

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Leviticus 02: 14-16

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the Bible again. This week we'll be reading Leviticus chapter 2, and today we'll read from verse 14 to verse 16.

Leviticus chapter 2 reveals three types of grain offerings, which correspond to the three stages of Jesus Christ's ministry on earth. The first type of grain offering is fine flour, mixed with oil and added with frankincense. This primarily emphasizes the fine flour, highlighting the perfection and completeness of Jesus' humanity. The mixing of oil and the addition of frankincense signify the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the power of resurrection accompanying Jesus. This corresponds to Jesus' 30 years of ordinary carpenter life in Nazareth.

He was originally the second person of the Holy Trinity, full of glory, power, and authority, but He humbled Himself and took the form of a very common man to earth. He lived a simple and ordinary life in a small town for 30 years, manifesting His perfect humanity. During this time, He performed no miracles and lived within human limitations, never doing anything wrong or saying anything incorrect. In His being, He completely met the demands of God's holiness, righteousness, and glory. He could offer Himself to God as a fragrant aroma of fire offering, which is the first type of grain offering.

The second type of grain offering is fine flour added with oil, with the oil being either mixed in, spread on, or poured over the flour. This fine flour mixed with oil must go through fire and be prepared using three different ways: it can be baked in an oven, cooked on a griddle, or fried in a pan. The fine flour mixed with oil, through these various utensils, is ultimately made into different shapes of breads. This corresponds to Jesus Christ, who, at the age of 30, began His public ministry. During those three and a half years, He fully followed God's will, undergoing various processes and trials by fire, and ultimately, according to God's will, was crucified, completing the work of redemption.

These three different utensils represent the various processes of Jesus' trials by fire, ultimately producing a certain form of bread. The bread symbolizes the Church; during His ministry, Jesus went through various trials until His death on the cross, which is the second type of grain offering. Today, we are going to study the third type of grain offering, which involves offering the firstfruits of new grain, corresponding to Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead.

Verse 14: "If you offer a grain offering of your firstfruits to the Lord, you shall offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits green heads of grain roasted on the fire, grain beaten from full heads."

The firstfruits specifically refer to the first batch of mature crops produced from the land. At that time, the new heads of grain were collected, threshed, and then roasted over fire. These threshed and roasted new heads of grain were to be offered to God as a grain offering of the firstfruits. In the last week of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry, when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the Jews welcomed Him with palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" Even the Greeks sought to see Jesus at that time, a rare occurrence in His ministry on earth.

At that moment, Jesus declared in John 12:23-24, "But Jesus answered them, saying, 'The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.'" Jesus indicated that His time of glorification had arrived, referring to His impending crucifixion. This death was purposeful, akin to a grain of wheat falling into the ground and dying, thereby producing many seeds. This statement pointed directly to His death and resurrection.

The annual offering of the firstfruits of wheat symbolizes resurrection. Paul directly declares in 1 Corinthians 15:23, "Christ the firstfruits." Therefore, the firstfruits of the new wheat represent Christ's resurrection. These new heads of grain must be threshed and roasted, signifying that this resurrection life can withstand the pressures of circumstances and the trials of fire. This resurrection life produces a

heavenly living that overcomes various trials and temptations. Thus, the third type of grain offering corresponds to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Verse 15: "And you shall put oil on it, and lay frankincense on it. It is a grain offering."

The crushed and roasted new wheat sheaves were to be mixed with oil and added with frankincense. This signifies that the resurrected life must be anointed with the Holy Spirit, producing the anointing teachings that guide people to live a life filled with the fragrance of resurrection. After Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He ascended to heaven and, as He promised, sent the Holy Spirit as the Comforter. The Holy Spirit, on one hand, dwells within believers as the resurrected life. On the other hand, the Holy Spirit brings the anointing, enabling people to understand God's will. Throughout the process of obeying God's will, the anointing of the Holy Spirit provides comfort, support, and strength, allowing people to live a life full of the fragrance of resurrection.

Verse 16: "The priest shall burn the memorial portion from the offering on the altar, and it is an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord."

The worshiper brings the firstfruits of the new grain as a grain offering to God. The priest will take a portion from it as a memorial. These firstfruits are both crushed and roasted; the priest will add oil and all the frankincense, and these will be burned on the altar as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord. Here we see that the firstfruits must first be offered to God, which is why Jesus, on the morning of His resurrection, had to ascend first to present Himself to the Father.

However, because Mary Magdalene remained at the tomb, weeping, Jesus had to appear to her. When Mary recognized Jesus, He said to her in John 20:17, "Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to

My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

In this passage, we see a significant event occurring at the resurrection of Jesus Christ: the birth into the new creation. In this new creation, Jesus Christ's disciples become His brothers, and Jesus' Father also becomes their Father. We observe that Jesus, as the firstfruits, had to ascend to the Father first. He underwent crushing and fiery trials, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and bore the fragrance of resurrection. He was placed on the altar as a sweet-smelling fire offering, ascending to heaven as the Father's satisfaction. Thus, the third type of grain offering symbolizes Jesus Christ's resurrection and His ascension as the firstfruits presented to God.

On the day of His resurrection, He first ascended to the Father before returning to the earth to appear to Peter, then to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and finally that evening to the gathered disciples. At that time, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit!" The disciples received the promised Comforter, the Holy Spirit. Additionally, in John 20:23, Jesus bestowed upon them the authority of the church: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The third type of grain offering, as a type of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, was fulfilled 2,000 years ago. Its second aspect, however, has yet to be fulfilled for the New Testament saints. According to 1 Corinthians 15:23, "But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming." Christ has already been resurrected, and those who belong to Christ will be resurrected in different ranks according to their order. This includes the overcomers, those who will experience outstanding resurrection, and the general resurrection of saints at the last trumpet.

Jesus Christ is the firstfruits, and we are the many grains that He produces. Jesus has already become the firstfruits, offered to God as a grain offering, and we will also be resurrected and offered to God as a grain offering when Jesus returns. We should thank and praise God for these three types of grain offerings. The first type

of grain offering: signifies that Jesus has lived a perfect human life. The second type of grain offering: signifies that Jesus went through various processes and, according to God's will, completed redemption on the cross. Through what Jesus did, the church was produced. The third type of grain offering: signifies that Jesus Christ has resurrected, ascended, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

These three types of grain offerings help us appreciate who Jesus Christ is, what He has done, and what He has accomplished. They also encourage us to follow Jesus' example by living a life full of virtue on earth, so that we may become a pleasing offering to the Lord.

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You. You are the perfect grain offering, fully satisfying the demands of God's holiness, righteousness, and glory, and have become a pleasing offering to God. Through our participation in what You are and what You have done, help us to live a virtuous life in our daily lives, so that we may witness for You on earth. Bless my church and my church life. I pray this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!