



The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 17.02.21

BIBLE STUDY - LEVITICUS - 4. THE MANUAL OF SACRIFICES - Part 4 - THE SIN OFFERING

Leviticus 4 & 5:1-13

The first 3 offerings were "voluntary". We move now to the first "obligatory" offering. General theme of the sacrifice - the seriousness of sinning against God; we need to restore our relationship with God when sin has broken it. Therefore in the Old Testament, God provided a way to atone of any unintentional sin. (v1)

1. THE SCRIPTURE IS DIVIDED INTO 2 SECTIONS

- **Ch.4** - The details of the sacrifice
- **Ch.5:1-13** - The specific sins detailed and the different animals that could be offered depending on your economic circumstances.

2. "UNINTENTIONAL" (Lev.4:1) Chs.4-5 look at "unintentional sin"

This is repeated in *Lev.4:13,22,27 and 5:15,18*. This "Sin Offering" is for "unintentional sins" BUT - what is an unintentional sin and where is the line drawn between unintentional and intentional? There are 3 types of sin in scripture:

A) Unintentional Sin

- *Leviticus 4&5* - the seriousness of unintentional sins
- *5:2-5 and rest of Ch.5* - if an unintentional sin committed (touching something unclean, making a rash oath etc.) when the sin is realised, guilt must be confessed and restitution made before sacrifice can be offered and forgiveness received.
- *5:6-13* - explains the sacrifices needed

B) Intentional Sin

- *Ch.6* moves to "intentional sin" - but treated in the same way (All sin is serious).

C) Presumptuous Sin - see *Psalm 19:13 - 2 Samuel 11* (David sins re Bathsheba & Uriah)

- grave offences - for which, under the Old Covenant, the punishment was death.
(*Numbers 15:30-31; 2 Samuel 12:13*)
- deliberate sins, committed in the knowledge that they are sins and in full light of God's law.
- premeditated and in direct contradiction to what a person knows to be true.

N.B. - ALL SIN is covered by the New Covenant! The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, ALL SIN! God will forgive us if we repent and confess our sins, BUT they are still serious offenses.

3. OTHER FACTORS CONCERNING SIN

A) Ignorance is no excuse!

- *Lev.4:13* - "...even though the community is unaware of the matter"
- Whether aware of the sin or not, the sin must still be dealt with
- Sin can only be dealt with by a sacrifice or the cost will be borne by the individual himself - the choice of salvation or no salvation is a choice of whether to accept Christ's sacrifice on the cross as for your sin

B) Carelessness counts!

- Carelessness in the things of God is a serious matter - a serious sin
- Like the carefree attitude of some of Gideon's men as they drank from the river (*Judges 7:5-6*)
- *Ch5:1-5* - 3 different expressions of the same sin - a casual attitude to God in:
 - v1 - one's responsibility to the community (especially speaking up for others and demanding justice)
 - vv2-3 - ceremonial purity
 - vv4-5 - taking an oath

So this sacrifice deals with

1. Unintentional sins
2. Sins that express carelessness or casual attitudes towards God
3. Things that make God's people impure/unclean

4. WHO WAS TO MAKE THE SIN OFFERING? - WHO WAS IT FOR?

First 3 sacrifices - "one size fits all".

This sin offering is applied differently to different people:

- **High Priest** - *Ch4:1-12 (especially v3)*
 - when High Priest failed to perform his duties correctly
 - a young bull required
- **The whole people of Israel** - *Ch4:13-21*
 - in the case of a national collective offense
 - a young bull required
 - the people treated like an individual (like churches in Revelation letters)
- **The leaders of Israel** - *Ch4:22-26*
 - like High Priests, taken particularly seriously as their sin would affect the nation as a whole
 - male goat without defect
- **The individual Israelite**
 - female goat without defect
 - also allowed were a variety of sacrifices - ewe lamb, birds, flour depending on economic circumstances of the individual; God made sure that forgiveness should be available for all

5. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SACRIFICE

Similar pattern to fellowship/burnt sacrifices, but there are 2 major differences:

A) The treatment of the animal

The animal was to be utterly destroyed - on the altar or outside the camp

The significance of this: No one should benefit from sin. Sin is costly and destructive, so no meat would be eaten and no one would gain enjoyment from anything to do with sin.

B) Where the blood was to be sprinkled

- When the High Priest represented himself or the people collectively, the blood was sprinkled **INSIDE** the Tabernacle
- For sacrifices offered by the leaders or individuals, the blood was sprinkled **OUTSIDE** the Tabernacle on the altar of the burnt offerings.

6. THE PURPOSE OF THE SACRIFICE

It provided both Atonement for sin and Purification for uncleanness

- **Purification** - e.g. woman after childbirth (*12:6-8*)
following healing from leprosy (*Ch.14*)
after uncleanness caused by bodily discharges (*Ch.15*)

But why a "sin" offering?.. see *Lev.15:31*.. to keep God's sanctuary clean

e.g. When High Priest entered the Tabernacle, his own sin would "pollute" the

Tabernacle and this required the Sin Offering to atone for that sin, thus "keeping the Tabernacle clean"

- **Atonement** - although it also provided purification, the primary reason for the Sin Offering was Atonement - hands were laid upon the animal and the animal became the substitute, dying for the sinner.

7. APPLICATION - THE SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE BELIEVER

This sacrifice is ultimately fulfilled in Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

- **Sin is a loathsome thing and has to be dealt with**
- **It is dealt with by the shedding of blood** (*Hebrews 9:22*)

Regarding Christ's sacrifice for us:

- *1 John 2:2; Hebrews 9:26-28* Christ, the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world
- *Hebrews 9:13-14* compares the purification of the unclean by the blood with the effect of Christ's sacrifice/blood on the believer
- *Hebrews 13:11-14* - the O.T. and N.T. sacrifices compared, the parallel between them

***In response - Hebrews 13:15-16 - ..let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—
the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.***

**And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.**