

WHY GOD INSTITUTED THE ANIMAL  
SACRIFICE SYSTEM TO COVER SIN  
为什么神设立献祭的制度来掩盖罪

AN EXPLANATION OF THE ANIMAL SACRIFICE IN THE  
BOOK OF LEVITICUS

《利未记》中对献祭的解释

## A COMMON A.N.E PRACTICE

### 古代近东常见的习俗

- Animal sacrifice is a common practice of the Ancient Near East.  
动物祭祀是古代近东地区的一种常见的习俗。
- People living in the ANE perceive their gods as capricious, violent and angry.  
生活在古代近东的人们认为他们的神是反复无常、暴力和愤怒的。
- So out of fear for their own lives, the people sacrifice animals to appease their gods.  
因此，出于对自己生命的恐惧，人们以祭祀来安抚他们的神。

## WHY GOD INSTITUTED AN A.N.E PRACTICE FOR ISRAEL? 为什么神为以色列设立了一个古老的近东习俗?

- But the God of Israel is not a capricious or vengeful God; rather He is a holy, loving and just God.

以色列的神不是反复无常和报仇的神；祂是圣洁、慈爱、公义的神。

- Because He is holy, loving and just, He did not want to destroy the Israelites for their rebellion by killing them.

因为祂是圣洁，慈爱，公义的神，所以祂不想因为以色列人的背叛而击杀他们。

- So he had to find an alternate way for Israel to recompense for their sin.

所以神必须找到另一种方法来补偿以色列人的罪。

## WHY GOD INSTITUTED AN A.N.E PRACTICE FOR ISRAEL? 为什么神为以色列设立了一个古老的近东习俗?

- He did this by using the practice of animal sacrifice that Israel's neighbours were practicing, but He transforms the whole meaning of the sacrifice.

他是用以色列的邻居动物祭祀的习俗来做到这一点的，但是神改变了献祭的全部意义。

- Notice here that it was out of God's goodness and mercy that He initiated the animal sacrifice system, unlike Israel's pagan neighbours who sacrificed animals to appease their angry gods.

请注意，这是出于神的仁慈和怜悯，祂开创了动物献祭制度，不像以色列的异教邻里所行的，他们牺牲动物是为了平息他们神的愤怒。

# GOD'S INTENTIONS FOR THE ANIMAL SACRIFICE

## 神对献祭的意图

1. Turn the Israelites from their sin  
使以色列人离开他们的罪
2. Provide an equitable way to recompense for their sin  
为他们的罪提供公平的补偿
3. Provide a way to cleanse and purify the community  
提供一种净化和分别为圣以色列群体的方法
3. Ensure God maintains His presence with His people  
确认神与祂的子民同在

# THE SYMBOLS OF ANIMAL SACRIFICE

## 动物献祭的象征

- The slaughtering of an innocent animal and watching its blood drain from its body was a visceral **symbol of the devastating results of their sin and selfishness** (sin released death into our world)  
当以色列民宰杀无辜的动物，看着它的血从体内流出，这是他们的罪恶和自我造成的毁灭性后果的一种象征 (罪释放死亡进入我们的世界)。
- Beside the death of an animal serves not only as a symbol of reminder of the tragic consequences of sin, it also offers a **symbol of substitution**. Instead of killing His people, God kills an animal.  
动物的死亡不仅是对罪恶悲剧后果的一种提醒，它还提供了一种替代的象征。但神杀死的不是他的子民，而是动物。

# THE SYMBOLS OF ANIMAL SACRIFICE

## 动物献祭的象征

- Third, the life of an animal killed is a symbol of ransom payment that would ‘cover’ them (Hebrew, cover, kipper/kopher translated as atonement in English).  
第三，被杀动物的生命象征着赎金的支付，将“遮盖”他们（希伯来语“盖”kipper/kopher翻译成英语是赎罪）。
- The Israelites also saw the blood of animal as a **symbol of the animal’s life** (Lev 17:11). Since blood represents life as opposes to death – the sprinkling of blood in the tabernacle symbolizes death and defilement being removed from the tabernacle.  
以色列人视动物的血是其生命的象征(利未记17:11)。因为血代表着生命与死亡的对立——在祭坛中洒上血象征着死亡和除去污秽。

## HOW DOES THE ANIMAL SACRIFICE REVEALS THE NATURE OF GOD?

### 动物祭祀如何启示神的本性？

- The animal sacrifice system instituted by God is a **concrete expression of God's grace and justice.**

神设立的献祭制度是祂恩典和公义的具体表现。

- It shows **how much God wanted to stay in His covenant relationship** with the Israelites.

这表明神是多么想要保持与以色列人的盟约关系。

- It foreshadows **the ultimate sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ** for our sin – an **undeniable and ultimate expression of God's love.**

它预示了神的羔羊，耶稣基督为我们的罪所作的终极牺牲——这是无可否认，也是神爱的终极表达。



## AT-ONE-MOMENT

### 一次性

- Just as the animal sacrifice in Leviticus is *kipper/kopher* - cover for the sin of the Israelites (*kipper/kopher* Hebrew for cover, translated as atonement in English) the death of Jesus on the Cross, at-one-moment atoned for our sin. 就像《利未记》中的动物献祭是 *kipper/kopher*——掩盖以色列人的罪（*kipper/kopher* 希伯来语为掩盖，翻译成英语为赎罪），耶稣在十字架上的死，一次性为我们完成赎罪。
- Therefore the Book of Leviticus is not about the gory details of animal sacrifice but it is a book about God's love. 因此，《利未记》并不是关于动物献祭的血腥细节，而是关于神的爱。