

Leviticus 4:1-35 Offerings for Unintentional Sins

The Burnt Offering, the Meat Offering, and the Peace Offerings revealed in the first three Chapters of Leviticus provided Instructions from YeHoVaH to His people on how to properly respond to His love for them and how they would be able to develop and maintain their special relationship with Him through voluntary offerings and sacrifices.

The voluntary Burnt Offering expressed devotion, commitment, and complete surrender to serving YeHoVaH.

The Meat/Meal/Grain Offering was a bloodless sacrifice, a memorial Offering sacrificed on the altar.

The Peace Offering was offered to indicate peace between the offeror and YeHoVaH as well as to give thanks and to vow unto YeHoVaH.

In this teaching, we will examine the Offerings for Unintentional Sins, a required offering commanded by YeHoVaH, and the categories of those required to offer the offering.

We must remember: The first three Chapters revealed Instructions from YeHoVaH to His people on how to properly respond to His love for them and how they would be able to develop and maintain their special relationship with Him through voluntary offerings and sacrifices.

As we go through this Chapter, it is important to understand that at this point Moses has not received all of the Instructions from YeHoVaH to give to the people.

The Hebrews did not have their own personal copy of the Torah. They relied on the reading or declaring of the Torah as Moses received it and was instructed to share it with the people.

Although YeHoVaH knew, once the people heard the Law, some may have reflected and realized they had been unaware that they had violated a Law and then desired to make atonement for the sin they committed.

In this Chapter, 4 classes of people are listed as involved in committing unintentional sins:

- (1) The "anointed priest" (vv. 3-12)
- (2) The "whole Israelite community" (vv. 13-21)
- (3) A "leader or ruler" (vv. 22-26)
- (4) A "member of the community" (vv. 27-35)

Each class of people was responsible for a specific offering; the offerings will be described according to each class.

Keep in mind that the sins mentioned in this Chapter are for personal atonement as described by the offering per category.

Lev 4:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Lev 4:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them:

Sin – 02398 חַטָּאת chata' {khaw-taw'}

Meaning: 1) to sin, miss, miss the way, go wrong, incur guilt, forfeit, purify from uncleanness 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to miss 1a2) to sin, miss the goal or path of right and duty 1a3) to incur guilt, incur penalty by sin, forfeit (Hiphil) 1c1) to miss the mark 1c2) to induce to sin, cause to sin (Hithpael) 1d1) to miss oneself, lose oneself, wander from the way

Usage: AV - sin 188, purify 11, cleanse 8, sinner 8, committed 6, offended 4, blame 2, done 2, fault 1, harm 1, loss 1, miss 1, offender 1, purge 1, reconciliation 1, sinful 1, trespass 1; 238

Ignorance 07684 נִלְוָה shegagah {sheg-aw-gaw'}

Meaning: 1) sin, sin of error or inadvertence, inadvertent sin 1a) error

Usage: AV - (through, in...) ignorance 12, unawares 4, error 2, unwittingly 1; 19

Lev 4:3 If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering.

Three reoccurring principles of atonement are found in this verse:

- (1) Substitution ("present the bull")
- (2) Identification ("lay his hand on its head")
- (3) The death of the substitute ("slaughter it")

The anointed priest is the High Priest. The High Priest is dealt with first as the one who serves in the presence of YeHoVaH on behalf of the people.

The High Priest's sacrificial requirement is similar to the Day of Atonement with the exception that he is not to enter the Most Holy Place.

Lev 4:4 And he shall bring the bullock unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD; and shall lay his hand upon the bullock's head, and kill the bullock before the LORD.

Lev 4:5 And the priest that is anointed shall take of the bullock's blood, and bring it to the tabernacle of the congregation:

Lev 4:6 And the priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle of the blood seven times before the LORD, before the veil of the sanctuary.

Lev 4:7 And the priest shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of the congregation; and shall pour all the blood of the bullock at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Lev 4:8 And he shall take off from it all the fat of the bullock for the sin offering; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards,

Lev 4:9 And the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away,

Lev 4:10 As it was taken off from the bullock of the sacrifice of peace offerings: and the priest shall burn them upon the altar of the burnt offering.

