



‘new creation peace’ – John Chapter 20

Definition: Free will is the power of acting without constraint of necessity, one's own discretion. The below offers some understanding of the free will offering in the Old Testament pointing to the free will blood of Jesus, given for our peace!

Free will at work in the Old Testament sacrifices

- The "peace offering" (Lev 3; 7:11-36) was a sacrifice given by fire to the Lord. The emphasis of a peace offering contains the joy of fellowship with one another before the Lord, and a "giving back" to Him what was given by Him.
- Three kinds of peace offerings are noted in Lev 7:11-36 as 1/ Thanks, 2/ Votive and 3/ Freewill.
- For a freewill offering, certain parts of the animal were burned on the altar to the Lord, while the rest was eaten by the priests and offer'ers in a fellowship meal on the day of sacrifice, but what remained could be eaten on the next day.
- After the prescribed time had passed, what was left over had to be burned upon the altar. No one could eat it; if any did eat it, they were not accepted before the Lord.
- The freewill offering was joyously and willingly presented to express thankfulness toward God. No specific deliverance or blessing had to be mentioned. It should get our attention that for a freewill offering, minor imperfections in the animals offered was permissible.
- The emphasis on the freewill offering comprises God's acceptance of the worshipper with a right 'freewill' attitude. This attitude can be seen in the Psalms specifically as:
 - Ps 20:4-5 says: *May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed. May we shout for joy when we hear of your victory and raise a victory banner in the name of our God. May the Lord answer all your prayers.*
 - Ps 76:11-12 says: *Make vows to the Lord your God, and keep them. Let everyone bring tribute to the Awesome One. For he breaks the pride of princes, and the kings of the earth fear him.*
 - Ps 96:7-9 says: *O nations of the world, recognise the Lord; recognise that the Lord is glorious and strong. Give to the Lord the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in all his holy splendour. Let all the earth tremble before him.*
- Certain parts were totally burned on the altar. Israel was not to eat blood nor fat in its sacrificial ceremonies before the Lord (Lev 1:5; 3:16). There is something about the blood!

The Blood

- The meaning and significance of blood tends to provoke interest, and controversy. There has been nothing found to date, in the ancient near east or elsewhere, that parallels in any significant way, the treatment of blood as outlined in the Bible (D. J. McCarthy, JBL, 88 [1969], 166-176; 92 [1973], 205-210.) (de Vaux, Ancient Israel, p. 453).
- God did not permit people to eat the blood (Le17:10; Ge9:4; Le3:17; 7:26; De12:16,23; 15:23), since life was in the blood, and life belonged to God alone. Atonement is made by and because of the "life" is the blood! This idea is not found outside of the Bible.



‘new creation peace’ – John Chapter 20

Definition: Free will is the power of acting without constraint of necessity, one's own discretion. The below offers some understanding of the free will offering in the Old Testament pointing to the free will blood of Jesus, given for our peace!

Free will at work in the Old Testament sacrifices

- The "peace offering" (Lev 3; 7:11-36) was a sacrifice given by fire to the Lord. The emphasis of a peace offering contains the joy of fellowship with one another before the Lord, and a "giving back" to Him what was given by Him.
- Three kinds of peace offerings are noted in Lev 7:11-36 as 1/ Thanks, 2/ Votive and 3/ Freewill.
- For a freewill offering, certain parts of the animal were burned on the altar to the Lord, while the rest was eaten by the priests and offer'ers in a fellowship meal on the day of sacrifice, but what remained could be eaten on the next day.
- After the prescribed time had passed, what was left over had to be burned upon the altar. No one could eat it; if any did eat it, they were not accepted before the Lord.
- The freewill offering was joyously and willingly presented to express thankfulness toward God. No specific deliverance or blessing had to be mentioned. It should get our attention that for a freewill offering, minor imperfections in the animals offered was permissible.
- The emphasis on the freewill offering comprises God's acceptance of the worshipper with a right 'freewill' attitude. This attitude can be seen in the Psalms specifically as:
 - Ps 20:4-5 says: *May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed. May we shout for joy when we hear of your victory and raise a victory banner in the name of our God. May the Lord answer all your prayers.*
 - Ps 76:11-12 says: *Make vows to the Lord your God, and keep them. Let everyone bring tribute to the Awesome One. For he breaks the pride of princes, and the kings of the earth fear him.*
 - Ps 96:7-9 says: *O nations of the world, recognise the Lord; recognise that the Lord is glorious and strong. Give to the Lord the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in all his holy splendour. Let all the earth tremble before him.*
- Certain parts were totally burned on the altar. Israel was not to eat blood nor fat in its sacrificial ceremonies before the Lord (Lev 1:5; 3:16). There is something about the blood!

