

Adult Bible Class

The Book of Leviticus - Lesson #4

The Sin Offering - A Review

In Leviticus, the sin offering is described for two groups of people - the priests and the whole congregation are one group, and a ruler (like a king), and the common person are another group.

For the priest and the whole congregation, the instructions were the same. The sins of the offerer were symbolically transferred to the animal (when the offerer laid his hands on the animal). The blood was sprinkled inside the tabernacle, the fat of the animal was given to God on the altar, then what remained of the bull *was taken outside the camp and burned*. Doing this emphasized God's disgust and aversion to sin, and also shows that sin separates. God cannot tolerate sin. Therefore, the remainder of the animal was taken outside the camp and burned.

The New Testament book of Hebrews connects Jesus to this sin offering:

Hebrews 13:11 (NKJV) For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. **12** Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. **13** Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

When Jesus was crucified, He was taken outside the city gates and crucified "outside the gate."

For the second group (rulers and common people) - after the fat was placed on the altar and the blood poured on it, the meat was *given to the priests to eat*. The sacrifice for the second group was not to be taken outside the camp and burned nor was its blood taken into the Holy Place. The meat was to be eaten by the priests, and Moses later in Leviticus gives the meaning: "*God has given it to you [the priests] to bear the guilt of the congregation* (Lev. 10:17)."

This "bearing the guilt of the congregation" is an act and solemn duty of the priests. By eating the sacrifice that had symbolically "become sin," they were, in a sense, taking away the guilt of the people and bearing it themselves. It is a picture of Jesus Christ who is both high priest and sacrifice. Jesus takes away sin.

Leviticus Chapter 5

Chapter 5 continues with the sin offering of the common people, giving examples of where a sin offering is required to be made.

Sins Requiring a Sin Offering

Leviticus 5:1 (NLT) "If you are called to testify about something you have seen or that you know about, it is sinful to refuse to testify, and you will be punished for your sin.

2 "Or suppose you unknowingly touch something that is ceremonially unclean, such as the carcass of an unclean animal. When you realize what you have done, you must admit your defilement and your guilt. This is true whether it is a wild animal, a domestic animal, or an animal that scurries along the ground.

3 "Or suppose you unknowingly touch something that makes a person unclean. When you realize what you have done, you must admit your guilt.

Leviticus 5:4 "Or suppose you make a foolish vow of any kind, whether its purpose is for good or for bad. When you realize its foolishness, you must admit your guilt.

5 "When you become aware of your guilt in any of these ways, you must confess your sin. **6** Then you must bring to the Lord as the penalty for your sin a female from the flock, either a sheep or a goat. This is a sin offering with which the priest will purify you from your sin, making you right with the Lord.

Confession of sin and repentance was a requirement when offering a sin offering. The offering of the sin offering (and the trespass offering) was not just a ceremony. It was a spiritual act.

The different animals that could be offered for a sin offering did not have anything to do with the type of sin committed. They differed according to the economic situation of the offerer.

7 "But if you cannot afford to bring a sheep, you may bring to the Lord two turtledoves or two young pigeons as the penalty for your sin. One of the birds will be for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering. **8** You must bring them to the priest, who will present the first bird as the sin offering. He will wring its neck but without severing its head from the body. **9** Then he will sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering against the sides of the altar, and the rest of the blood will be drained out at the base of the altar. This is an offering for sin. **10** The priest will then prepare the second bird as a burnt offering, following all the procedures that have been prescribed. Through this process the priest will purify you from your sin, making you right with the Lord, and you will be forgiven.

11 "If you cannot afford to bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons, you may bring two quarts of choice flour for your sin offering. Since it is an offering for sin, you must not moisten it with olive oil or put any frankincense on it.

When a grain offering (chapter 2) was given, it was flour mixed with olive oil and salt, and the part given to the Lord also had frankincense on it. The Lord's part was burned on the fire along with the burnt offering. The grain offering was a sweet savor.

But the sin offering was not a "sweet savor" offering; therefore, if someone was very poor and gave an offering of flour as a sin offering, he was not to mix it with olive oil or frankincense. The flour was placed on the already burning sacrifices.

