

Leviticus 17:1-16 The Blood

The blood of man and animals contains the life of them both. The loss of blood leads to loss of vitality and a draining away of the blood leads to death. The blood of animals played a significant role in the life of Israel. The blood of the lamb on the doorpost of their homes in Egypt distinguished them from the Egyptians.

YeHoVaH gave strict Instructions and Regulations of what to do with the blood of an animal Sacrifice.

In this portion of Leviticus, YeHoVaH instructs Moses, Aaron, and all of Israel against worshipping idols, eating blood, and instructed them where their Sacrifices were to take place.

Slaughtering animals and presenting them as Sacrificial Offerings can be traced all the way back to Abel. According to Hebrew 11:4, by faith, Abel offered God a better Sacrifice than Cain did. By faith, Abel was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his Offerings. And by faith, he still speaks, even though he is dead.

Building Altars and offering Sacrifices to YeHoVaH can be traced back to Noah. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel all built Altars and offered Sacrifices to YeHoVaH.

Although YeHoVaH made it clear to Noah that the life of a living creature was in the blood, and that eating blood was forbidden, He gave no Instructions on what to do with the blood of an animal Sacrifice until He made Israel a nation.

Apparently, while the Children of Israel lived in bondage in Egypt, they adopted idolatrous practices as evidenced by the making of and sacrifices offered to the golden calf.

The development of the Nation and Kingdom of Israel required a centralized government:

YeHoVaH the central focus and King,
the **Torah** its constitution,
and the **Tabernacle** the centralized place to offer Sacrifices.

YeHoVaH established the Regulations of where Sacrifices were to be offered.

Lev 17:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Lev 17:2 Speak unto Aaron, and unto his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them; This *is* the thing which the LORD hath commanded, saying,

Lev 17:3 What man soever *there be* of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth *it* out of the camp,

Lev 17:4 And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer an offering unto the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD; blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people:

The blood of the sacrificed animal was the most important part of the Sacrifice. Any Offering made unto YeHoVaH had to be made at the designated place to be acceptable. The Priests were given Instructions on what to do with the blood of the Sacrifice and played a key role in all Sacrifices made unto YeHoVaH.

The following verses indicate that Israel sacrificed in the open fields and possibly to demons while living in Egypt.

Lev 17:5 To the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices, which they offer in the open field, even that they may bring them unto the LORD, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest, and offer them *for* peace offerings unto the LORD.

They brought their idolatry with them when they left Egypt and now their minds had to be renewed to what was acceptable. Israel had to be taught to distinguish between what was holy and what was profane, what was clean and unclean, and what was acceptable and what was not acceptable. YeHoVaH established order in Worship, Sacrifices, and Offerings.

Lev 17:6 And the priest shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar of the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and burn the fat for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Lev 17:7 And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a-whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations.

Devils – **08163** שָׂעִיר sa'ir {saw-er'} or שְׂעִיר sa'ir {saw-er'}

Meaning: adj 1) hairy n m 2) he-goat, buck 2a) as sacrificial animal 2b) satyr, may refer to a demon possessed goat like the swine of Gadara (Mt. 8:30-32)

Usage: AV - kid 28, goat 24, devil 2, satyr 2, hairy 2, rough 1; 59

The golden calf event revealed many of the Israelites' idolatrous nature. At that time, YeHoVaH told Moses that He knew these people and that they were a stiff-necked people.

Ex 32:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it *is* a stiffnecked people:

Ex 32:10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

Lev 17:8 And thou shalt say unto them, *Whatsoever* man *there be* of the house of Israel, or of the strangers which sojourn among you, that offereth a burnt offering or sacrifice,

There was a penalty for offering Burnt Offerings or Sacrifices anywhere other than the Tabernacle.

Lev 17:9 And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer it unto the LORD; even that man shall be cut off from among his people.

There was a penalty for eating blood.

Lev 17:10 And whatsoever man *there be* of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people.

Lev 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.

The Hebrew writer stated:

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

Lev 17:12 Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood.

The blood of an animal that was killed for food had to be properly disposed of according to YeHoVaH's Instructions.

Lev 17:13 And whatsoever man *there be* of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust.

Lev 17:14 For *it is* the life of all flesh; the blood of it *is* for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh *is* the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.

Lev 17:15 And every soul that eateth that which died *of itself*, or that which was torn *with beasts*, *whether it be* one of your own country, or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes, and bathe *himself* in water, and be unclean until the even: then shall he be clean.

Lev 17:16 But if he wash *them* not, nor bathe his flesh; then he shall bear his iniquity.

While Israel wandered in the wilderness, the Tabernacle was in the midst of the Camp of Israel. Once the Children of Israel entered The Land, YeHoVaH would choose a place in one of the Tribes.

Dt 12:13 Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:

Dt 12:14 But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

Dt 12:15 Notwithstanding thou mayest kill and eat flesh in all thy gates, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the roebuck, and as of the hart.

Dt 12:16 Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water.

The significance of the blood and its atoning ability, according to YeHoVaH, was emphasized in several places throughout the Torah.

It was the significance of the Atoning Blood Sacrifice that pointed to the powerful blood of the Messiah.

Heb 9:11 But Messiah being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Heb 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.