



Daily Verse and Comment

Leviticus 1:14

(14) "And if the burnt sacrifice of his offering to the LORD *is* of birds, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves or young pigeons.

New King James Version

The turtledove and pigeon represent [mourning](#) innocence, powerlessness, [meekness](#), and humility. No labor is symbolized here, nor is uncomplaining submission, but rather harmlessness, a proclivity to make [peace](#), and even sadness. In [Matthew 10:16](#), as [Christ](#) prepares to send the apostles out to represent Him, He instructs them: "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves." Later, the apostle Paul instructs the much-beloved Philippian congregation to "Do all things without murmuring and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless..." ([Philippians 2:14-16](#)).

Isaiah draws on a turtledove's characteristic to describe Israel's social situation:

We all growl like bears, and moan sadly like doves; we look for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us; and as for our iniquities, we know them: In transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing from our [God](#), speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. ([Isaiah 59:11-15](#))

Overall, the turtledove's imagery is of humility mixed with sadness caused by the overwhelming accumulation of the effects of [sin](#) and repentant sorrow

because we have been so much trouble to God. This quality is rewarding, as [Psalm 147:3](#) comforts, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." [Psalm 34:17-19](#) adds, "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Offerings of Leviticus \(Part Two\): The Burnt Offering](#)

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