

The Presence: Sin Offerings

Leviticus 4-5:13

INTRODUCTION

- All the offerings brought people back to the epicenter of God's presence, the tabernacle, which we see fulfilled in Christ as He tabernacled among us (**John 1:14**).
 - These offerings were gracious provisions by God to help the people know how to come back to Him, dwelling in His fellowship.
 - The 2 compulsory offerings....
 - Sin Offering repaired the broken relationship between the worshiper and the Lord as a result of sinning against the Lord unintentionally or by neglecting doing the right thing.
 - Guilt Offering repaired the broken relationship between the worshiper and the Lord as a result of sinning by a breach of faith - sins of disbelief.

Offerings for Unintentional Sin (4:1-35)

A) The Unintentional Sin (4:1-2)

- a. Even unintentional sins must be atoned for (different from pre-meditated sin)
- b. We remain guilty, needing to be restored
- c. "I didn't mean to" sins
- d. **1 John 1:10**

B) Atoning for the Sins of Priests (4:3-12)

- a. Brings guilt upon the people
 - i. He is their mediator. If he is unclean he cannot fulfill his task on behalf of the people before God
 - ii. Sin has extensive consequences
- b. Procedure of atonement
 - i. Costliest sacrifice (unblemished bull)
 - ii. Identify with the sacrifice at the entrance (like everyone else)
 - iii. Takes some of the blood (for his sin) inside the tent of meeting (where others could not go) - sprinkle

- blood in front of the veil 7 times (for completeness) where the work would be done once a year on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16) - Also sprinkle some blood on the horns of the altar near the veil
- iv. Return outside the entrance and finished slaying the bull and spilling the blood at the altar there
 - v. The mediating work of the priest had been polluted by sin and had to be atoned for before the rest of sacrifice could be completed

c. **Hebrews 4:14-16**

C) Atoning for the Sins of Whole Congregation (4:13-21)

- a. Communal sin atoned for by representatives: Elders (identifying on behalf of the people & themselves)
- b. Sacrifice the same as priests
- c. A Royal Priesthood
 - i. The whole congregation, while represented by priests, were also counted as a priesthood
 - ii. Seriousness of the sin of the priesthood
 - iii. **1 Peter 2:9**

D) Atoning for the Sins of Leaders (4:22-26)

- a. Civil leaders
- b. Sin not as serious by degree as sins of the Priest or congregation, but atonement still required

E) Atoning for the Sins of Common People (4:27-35)

- a. Realization and acknowledgement of sin
- b. Sacrifice of an unblemished goat or lamb, a more common animal - identify with the sacrifice for atonement
- c. Seemingly not as intense a process, but instead of revealing that this is "small" in God's eyes, it reveals that everyone is guilty and any sin demands sacrifice before a Holy God!
- d. **Romans 3:23**

Offerings for Sins of Negligence by Individuals (5:1-13)

A) Sins of Negligence (5:1-4)

- a. Neglecting to bear Testimony for Justice
- b. Neglecting to avoid unclean things
- c. Neglecting to be careful with oaths

B) The Need for Confession in Atoning for Sin (5:5-6)

- a. Agreeing with God's view of your sin
- b. Speaking what you realize to be sin
- c. Following God's commands upon confession

C) Acceptable Sacrifices (5:7-13)

- a. Lamb
- b. Birds (turtledoves & pigeons) - **Luke 2:24**
- c. Flour
- d. Available to all / A matter of the heart

Truth Applied Today...

- A) God is Holy and no sin of any kind can be overlooked - He will dwell in the midst of His people
 - a. Holiness of His dwelling place
 - b. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
 - c. **Ephesians 2:22**
 - d. **Hebrews 9:21-28**
- B) Sin is Sin whether you mean to or not

- a. All sin is disobedience to the Lord's commands - whether intentional or unintentional. Commission or omission, it doesn't matter...atonement is needed
- b. The sin of leaders is particularly heavy
 - i. Pastors
 - ii. Teachers
 - iii. Heads of Household
- c. Sin at any level (leader, community, individual) has consequences for others

C) Christ is our Priest

- a. No atonement for personal sin needed...He's Perfect!
- b. HIS blood provides our access through the veil...NO other mediator or sacrifice needed!
- c. **Hebrews 10:19-23**

D) Confession is essential for the soul

- a. **Psalm 32:5**
- b. **1 John 1:9**

E) Christ is the Acceptable Sacrifice

- a. Impartial...acceptable for all who believe
- b. **Hebrews 10:11-14**

F) The Forgiveness of Sin is Worship

- a. Confession AND forgiveness are essential to restored community & corporate worship
- b. **Ephesians 1:5-10**