12 Take the flour to the priest, who will scoop out a handful as a representative portion. He will burn it on the altar on top of the special gifts presented to the Lord. It is an offering for sin. **13** Through this process, the priest will purify those who are guilty of any of these sins, making them right with the Lord, and they will be forgiven. The rest of the flour will belong to the priest, just as with the grain offering."

Chapter 5 Continued - The Trespass Offering (Guilt Offering)

Procedures for the Guilt Offering

Leviticus 5:14 (NLT) Then the Lord said to Moses, **15** "If one of you commits a sin by unintentionally defiling the Lord's sacred property, you must bring a guilt offering to the Lord. The offering must be your own ram with no defects, or you may buy one of equal value with silver, as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel. **16** You must make restitution for the sacred property you have harmed by paying for the loss, plus an additional 20 percent. When you give the payment to the priest, he will purify you with the ram sacrificed as a guilt offering, making you right with the Lord, and you will be forgiven.

17 "Suppose you sin by violating one of the Lord's commands. Even if you are unaware of what you have done, you are guilty and will be punished for your sin. **18** For a guilt offering, you must bring to the priest your own ram with no defects, or you may buy one of equal value. Through this process the

priest will purify you from your unintentional sin, making you right with the Lord, and you will be forgiven. **19** This is a guilt offering, for you have been guilty of an offense against the Lord."

At first, we might think that a sin offering and a trespass (guilt) offering are the same thing - after all, aren't a sin and a trespass the same thing? The trespass offering is reserved for those cases where reparation needed to be made. The person offered an animal as a sacrifice, but this animal was not offered until he first made things right, paying what is owed plus 20% to the person that he wronged.

The sin offering shows the need for forgiveness of sin. The trespass offering shows the need to make things right (reparation).

Further teaching on the trespass offering continues in chapter 6.

Sins Requiring a Guilt Offering

Leviticus 6:1 (NLT) Then the Lord said to Moses, **2** "Suppose one of you sins against your associate and is unfaithful to the Lord. Suppose you cheat in a deal involving a security deposit, or you steal or commit fraud, **3** or you find lost property and lie about it, or you lie while swearing to tell the truth, or you commit any other such sin. **4** If you have sinned in any of these ways, you are guilty. You must give back whatever you stole, or the money you took by extortion, or the security deposit, or the lost property you found, **5** or anything obtained by swearing falsely. You must make restitution by paying the full price plus an additional 20 percent to the person you have harmed. On the same day you must present a guilt offering. **6** As a guilt offering to the Lord, you must bring to the priest your own ram with no defects, or you may buy one of equal value. **7** Through this process, the priest will purify you before the Lord, making you right with him, and you will be forgiven for any of these sins you have committed."

Skipping to Leviticus chapter 7, we read more about the trespass offering, particularly the animal sacrifice part.

Further Instructions for the Guilt Offering

Leviticus 7:1 "These are the instructions for the guilt offering. It is most holy. **2** The animal sacrificed as a guilt offering must be slaughtered at the place where the burnt offerings are slaughtered, and its blood must be splattered against all sides of the altar. **3** The priest will then offer all its fat on the altar... **5** and the priests will burn them on the altar as a special gift presented to the Lord. This is the guilt offering. **6** Any male from a priest's family may eat the meat. It must be eaten in a sacred place, for it is most holy.

7 "The same instructions apply to both the guilt offering and the sin offering. Both belong to the priest who uses them to purify someone, making that person right with the Lord.

Leviticus Chapters 6 and 7

We have included in previous lessons on Leviticus most of the passages from chapters 6 and 7 because they had to do with the particular offering that we were studying at the moment. Therefore, we will continue on with chapter 8 - but first let's review the five offerings of Leviticus.

Jesus in the Five Offerings of Leviticus

Leviticus chapters 1 - 7 give instructions on five different offerings and how they were to be presented to God. These offerings are the burnt offering, the grain offering, the peace offering, the sin offering and the trespass offering. As we look at each offering (or sacrifice), we will see how 1) each one points to Jesus Christ and how 2) each one speaks to us as New Testament believers.

