Sacrifice of Thanksgiving

Leviticus 7:11-13 11 And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he shall offer unto the LORD. 12 If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. 13 Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings.

According to the book of Leviticus, there were five main types of sacrifices or offerings:
• the burnt offering (Leviticus 1; 6:8–13; 8:18–21; 16:24)
• the grain offering (Leviticus 2; 6:14–23)
• the peace offering (Leviticus 3; 7:11–34)
• the sin offering (Leviticus 4; 5:1–13; 6:24–30; 8:14–17; 16:3–22)
• the trespass offering (Leviticus 5:14–19; 6:1–7; 7:1–6).

The sacrifice of thanksgiving or “thank offering” fell into the category of peace offerings (Leviticus 7:11–15).

- There is a difference between giving thanks (yada) and the sacrifice of thanks (toda – lifting the hands)

- There is a difference between the peace offering and burnt offering.

1. The burnt offering is in the Hebrew called (שׁלーム olah).

This term comes from (עלה alah), to ascend. The reason is that the whole animal was consumed, by the action of the fire of the altar.

2. An offering of peace is called (שלמים shelamin).

The verb from which this noun is derived is (שלום shalem, (from shalom) to complete or make whole.
3. The Hebrew term for a sacrifice of this kind of sacrifice of peace/thanksgiving is *zebah*. Also known as a communion offering, the main characteristic was that the sacrifice itself was not fully consumed, but was shared between God, the priest, and the person offering the sacrifice.

The sacrifice itself could have been male or female, and minor blemishes were allowed in a animal offered as a voluntary sacrifice (Lev 22.23). Yahweh's portion was burned on the altar. It comprised all the fatty parts, since fat, like blood, was considered a life-giving part (Lev 3.16–17; 7.22–24). The breast (wave offering) and the right leg (raised offering) were assigned to the priest. The remainder of the animal belonged to the person who offered the sacrifice. He ate it with his family and any guests, all of whom had to be in a state of ritual purity.

**Differences between the animals chosen for either the burnt or *zebah*.

Three classes of animal were specified as proper for the burnt offering: there were those of the herd; there were those of the flock; and there were those of the fowls.

In the peace offering/sacrifice there are only two. Animals from the herd and from the flock are specified, but there is no mention of turtle-doves or young pigeons here. The reason of this is that it would be difficult to treat fowls as peace offerings due to the lack of fat; and that the animals are so small that it would have been difficult to divide as peace offering portions. In other words, birds were not allowed.