

## The Magical Mystery Money Man

Thousands of years ago, God told Israel to make offerings.

The concept of “offering” was in the old covenant from very early on.

Offering something to God meant that you were destroying it in the earth, so that it spiritually belonged to God.

Offering was a payment, from man, to God, for sin.

Most often, animals were offered to God. The blood of the animal was shed for the forgiveness of sin.....

11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul. (Leviticus 17:11)

Other crops were also offered to God, such as oil, wine and grains which were made into bread.

Now, we live many thousands of years since God gave these laws to Israel.

Do we as Christians offer animals or crops to God?

No.

why?

Well, (hopefully!) we know that Jesus is the offering in the new covenant...

By the which will we are sanctified through the **offering** of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. (Hebrews 10:10)

In fact, Jesus called Himself all the things that were offered to God in the old covenant--- blood--wine--oil--bread.

We know (hopefully!) that Jesus offering is received by faith alone. It is faith in His blood that saves. It is faith in His offering at the cross that brings the free gift of salvation. We are saved by faith and not by works...

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

So, we as Christians do not need to make offerings.....right?

Uh, wait a minute.

We still do make offerings, don't we?

Okay. You go to church, and at some point in the service, they ask for an "offering". And just about everybody puts some money in the basket.

How did this happen?

How is it that we function in a system that requires us to make "offerings", when it is very clear that Jesus did away with them?

Was the church in the Bible making offerings?

No.

Why not?

Well, they were running around telling everyone that Jesus was the offering for sin. They were very busy witnessing the Gospel to the people around them. They didn't build buildings and meet on Sunday. They met as often as they could and used what they had to further the Gospel. Yes, they took up collections--for specific purposes. Purposes that God directed. They were not ritualistic, required collections. They were collections for the poor, mostly. Some times they collected to help others carry the Gospel. They never collected to build a building for themselves.

So, here is the point.

Thousands of years ago, God asked for offerings--payments---which had to be made, in order to have sin forgiven. This makes sense, really. After all Jesus had not gone to the cross, and when we read the Bible from our perspective we ought to look at the Biblically described offerings as an incredible prophecy of what Jesus would do, and in fact does do, in heaven even today.

(look at this area of scripture...)

Heb 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and **offering** thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Heb 10:8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and **offering** and burnt offerings and **offering** for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law;

Heb 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the **offering** of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Heb 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and **offering** oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Heb 10:14 For by one **offering** he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Heb 10:18 Now where remission of these *is, there is* no more **offering** for sin.

And yet, we still do make offerings!

But not really.

After all, if we believe that "offering" is a part of the Biblical law, and must be done--well then the truth is that we are rather sloppy about observing this law. If we were to truly make an offering, as the law describes, we would have to offering the specific things that God spelled out in the law (rams bullocks, lambs, oil, wine, etc.), these offerings would have to be made in Jerusalem, in the temple, by a Levitical priest.

OOPS, we have a problem.

The temple does not exist (that is why Jews don't make offerings--because even though they own the land of Israel they have not yet been able to rebuild the temple) I believe they can't rebuild the temple, because Jesus cursed it and prophesied it's destruction (which happened shortly after!).

Why did Jesus prophesy the destruction of the temple?

Maybe because He was trying to tell us that sacrificial law was going to be canceled by His actions on the cross.

So, it is actually impossible to follow Biblical law with regard to offerings.

But we still make offerings anyway--and somehow, the offerings of animals and crops has been magically, mysteriously, transformed into MONEY!

In the Bible no one ever offered anyone else money.

When the Bible is talking about "offerings" it is not talking about a plan to send the pastor's kids to college.

Offering had nothing to do with money, but we certainly believe that it does today!

How did that happen?

Who invented this system?

Nobody knows.

We have done our best to search through history, and cannot find the answer.

The tradition of money offerings seems to have originated some time in the 3rd or 4th century. Who invented it, no one really seems to know.

So what we are saying here is that some, mysterious, magical money-man, who lived hundreds of years ago, invented this system. A pyramid scheme. Everyone required to give money, every week, over and over and over again, from generation to generation. Your whole life.

“Make an offering”--give money to the church leaders. It's required. Its' Biblical. It's like a law.

Who invented it?

It's not in the Bible. Its not at all what the Bible is referring to when it speaks of “offerings”.

Someone invented it, somewhere, some time.

Who?

If you know, let us know!