty days after Passover, commemorating the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.
- **Feast of Tabernacles (Ingathering/Sukkot):** A festival commemorating God's provision during the Israelites' wilderness wandering, during which people lived in temporary shelters (tabernacles or booths).
- **Rosh Hashanah:** The Jewish New Year, traditionally commemorating the creation of the world.
- **Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement):** The holiest day of the Jewish year, a day of fasting and repentance for the atonement of sins.
- **Azazel:** Possibly a chief demon or a remote location in the wilderness to which the scapegoat was sent on Yom Kippur, bearing the sins of the people.
- **Nazirite Vow:** A vow of separation and dedication to God, involving abstaining from wine, cutting hair, and contact with dead bodies.
- **Redemption:** The act of buying back or freeing someone or something, often from slavery or captivity.

5. FAQs on Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 14, Ritual Torah, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided text:

What is the significance of sacrifices in the Old Testament, and what can we learn from them today even though we no longer practice blood sacrifices?

Sacrifices in the Old Testament were a crucial part of the relationship between God and His people. They symbolized the cost of sin and the need for atonement. Key lessons we can still learn include understanding the sacrificial nature of true devotion, acknowledging the horror and messiness of sin, and recognizing the need for a mediator between humanity and God, a role now fulfilled by Jesus Christ. The act of bringing a costly sacrifice underscored that giving to God should be a genuine offering, not something that costs us nothing.

What provisions were made for those who were too poor to offer traditional animal sacrifices?

God made specific provisions for the poor. While many sacrifices involved lambs or goats, those who were close to destitute could offer doves as sin offerings. This ensured that everyone had access to atonement, regardless of their economic status. Dovecotes were even raised to help with these sacrifices.

What were the key components of the sacrificial process, and what did they symbolize?

The sacrificial process involved several steps, each rich in symbolism. First, the worshiper brought the sacrifice, ensuring it was costly to them. Second, the worshiper placed their hands on the animal's head, symbolizing a transfer of sin and an identification with the animal. Third, the worshiper killed the animal, representing the horror of sin. Finally, the priest sprinkled the blood on the altar, mediating between the worshiper and God's holiness. Fire was also sometimes used to refine the sacrifice.

What are the different types of sacrifices, and what was the purpose of each?

Several types of sacrifices existed, each with a distinct purpose. The whole burnt offering atoned for sin on a daily basis. The sin offering covered unintentional sins. The guilt offering atoned for unintentional sins related to holy things, and sometimes even intentional sins. The grain offering, which didn't involve blood, often accompanied other offerings. The peace or fellowship offering was a celebration of reconciliation with God and within the community.

What is the significance of the Sabbath, both the weekly Sabbath and the Sabbatical year and Jubilee year?

The Sabbath is a day of rest every seventh day, and a time set apart for God. It is based on both creation (God rested on the seventh day) and redemption (God delivered Israel from slavery). It's a sign of the covenant between God and his people. The Sabbatical year (every seventh year) is a time for the land to rest, for the poor to glean food, and for canceling debts. The Jubilee year (every 50th year) involves returning land to its original family ownership and freeing slaves. These practices had environmental and social implications and were designed to prevent a permanent underclass.

How did Jesus address the issue of Sabbath observance, and what is the balance between keeping the Sabbath and avoiding legalism?

Jesus emphasized that the Sabbath was made for humankind, not the other way around, saying that the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath. He challenged the rigid interpretations of the Pharisees by performing healings and teaching that it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. While the Sabbath is a gift from God, it's important to avoid legalism and allow Jesus to be Lord of the Sabbath. It is a delicate balance between honouring the Sabbath and avoiding judgment of others in how they observe it.

What are the three major pilgrim festivals in the Old Testament, and what do they commemorate?

The three major pilgrim festivals are Passover/Unleavened Bread, Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, and Tabernacles/Ingathering. Passover/Unleavened Bread commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and the redemption of the Israelites. Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, traditionally commemorates the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai, and in the New Testament marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the believers in Jerusalem. Tabernacles/Ingathering is related to Messianic implications and also commemorates God dwelling with the Israelites in the wilderness.

What is the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), and what is the significance of the two goats used in the ritual?

The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) was a once-a-year event when the high priest entered the most holy place to make atonement for the high priest, the sanctuary, and the people. It is a time for confession and atonement for intentional rebellion against God. Two goats were used in the ritual. One was sacrificed to the Lord, and its blood sprinkled in the most holy place. The other, called the goat for Azazel (often misnamed the scapegoat), had the sins of the people confessed over it and was then sent into the wilderness, symbolically returning the sins to their source.