

Leviticus Chapter 4

1. Burnt offering: An offering of consecration, dedicating our lives to God.
 2. Meat / meal offering, a grain offering: An offering of thanksgiving to God, and expression of gratitude towards God.
 3. Peace offering: Communion – fellowship with God.
 4. Sin offering: Cleansing, a covering for sin.
- All the other offerings up to this point have been voluntary; the sin offerings described in chapters 4 & 5 are different, they are mandatory.
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4 illustrations: The priest that is anointed / the high priest, the people / nation, rulers, and ordinary people.

V: 1-3 God speaks to and through His servant:

- The sin offering for the High Priest, and to all.

1 John 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

- “Sin” is an old English word, actually an archery term. In a competition the contestants would aim for the bull’s eye or a attempt to shoot their arrows through a ring attached to a pole. If they missed the bulls eye, or missed getting the arrow through the ring: they fell short, missed the mark, they “sinned”.
- They tried to hit the mark, but in an un-intentional sense they just missed, fell short.
- There is another term as it relates to sin which is “transgression” or “trespass” – and that is willful sin or iniquity. Willful sin, going where we know not to go.
- Iniquity cover’s both un-intentional or intentional or willful types of sin.
- Maybe it’s a weakness in the flesh; they want to do good, they don’t want to sin; but they fall short:
- In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus told Peter, James, and John to watch and pray; but what did He find – there they were sleeping.

Jesus told them:

Matthew 24:41 “... the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

- They didn’t mean to, they just got tired and fell asleep – they missed the mark that day.

- Maybe it's an area of our lives where the Spirit is still doing a work, a weakness, and we don't quite have victory over it yet.
- We see that phrase "through ignorance" – not being ignorant of the law, but being ignorant that they had violated the law. They had become defiled or disobedient and didn't realize it.

Leviticus 5:17 "And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the Lord; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity."

Intentional or un-intentional:

Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death..."

- Other translations like the NKJV translate that phrase "through ignorance" as – "un-intentionally"

James 1:14-15 "14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

- The distinction here is that this person is not living in active rebellion to God, which if that is the case there is no remedy.

Contrast:

Numbers 15:30-31 "30 But the soul that doeth aught presumptuously (willfully), whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the Lord; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. 31 Because he hath despised the word of the Lord; and hath broken His commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him."

James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Hebrews 10:26-29 "26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, and unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

- Once the sin was known or discovered, it was to be confessed and dealt with.

David prays:

Psalms 19:12 "... cleanse thou me from secret faults."

Psalm 139:23-24 ²³“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

- When they sinned & when we sin; there is only one solution to that sin – there must be a sin offering. There is no other solution – there must be a sin offering.

Hebrews 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

V: 4 As with the other offerings there is the laying on of hands and the confession, imputing the sin of the man onto the animal, then the animal was slain.

Isaiah 53:4-6 ⁴“Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

- As though we laid our hand upon Jesus, our sacrificial lamb, our sin offering.
- As Paul described in **Romans 6:23** sin always brings forth death, in this case the substitutionary death of the animal.
- As with the other sacrifices the animal is brought to the door of the Tabernacle, to the presence of God, brought before the Lord and slain there.
- Slain by the sinner, personal accountability, seeing 1st hand the consequence for sin.

V: 5-7 The priest shall take the blood and present it before the Tabernacle of the congregation.

- He is presenting a life that was sacrificed:

Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

- Dipping his finger in the blood, the priest was to sprinkle 7X's before the veil that leads into the Holy Place – into the Tabernacle itself.
- As sinners, the only way for us to enter into the presence of God is through the shed blood of a sin sacrifice:

Speaking of Jesus:

Ephesians 2:18 “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

- Sprinkling 7X's – 7 speaks of completion:

John 19:30 “... it is finished...”

Hebrews 10:17-18 ¹⁷“And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. ¹⁸Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.”

