

Classification and General Rules of Sacrifices

Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Maaseh Hakorbanot, Chapter 1*

Classification and General Rules.

SPECIES OF ANIMALS

Sacrifices of living animals come from 5 species:

- *Bakar* (cattle)
- *Kevasim* (sheep)
- *Izim* (goats)
- *Torim* (turtle doves)
- *Bnei Yonah* (small doves)

TYPES OF OFFERINGS

4 types of offerings:

- *Olah* (Burnt) – All animals (sheep, goats and cattle) are male, large (1 year -2 or 3 years) or small (8 days – 1 year).

Also, turtle doves and small doves, male or female.

- *Chatat* (Sin) – One of the 5 species (sheep, goats, cattle, doves, turtle doves), sometimes males, sometimes females, sometimes small and sometimes large.
- *Asham* (Guilt) – Only male sheep, some offerings from large and some from small.
- *Shelamim* (Peace) – Any animal (sheep, goats and cattle), whether male or female, large or small. No birds.

3 other types of Individual sacrifices.

- *Korban Pesach* (Pascal sacrifice)
- *Bechor* (First born)
- *Maaser* (Tithe sacrifice)

CLASSIFICATION OF OFFERINGS

- Communal sacrifices
- Individual sacrifices

TZIBUR (COMMUNAL OFFERINGS):

All are Burnt or Sin Offerings.

All communal Sin Offerings are male, from goats or cattle (never sheep) – most of them are eaten. All the Burnt Offerings are male, from sheep or cattle (never goats).

Never a Guilt Offering or a Bird Offering.

Only one Peace Offering i.e. two sheep offered with the 2 loaves of *Shavuot*.

- *Tamid* (Daily) x2
- *Musaf Shabbat* (additional Sabbath)
- *Musaf Rosh Chodesh* (additional New Moon)
- *Musaf Yom Tov* (additional Festivals)

- *Seir* (Goat) of *Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement)
- *Bet Din* erred *Shogeg* regarding *Avodat Kochavim* (Idol Worship) – Bull – *Olah*
Goat – *Chatat*
- *Bet Din* erred in other *mitzvot Par* (Ox) *Helem Davar Shel Tzibur* (Hidden matter in congregation) – *Chatat*

(*Bet Din Shogeg* on other matters to do with community.)

YACHID (INDIVIDUAL OFFERING):

Person bringing this is responsible to look after Offering (replace if necessary) and for the accompanying *Nesachim*.

Individual Sin Offerings are female and may be eaten by Priests. (mostly from sheep)

- *Bechor* (Firstborn) – male
- *Maaser* (Tithe) – cattle and sheep
- *Pesach* (Passover) – lamb or goat, male in first year
- *Chagigah* (Festival) – *Shelamim*
- *Reiyah* (Pilgrimage) – *Olah*
- *Ger* (Proselyte) – *Olah* (animal or 2 birds) or
2 animals (one *Olah* and peace offering)
- *Neder* or *Nedavah* (Vow) – *Olah* or *Shelamim*
- *Todah* (Thanks) – *Shelamim* accompanied by bread
- *Nazir* (Nazirite) – *Olah* and *Chatat* and *Shelamim*
- *Metzora* (Leper) – *Chatat* and *Asham* and *Olah*
- *Zavim* (Flux) *Olah* and *Chatat*
- *Yoldos* (Birth)
- *Shogeg* (Mistake) with negative *mitzvot* that carry penalty of *karet* – *Chatat*
- *Asham Taluy* (suspended) was in doubt whether he committed the transgression – *Asham*
- *Asham Vaday* (certain) – *Asham*

Relates to 5 specific *averot*

- Engaged in relations with maidservant who is married
- Robbed
- Made use of consecrated property
- *Nazir* who became impure
- *Tzaraat*
- *Kohen Gadol Ayil Yom Kippur* (High Priest Personal) – *Olah* – Ram
- *Kohen Gadol Par Yom Kippur* (High Priest Personal) – *Chatat* – Bull

DEFINITIONS:

- *Ketanim* (small animals) 8 days – 1 year
- *Gedolim* (Large animals)
 - Cattle up to 3 years inclusive

- Sheep and goats up to 2 years inclusive
- *Zaken*
 - Cattle greater than 3 years
 - Sheep and goats greater than 2 years
- *Keves* – Lamb in its first year of life
- *Ayil* – Ram in its second year of life (from the 31st day in that year onward)
- *Palgas* – neither lamb nor ram first 30 days of 2nd year
- *Egel* – Calf in its 1st year of life
- *Par* – Bull in its second year of life
- *Seir Izim*¹ – Kid goat in its 1st year of life
- *Seir*² – Goat in its 2nd year
- *Zevachim* – Sacrifices
- *Kodshei Kodashim* – Most Holy Offerings All *Olah* offerings
 - All *Chatat* offerings
 - All *Asham* offerings
 - 2 *Shelamim* offerings of *Shavuot*
- *Kodashim Kalim* – Less Holy Offerings
 - *Shelamim* of individual
 - *Bechor*
 - *Maaser*
 - *Pesach*
- *Emurin*³ – Sacrificial Parts i.e. limbs and organs that are burned on *Mizbeach*.
 - Fat on inner organs (including fat on stomach)
 - 2 Kidneys and fat
 - Fat on flanks
 - Lobe of liver
 - Additional for a sheep is its tail together with spine until kidney.

1 An alternate (and apparently more authentic) reading: In second year.

2 According to the alternate reading, this term is erased.

3 Lit. heightened (special).