



Equipping People for Life

The Sin Offering

(The Sacrifices of Leviticus – Lev. 4 & 6:24-30)

March 12, 2016

Hebrews 10:1-4 (NKJV) – 1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year. 4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

Notes

I. Sin offerings are not voluntary.

Leviticus 4:1-2 (NKJV) – 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,*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NKJV) – 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

1 John 3:4 (NKJV) – Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

II. Sin offerings cover 4 different kinds of people.

1. The anointed priest – a young bull.

Leviticus 4:3 (NKJV) – 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.

2. The whole congregation – young bull.

Leviticus 4:13-14 (NKJV) – 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 a young bull.

3. A ruler – a male goat.

Leviticus 4:22-23 (NKJV) – 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 a kid of the goats, a male without blemish.

A. The ruler (**נָשִׂיא**, nasi) could be the clan leader within a tribe.

B. The ruler could also be a secular leader.

4. A common person – a female goat.

Leviticus 4:27 (NKJV) – 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 a kid of the goats, a female without blemish.

Sin offerings vary according to a person’s status.

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

Is there such a thing as a lesser sin?

The seriousness of sin varies according to knowledge and the deed.

Knowledge – Luke 12:47-48 (NKJV) – ⁴⁷ **And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.** ⁴⁸ **But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.**

The deed itself. – There are 21 capital sins in the Old Testament¹ –

- Murder (Exod. 21:12)

¹ Norman L. Geisler, Christian Ethics: Options and Issues, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989), p. 200.

- Contemptuous act against a judge (Deut. 17:12)
- Causing a miscarriage (Exod. 21:22-25)
- False testimony in a potentially capital crime (Deut. 19:16-19)
- Negligence by the owner of an ox that kills people (Exod. 21:29)
- Idolatry (Exod. 22:20)
- Blasphemy (Lev. 24:15-16)
- Witchcraft or sorcery (Exod. 22:18)
- False prophecy (Deut. 18:20)
- Apostasy (Lev. 20:2)
- Breaking the Sabbath (Exod. 31:14)
- Homosexuality (Lev. 20:13)
- Bestiality (Lev. 20:15-16)
- Adultery (Lev. 20:10)
- Rape (Deut. 22:25)
- Incest (Lev. 20:11)
- Cursing parents (Deut. 5:16)
- Rebellion by children (Exod. 21:15, 17)
- Kidnapping (Exod. 21:16)
- Drunkenness by a priest (Lev. 10:8-9)
- Unanointed individuals touching the holy furnishings in the temple (Num. 4:15)

Some Old Testament sins are not capital sins.

Exodus 21:22-27 (NKJV) – ²² “If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman’s husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges *determine*. ²³ But if *any* harm follows, then you shall give life for life, ²⁴ eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵ burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. ²⁶ “If a man strikes the eye of his male or female servant, and destroys it, he shall let him go free for the sake of his eye. ²⁷ And if he knocks out the tooth of his male or female servant, he shall let him go free for the sake of his tooth.

III. Sin offerings cover unintentional sin.

Leviticus 4:2 (NKJV) – ‘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,

Leviticus 4:13 (NKJV) – 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....

Leviticus 4:22 (NKJV) – Leviticus 4:22 (NKJV) – ‘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....

Leviticus 4:27 (NKJV) – If anyone of the common people sins unintentionally by doing *something against* any of the commandments....

Numbers 15:30 (NKJV) – ³⁰ ‘But the person who does *anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger*, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people.

Literally: “with a high hand”

Does the New Testament distinguish between unintentional sin and intentional sin?

Hebrews 10:26-31 (NKJV) – ²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord. And again, “*The LORD will judge His people.*” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

IV. How are sin offerings offered?

A. Sin offerings are offered in 2 different places.

- 1) Lev. 4:7 & 18 – golden altar of incense
- 2) Lev. 4:25 & 30 – brazen altar

B. The blood is applied – to the horns and base of the altar.

C. The meat of the animal was offered.

Hebrews 13:11-12 (NKJV) – ¹¹ 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.