

Leviticus 3-4 - Thursday, September 3rd, 2009

- We've been learning about five offerings that the Israelites were to give to the Lord, and how they point to the person of Jesus Christ.
- Chapter one was the burnt offering, two, the grain offering, three the peace offering, four the sin offering and five the trespass offering.

- It's interesting that the first three offerings were voluntary, but the last two, which are the sin and trespass offering were mandatory.
- In other words, it was mandatory that there be an offering of a sacrifice and the shedding of blood for mans sins and trespasses.

1 "When his offering is a sacrifice of a peace offering, if he offers it of the herd, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD. 2 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron's sons, the priests, shall sprinkle the blood all around on the altar. 3 Then he shall offer from the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire to the LORD. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails, 4 the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; 5 and Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is on the wood that is on the fire, as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD. 6 If his offering as a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD is of the flock, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish.

- The peace offering was made with an animal sacrifice, and it could be either male or female however, it had to be "without blemish."
- It was to be eaten as a "fellowship meal" with God as it pointed to the person and work of Jesus who made peace between us and God.
- As one commentator said it, "this was not an offering to 'make' peace with God, but it was an offering to 'enjoy' peace with God.

Ephesians 2:14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, NIV

7 If he offers a lamb as his offering, then he shall offer it before the LORD. 8 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar. 9 Then he shall offer from the sacrifice of the peace offering, as an offering made by fire to the LORD, its fat and the whole fat tail which he shall remove close to the backbone. And the fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails, 10 the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; 11 and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

- Here we're given the instructions if the offering being sacrificed was a lamb. Again every detail points to peace with God through Christ.

Romans 5:9-11 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. NIV

- This offering spoke of reconciliation, and relationship, because the priest, the one making the offering and the Lord would all participate.

"In this feast God and the priests participated; and it is an emblem of our participation in the joy of God, over the person and work of Jesus."

F.B. Meyer Devotionals on Leviticus (http://preceptaustin.org/leviticus_sermon_illustrations_2.htm)

12 And if his offering is a goat, then he shall offer it before the LORD. 13 He shall lay his hand on its head and kill it before the tabernacle of meeting; and the sons of Aaron shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar. 14 Then he shall offer from it his offering, as an offering made by fire to the LORD. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails, 15 the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; 16 and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma; all the fat is the LORD's.

- Here we have the instructions if the offering being sacrificed was a goat. Notice that this was to be made by fire for a sweet aroma.
- If you can imagine it, this was a huge BBQ and a huge celebration because of what this peace offering meant to the one offering it.
- Because of this feast, they could now have the peace of God, because they now had peace with God, Who is the God of peace.

Think of this blessed feast with God. We who were once far off in the wicked and hostile imaginings, are now made nigh; we sit at God's table as his children, and hear Him say, Let us make merry and be glad; this my son was dead, and is alive again.

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17 This shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood."

- This is interesting because by God not allowing them to eat neither from the fat nor the blood, God was protecting them from disease.
- While the fat is the tastiest and most pleasurable part, it would also be the unhealthiest part. God always wants what's best for us.

4:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a person sins unintentionally against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which ought not to be done, and does any of them,

- God has Moses tell the people what to do if a person sins unintentionally, meaning that we may sin through ignorance, not knowing.
- As one commentator said it; "We may indeed sin through ignorance, but we cannot claim ignorance of the sin nature within each of us."

"Sin is something more than that of which our conscience convicts us. ...we may do things which are grievously wrong in God's sight without realizing their evil or bemoaning it. All such sin must be met and atoned for ere God can admit us into his holy presence. Sin must be dealt with and put away, not only as it appears to us, but as it is in itself and in the sight of the All-Holy. So, in the types of Leviticus, provision was made for sins of ignorance; and the blood of Jesus cleaneth from all sin, whether known to us or not. We must ask to be forgiven for the many sins which we know not, as well as for those we know."

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3 if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the LORD for his sin which he has sinned a young bull without blemish as a sin offering.

- Here Moses is told what to do if a priest sins and brings guilt on the people. He too is to offer to the Lord a young bull without blemish.

"The case is put with an 'if,' if a soul shall sin and if the priest do sin; but indeed, it is all to certain that they do sin, and it is most gracious on the Lord's part to ordain a sacrifice to meet the case. The victim must itself be without blemish, or it cannot be an accepted substitute. How well the Lord Jesus answers to this type."