Lev 4:11 And the skin of the bullock, and all his flesh, with his head, and with his legs, and his inwards, and his dung,

Lev 4:12 Even the whole bullock shall he carry forth without the camp unto a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn him on the wood with fire: where the ashes are poured out shall he be burnt.

Lev 4:13 And if the whole congregation of Israel sin through ignorance, and the thing be hid from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which should not be done, and are guilty;

Lev 4:14 When the sin, which they have sinned against it, is known, then the congregation shall offer a young bullock for the sin, and bring him before the tabernacle of the congregation.

Lev 4:15 And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock before the LORD: and the bullock shall be killed before the LORD.

Lev 4:16 And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation:

Lev 4:17 And the priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, even before the veil.

Lev 4:18 And he shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar which is before the LORD, that is in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Lev 4:19 And he shall take all his fat from him, and burn it upon the altar.

Lev 4:20 And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them.

Lev 4:21 And he shall carry forth the bullock without the camp, and burn him as he burned the first bullock: it is a sin offering for the congregation.

Lev 4:22 When a ruler hath sinned, and done somewhat through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD his God concerning things which should not be done, and is guilty;

Lev 4:23 Or if his sin, wherein he hath sinned, come to his knowledge; he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a male without blemish:

Lev 4:24 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat, and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering before the LORD: it is a sin offering.

Lev 4:25 And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out his blood at the bottom of the altar of burnt offering.

Lev 4:26 And he shall burn all his fat upon the altar, as the fat of the sacrifice of peace offerings: and the priest shall make an atonement for him as concerning his sin, and it shall be forgiven him.

Lev 4:27 And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty;

Lev 4:28 Or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he hath sinned.

Lev 4:29 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering.

Lev 4:30 And the priest shall take of the blood thereof with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out all the blood thereof at the bottom of the altar.

Lev 4:31 And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat is taken away from off the sacrifice of peace offerings; and the priest shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savour unto the LORD; and the priest shall make an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him.

Lev 4:32 And if he bring a lamb for a sin offering, he shall bring it a female without blemish.

Lev 4:33 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay it for a sin offering in the place where they kill the burnt offering.

Lev 4:34 And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out all the blood thereof at the bottom of the altar:

Lev 4:35 And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat of the lamb is taken away from the sacrifice of the peace offerings; and the priest shall burn them upon the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the LORD: and the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him.

Takeaway Lessons from this Chapter:

Sin Through Ignorance

Many people who confess to be God's people - saved, sanctified (set apart), and born-again believers - are not aware of how they commit various sins against themselves and against YeHoVaH/God through ignorance of His Law.

Hosea stated plainly:

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Sin, in the New Testament writings, is defined as a violation of the Law.

1Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

YeHoVaH made provisions for unintentional sins or sins committed due to ignorance. The Torah was and is a lot to retain, therefore one could commit a sin and not know it was or is a sin. The Torah reveals sin. We as a people would not know what sin is unless we know the Torah/Law.

Ro 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ro 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

By knowing the Law, we can avoid sinning!

When we know what sin is, we can make the choice not to sin!

Not sinning is within our power by knowing what it is and choosing not to do it!

Paul stated that he did not want YeHoVaH's people to be ignorant and yet many have not only chosen to be ignorant but choose to remain ignorant when the truth is revealed to them.

If you don't know the Law, you will not know what sin is. If you do not know what sin is, how do you know you are not sinning?

If the Law teaches what sin is, by knowing and obeying the Law we can stop sinning!

The church leaders should teach their people what sin is if they truly loved YeHoVaH and want their people to have eternal life.

Fornication is sin.
Lying is sin.
Committing adultery is sin.
Eating unclean is sin.
Not keeping the 7th day Holy is sin.
Bearing false witness is sin.
Dishonoring parents is sin.

Paul wrote Timothy

2Ti 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
2Ti 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
2Ti 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

These are those days ... the last days.

Father did not want His people to perish then because of sin nor does He want people to perish today which is why Yeshua has not returned.

Peter wrote:

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.