



Vayikra, [Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26](#)

The book of *Vayikra* (Leviticus) primarily deals with what are commonly called "sacrifices" or "offerings." According to Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch: a "sacrifice" implies giving up something that is of value to oneself for the benefit of another. An "offering" implies a gift which satisfies the receiver. The Almighty does not need our gifts. He has no needs or desires. The Hebrew word is *korban*, which is best translated as a means of bringing oneself into a closer relationship with the Almighty. The offering of *korbanot* was only for our benefit to come close to the Almighty.

Ramban, one of the essential commentaries on Torah, explains that through the vicarious experience of what happened to the animal *korbanot*, the transgressor realized the seriousness of his transgression. This aided him in the process of *teshuva* – correcting his erring ways.

This week's portion includes the details of various types of *korbanot*: burnt offering, flour offering (proof that one does not need to offer "blood" to gain atonement), the first grain offering, peace offering, unintentional sin offering (private and communal), guilt (for an intentional sin) offerings – varied upon one's ability to pay, and an offering for personal use of something designated or belonging to the Tabernacle or the Temple.