

Handout 5-A

Temple Sacrifice

Some of the occasions in life that required a whole burnt offering in the Temple in Jerusalem included:

- purification after childbearing. (Mary and Joseph went to the Temple after the birth of Jesus to offer a sacrifice of purification.)
- purification of the leper. (When Jesus cured lepers, he told them to go and show themselves to the priests, meaning, they were to offer the ritual sacrifice of purification.)
- purification from uncleanness (especially from sexual diseases).
- at the consecration of a nazirite. (A nazirite was someone who devoted his or her life to God through vows on a temporary basis. A nazirite was not supposed to drink intoxicating beverages, cut his or her hair, or have contact with the dead. When the time of the vow was over, the nazirite was required to cut his or her hair and burn it as a sacrifice at the Temple. Samson, one of the judges, was a nazirite.)
- at the consecration of priests.
- regular morning and evening prayer in the Temple.
- before battle.
- on major festivals.