The Blood

- The meaning and significance of blood tends to provoke interest, and controversy. There has been nothing found to date, in the ancient near east or elsewhere, that parallels in any significant way, the treatment of blood as outlined in the Bible (D. J. McCarthy, JBL, 88 [1969], 166-176; 92 [1973], 205-210.) (de Vaux, Ancient Israel, p. 453).
- God did not permit people to eat the blood (Le17:10; Ge9:4; Le3:17; 7:26; De12:16,23; 15:23), since life was in the blood, and life belonged to God alone. Atonement is made by and because of the "life" is the blood! This idea is not found outside of the Bible.

- In the course of offering a sacrificial action prescribed by God, the blood having entered the divine sphere, becomes the means of atonement, an action appointed by God Himself. No 'magic' is involved — God's will divinely chooses and approves the prescribed sacrificial action.
- Lev 17:11,14 says *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it for you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement, by reason of the life"* and *"For the life of every creature is the blood of it."* The blood makes atonement because God has designated it to make atonement. Therefore Jesus...
- Col 1:20 says *"through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."*

Free will of Jesus...His own accord

Jesus being fully human had free will. The obedience of the free will of Jesus was given to the Will of the Father, freely. (Heb 5:8)

Jn10:17-18 says *"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."* (also see John 5:19-20, 8:28, 12:49, 14:9-10)

The blood given of His own accord to the Will of the Father...

Hebrews 10:4-10 says: *It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.'" First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

Notice the joy in a free will sacrifice (Heb 12:2)

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The free will offering of His blood means we have joyous peace

Romans 5:1-11 says *Since we have been declared "in the right" on the basis of faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Through him we have been allowed to approach, by faith, into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate the hope of the glory of God....*

This is all based on what the Messiah did: while we were still weak, at that very moment he died on behalf of the ungodly. It's a rare thing to find someone who will die on behalf of an upright person—though I suppose someone might be brave enough to die for a good person. But this is how God demonstrates his own love for us: the Messiah died for us while we were still sinners. How much more, in that case—since we have been declared to be in the right by his blood—are we going to be saved by him from God's coming anger! When we were enemies, you see, we were reconciled to God through the death of his son; if that's so, how much more, having already been reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. And that's not all. We even celebrate in God, through our Lord Jesus the Messiah, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.

Something eternally new was created, we can have peace!

- In the course of offering a sacrificial action prescribed by God, the blood having entered the divine sphere, becomes the means of atonement, an action appointed by God Himself. No 'magic' is involved — God's will divinely chooses and approves the prescribed sacrificial action.
- Lev 17:11,14 says *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it for you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement, by reason of the life"* and *"For the life of every creature is the blood of it."* The blood makes atonement because God has designated it to make atonement. Therefore Jesus...
- Col 1:20 says *"through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."*

Free will of Jesus...His own accord

Jesus being fully human had free will. The obedience of the free will of Jesus was given to the Will of the Father, freely. (Heb 5:8)

Jn10:17-18 says *"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."* (also see John 5:19-20, 8:28, 12:49, 14:9-10)

The blood given of His own accord to the Will of the Father...

Hebrews 10:4-10 says: *It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.'" First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

Notice the joy in a free will sacrifice (Heb 12:2)

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The free will offering of His blood means we have joyous peace

Romans 5:1-11 says *Since we have been declared "in the right" on the basis of faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Through him we have been allowed to approach, by faith, into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate the hope of the glory of God....*

This is all based on what the Messiah did: while we were still weak, at that very moment he died on behalf of the ungodly. It's a rare thing to find someone who will die on behalf of an upright person—though I suppose someone might be brave enough to die for a good person. But this is how God demonstrates his own love for us: the Messiah died for us while we were still sinners. How much more, in that case—since we have been declared to be in the right by his blood—are we going to be saved by him from God's coming anger! When we were enemies, you see, we were reconciled to God through the death of his son; if that's so, how much more, having already been reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. And that's not all. We even celebrate in God, through our Lord Jesus the Messiah, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.

Something eternally new was created, we can have peace!