- Complete, nothing to be added:
- Some churches say that you also have to:
 1. Be a member of their church.
 2. Not listen to rock-n-roll.
 3. Wear or not wear certain clothes.
 4. Be baptized, or baptized in a specific way.
 5. And many other things...

Galatians 1:8 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

V: 7 “... the priest shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense...”

- The sprinkling of the blood differed from the high priest:
- He went into the Holy Place, where only the priests could go.
- He sprinkled the blood upon the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies.
- He also placed blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense.
- Later as we'll read; when a ruler or ordinary person sinned, the blood was not carried into the Holy Place it was kept outside and placed upon the horns of the altar of sacrifice, then poured out.

V: 8-10 The fat – the best part, the most desirable part is offered to the Lord.

- The kidneys / reins: symbolizing the thoughts and intents of the heart are offered to the Lord.
- The caul / middle parts, diaphragm – the breath of life: given to the Lord.

V: 11 The skin, the fleshly covering: (Our righteousness)

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

Isaiah 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”

“... *and all his flesh...*”

Romans 8:13 “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

Romans 8:8 “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

“... *and his head...*” (The mind...)

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

“... *and with his legs...*” Our walk, our way of life is sacrificed to the Lord.

Romans 6:4-5 “⁴Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.”

“... his inwards...”

“... *and his dung...*”

- In summary, everything – even the bad stuff, my whole life, I count it as waste in light of Jesus.

Philippians 3:8 “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”

V: 12 The bullock was to be taken outside the camp, and there to be burned:

- The sin offering was to be different and distinct.
- It also pointed to our Lord Jesus.

Hebrews 13:11-12 “¹¹For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.
¹²Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate.”

- Jesus was our sin offering, He was taken outside the gate, and there He was sacrificed.

V: 13-14 We move from the sin of the priest to the sin of the nation; the price is the same.

- The priest was representative of the nation and had in fact a greater degree of responsibility.

James 3:1 “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

Luke 12:48 “... For unto whosoever much is given, of him shall be much required...”

- The sin of the priest directly affected the nation. Often times we bemoan the condition of our own nation – recognizing our own godlessness.

2 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

- The godlessness and corruption that we recognize is merely an outward sign of a much deeper problem.

V: 20 A repeated sequence & phrase for each type of sinner:

“... and the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them.”

- This is a phrase that is repeated for the nation, leaders, and regular people – but not for the high priest.
- That is because the sinner cannot proclaim himself clean and forgiven.

V: 22-25 When a “ruler” sinned – working our way down the pecking order – they could bring a male goat for their sin offering.

V: 27-35 When any of the “common people” – they could bring either a female goat or lamb for their sin offering.

- Even though there was a sliding scale in terms of the sacrifices offered; a higher price for the High Priest and or the nation as a whole; a lower price for the common people – we see that there was always a price to be paid – a consequence for sin.

V: 33 All of the sacrifices were the same in the sense that in each instance, the person who was offering the sacrifice would lay their hands upon the animal and impart or impute their sins to the animal.

- Any time we approach God looking for forgiveness – it is always from a position of humility.

Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

V: 35 “Atonement” (H3722). kaphar, kaw-far'; to cover.

- The first time this word is used is in Genesis 6:14 when Noah is instructed to cover the ark with pitch.
- Here the sin of the people is covered in the blood of the animal, but it is a temporary covering.
- In the New Testament the word “atonement” is used only once:

Romans 5:10-11 ¹⁰For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much, more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”

- Translated as the same word in English, but it has a different meaning.

Atonement: (G2643) katallage, kat-al-lag-ay'; reconciliation.

- The same word is translated as “reconciliation” in 3 other scriptures:

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 ¹⁸And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself, by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

- As New Testament believers our sins are not just “covered” in a temporary sense; they are washed away by the blood of Jesus.

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

- The last 5 words in this chapter: “... *it shall be forgiven him.*”

Numbers 14:18 “The Lord is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression,...”

Psalms 32:1-2 “¹Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”

1 John 1:9 “⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”