

LEVITICUS

APPROACHING THE HOLY

LEVITICUS

Sermon Points & Notes

Week 2 - 10.15.23 | Tyler Wilson

Title: Making Atonement

Scripture: Leviticus 4-7

Main Point:

Remarkably, God provides the forgiving atonement required by the severity of our sin in order to restore its separation and repair its damage.

Our most common responses to GUILT:

- 1. Erase** - remove the wrong through acts of penance: fix things.
- 2. Overcome** - outweigh the wrong through good deeds
- 3. Justify** - defend the wrong, explaining it away with external factors or good intentions
- 4. Trivialize** - minimize the wrong by reducing its seriousness
- 5. Self-Pity** - soothe the wrong through worldly sorrow and sympathy
- 6. Self-Punish** - enforce the wrong by penalizing yourself for it
- 7. Shift Blame** - deflect the wrong onto another
- 8. Suppress** - forget the wrong and hope time will wipe it away
- 9. Deny** - re-label the wrong as not wrong and choose to not feel bad

SIN OFFERING:

- #1 - High Priest (Lev. 4:3-12)
- #2 - Whole Nation (Lev. 4:13-21)
- #3 - Leader (Lev. 4:22-26)
- #4 - Common Person (Lev. 4:27-35)

SIN OFFERINGS - 3 scenarios of categorical examples:

- #1 - Indifferent Silence (Lev. 5:1) - Failure to speak up on behalf of others
- #2 - Prolonged Impurity (Lev. 5:2-3) - Failure to deal with sin right away
- #3 - Unfulfilled Promise (Lev. 5:4) - Failure to keep our word

GUILT OFFERINGS - 3 categories

- #1 - Sins of Irreverence (Lev. 5:14-16) - casual treating of what's holy
- #2 - Sins of Disobedience (Lev. 5:17-19) - going against what God's commanded
- #3 - Sins against Others (Lev. 6:1-7) - failing to love neighbor rightly

On Matthew 5:23-24

“One wonders how often the presence of God seems absent from our worship services not because of the preaching or singing or praying is lacking... but because what’s really needed first is for people to go apologize to their friends, repair bridges with their neighbors, meet their

obligations to their families and make amends for any cheating and wrongs they have done.” - Derek Tidball

Concluding Section for Priests (Lev. 6:8-7:38)

- 6:8-13 - Keep the fire burning on the altar (burnt offerings)
- 6:14-23 - Keep the worship pleasing (grain offerings)
- 6:24-30 - Keep what's holy guarded (sin offerings)
- 7:1-10, 28-36 - Keep priests provided for (guilt offerings)
- 7:11-26 - Keep fellowship protected (peace offerings)

Sin Offering vs. Guilt Offering - What's the difference?

Sin Offering - deals more with the impurity of sin itself.

- Removes the relational barriers and separation sin creates by restoring the sinner directly to God.
- About making clean - leads to forgiveness.
- In the process, it guards God's people from thinking God's holiness is cheap
- Purification imagery - cleansing the dirt of sin

Guilt Offering - deals more with the effects of sin

- Removes the damage sin creates by repairing the sinner's impact on God and neighbor.
- About making amends - leads to forgiveness
- In the process, it guards God's people from thinking God's grace is cheap
- Reparation imagery - paying the debt of sin

Rundown of all 5 offerings:

1 - Burnt offering - Consecration to God

"I'm yours & I need you."

A fully engaged general recognition of sin and need for God with a wholesale commitment in response to Him.

2 - Grain Offering - Thanksgiving for God

"Thank you."

A grateful remembrance of God's faithful provision and in return dedication of daily work.

3 - Peace Offering - Fellowship with God

"I love you."

A Joyful celebration of relationship with God and the ensuing peace and wholeness of life from it. Shared communally.

4 - Sin Offering - Purification before God

"I'm sorry - Please forgive me."

A confession of inadvertent sin and restoration of sinner through the barriers sin creates - Sin as dirt that needs cleansing.

5 - Guilt Offering - Restitution unto God

"I'm sorry - I want to make this right."

A recognition of the damaging impact of violating our relationship with God and our neighbor. Sin as debt that needs paying.

APPLICATION

#1 - Sin is *THE* problem... and it's a serious one

- 1 - Sin separates us from God
- 2 - Sin fractures us from each other
- 3 - Sin shackles us in fear, shame and guilt
- 4 - Sin ushers in suffering

How do we better see our sin?

- 1 - Pray for awareness
- 2 - Pore over God's Word
- 3 - Put ourselves in community
- 4 - Pay attention to guilt & shame

#2 - Sin requires atonement

Expiation - effect of the offering on the worshiper: Removal of sin

Propitiation - effect of the offering on God: Satisfaction of His justice & wrath

#3 - God makes atonement!

True and Better Sin Offering

“But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of

his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.”

Hebrews 9:11-15

True and Better Guilt Offering

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

Colossians 2:13-14

#4 - Receiving God's atonement requires a heart response

The once and for all offering doesn't have to be repeated... just reapplied.

As Christians, our confession of sin is no longer a condition of entrance into relationship with God (salvation), but of enjoyment of that relationship with God (sanctification).

#5 - Rest and rejoice in God's forgiving atonement!