Charles Spurgeon

4 He shall bring the bull to the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, lay his hand on the bull's head, and kill the bull before the LORD. 5 Then the anointed priest shall take some of the bull's blood and bring it to the tabernacle of meeting. 6 The priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the LORD, in front of the veil of the sanctuary. 7 And the priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of meeting; and he shall pour the remaining blood of the bull at the base of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 8 He shall take from it all the fat of the bull as the sin offering. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat which is on the entrails, 9 the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove, 10 as it was taken from the bull of the sacrifice of the peace offering; and the priest shall burn them on the altar of the burnt offering. 11 But the bull's hide and all its flesh, with its head and legs, its entrails and offal --

- These specific instructions that are given for the sin offering speak to the seriousness of sin and the consequences that come from sin.
- Notice, his finger was to be dipped in the blood so it could be sprinkled seven times in front of the veil, and put on the altar of incense.
- One suggested that the veil symbolized how our sin is an offense to a Holy God, and the altar of incense how sin affects our prayer life.

12 the whole bull he shall carry outside the camp to a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn it on wood with fire; where the ashes are poured out it shall be burned.

- We're told that the offering was to be carried outside the camp and burned on wood with fire. This speaks of Jesus Christ's crucifixion.

"As a thing unclean the sin-offering was put away, and even thus Jesus was made sin for us, and in token thereof He was made to suffer outside Jerusalem."

Charles Spurgeon

13 'Now if the whole congregation of Israel sins unintentionally, and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done something against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which should not be done, and are guilty; 14 when the sin which they have committed becomes known, then the assembly shall offer a young bull for the sin, and bring it before the tabernacle of meeting.

- These are the instructions for when a priest would sin, and as the elders of the congregation, they would represent the entire nation.
- It's interesting that the price for the priest's sin was the same as the price for an entire nation. In other words it affected everyone.

15 And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands on the head of the bull before the LORD. Then the bull shall be killed before the LORD. 16 The anointed priest shall bring some of the bull's blood to the tabernacle of meeting. 17 Then the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, in front of the veil. 18 And he shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar which is before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of meeting; and he shall pour the remaining blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 19 He shall take all the fat from it and burn it on the altar. 20 And he shall do with the bull as he did with the bull as a sin offering; thus he shall do with it. So the priest shall make atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them. 21 Then he shall carry the bull outside the camp, and burn it as he burned the first bull. It is a sin offering for the assembly.

- When there was sin in the congregation, the elders would lay hands on the sacrifice so as to accept the entire responsibility for their sin.
- In other words, as elders, they would have to keep watch over the congregation because they will have to give an account for their sin.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. NIV

22'When a ruler has sinned, and done something unintentionally against any of the commandments of the LORD his God in anything which should not be done, and is guilty,23 or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, he shall bring as his offering a kid of the goats, a male without blemish.24 And he shall lay his hand on the head of the goat, and kill it at the place where they kill the burnt offering before the LORD. It is a sin offering.25 The priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour its blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering.26 And he shall burn all its fat on the altar, like the fat of the sacrifice of the peace offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him concerning his sin, and it shall be forgiven him. 27'If anyone of the common people sins unintentionally by doing something against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which ought not to be done, and is guilty,28 or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, then he shall bring as his offering a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he has committed.29 And he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering, and kill the sin offering at the place of the burnt offering.30 Then the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour all the remaining blood at the base of the altar. 31 He shall remove all its fat, as fat is removed from the sacrifice of the peace offering; and the priest shall burn it on the altar for a sweet aroma to the LORD. So the priest shall make atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him. 32'If he brings a lamb as his sin offering, he shall bring a female without blemish.33 Then he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering, and kill it as a sin offering at the place where they kill the burnt offering.34 The priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour all the remaining blood at the base of the altar.35 He shall remove all its fat, as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of the peace offering. Then the priest shall burn it on the altar, according to the offerings made by fire to the LORD. So the priest shall make atonement for his sin that he has committed, and it shall be forgiven him.

- Here, a priest was to bring the same sacrifice as the sacrifice of the entire nation, which further reinforces the seriousness of their sin.
- Those in positions of leadership carry an enormous responsibility for the people to whom they have been given the privilege to lead.

James 3:1-2 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. NKJV