Regarding the Lord Jesus Christ, though there were many offerings, all of them together point to Jesus' one sacrifice. Just as a diamond has many facets, each shining in beauty, the *one sacrifice* of our Lord has many benefits.

Initial salvation is pictured in the Passover Lamb, the crossing of the Red Sea, and the pillar of cloud and fire (repentance, water baptism, and Spirit baptism). The Christian can look to the five offerings of Leviticus for pictures of a life lived for the Lord.

The Sweet Savor Offerings

The burnt offering, grain offering, and peace offering are all "sweet savor offerings," meaning they are an acceptable delight to the Lord. God is pleased with them.

Jesus is the burnt offering. This offering was an animal that was wholly given to God on the brazen altar. It was without blemish, and it was given freely. Jesus was the burnt offering in that He gave Himself freely and totally to God's purpose, and He was sinless and perfect in every way.

For us as Christians, the whole burnt offering speaks of giving oneself completely to the will and purpose of God, following Jesus' example.

*I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.*

*Lord I give You my heart, I give You my soul,
I live for You alone,
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,
Lord have Your way in me.*

Jesus is the grain offering. This offering was fine flour (humanity) mixed with oil (Spirit of God) and salt. Jesus was God in human flesh who lived a sinless life to serve both God and man. The grain offering had no yeast or leaven (a type of sin). A small portion of the grain offering (with frankincense put on it) was burned on the altar with the burnt offering. The rest was given to the priests to eat. This offering speaks of duty and service to God and man. Devotion to God (burnt offering) and love and service to God and man (grain offering) sums up the entire Law.

Matthew 22:36 (NKJV) "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?"

37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' **38** This is *the* first and great commandment. **39** And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

*I give myself away, I give myself away,
So You can use me.*

Jesus is the peace offering. This offering was an animal that again was without blemish and given freely. The fat from this offering was burned on the brazen altar unto the Lord, but the rest was given to the priests and the offerer (with his family and friends) to eat a fellowship meal. This offering indicates peace and fellowship between God and man - and between man and man.

Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized . . . **42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers . . .

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

The Restoring Offerings

The sin offering and the trespass (guilt) offering were restoring offerings, pointing to payment for sin and restoring fellowship between God and man and between man and man.

The Passover Lamb brings initial salvation (and Jesus is our Passover - 1 Cor. 5:7). However, the Christian needs forgiveness of sin as he goes along life's way. The next two offerings speak to this need.

Jesus is the sin offering. Again, this offering was an animal without blemish. The fat from this offering was burned on the altar as the Lord's part, the blood was sprinkled in the holy place, and what remained of the animal was taken outside the camp to be burned, typifying Jesus' sacrifice for mankind on Calvary, outside the city gates of Jerusalem.

In some instances the meat from a sin offering was instead given to the priests for their food. Leviticus 10:17 gives us the meaning of this: the priests were to *"bear the guilt of the congregation."*

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **2** And He Himself is the propitiation [the atoning sacrifice] for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

In Leviticus 12:1-8, a woman who has given birth to a child is supposed to offer a burnt offering and a sin offering after her days of purification are completed after the birth.

Leviticus 12:6 'When the days of her purification are fulfilled... she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of

the tabernacle of meeting. **7** Then he shall offer it before the Lord, and make atonement for her. And she shall be clean from the flow of her blood...

8 'And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons—one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering...

In the story of the birth of Jesus, we find that Mary and Joseph were too poor to offer a lamb. Instead, they offered two birds.

Luke 2:22 Now when the days of her [Mary's] purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord... **24** and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Jesus is the trespass offering. This offering was much like the sin offering. In addition to the animal sacrifices, restitution money was required to make things right. The amount of restitution plus another 20% was paid to the person wronged.

Matthew 5:23 (NKJV) Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, **24** leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Luke 19:1 (NLT) Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. **2** There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. **3** He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy...

8 ...Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

9 Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."