

A Call to Relationship: Forgiveness through Obedience

Main Scripture: Leviticus 4: 1-13

Supporting Scriptures: Romans 6:23; 1John 1: 8; Romans 3:23; Hebrews 4:15; [Christ the High Priest] Hebrews 7:6; Hebrews 2:9; [Christ the substitute:] 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18; [Saraph] Hebrews 13:10 -13; Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 8

Recap:

Olah - a sweet aroma to the Lord

Minkah - Grain Offering

Peace offering

All had to be burnt on the altar and the smoke that went to the heavens was pleasing to the lord.

These were given to deal with man's corrupt nature before God and makes us understand that mankind is immoral and wicked and we can't come before God with that kind of nature. Often times we hear how an individual is a good person and people will testify of their good works, but we should understand how corrupt man is after the fall when Adam and Eve sinned we inherited a corrupt nature. Paul refers to this as the power of sin. The nature in mankind. It doesn't matter if you never break one of God's laws you still can't escape your corrupt nature and that God has something against this nature and that's why good works or behavior and lacking faith in Jesus will not qualify one to inherit eternal life. It is the nature of mankind that determines if he is acceptable to God or not. As such we receive a new nature when we trust in Jesus Christ the one who came into a sinful world and knew no sin and once we trust in Him we receive the Holy Spirit which leads us to do right. Read Romans 8

Let's look at the Sin-offering

It is the Lord that is instructing Moses this is not coming from mankind. It is the Lord's command. He speaks to Moses and tells him to give the following instructions to the people. This is how you are to deal with those who sin unintentionally. THIS IS an UNINTENTIONAL SIN, not a sin that is planned out and committed. Not premeditated sin. Here the first one the Lord is dealing with is the High Priest. If the High Priest sins, bringing guilt on the entire community. What we observe here, is called the sin offering also known in Hebrew as the Hata that deals with purification. So the person's spirit is defiled, we are impure because of unintentional sins and the Lord begins with the High Priest.

We observe in the text that this person/HP has the ability to place the entire community in sin or guilt. He sins and the entire community is guilty before the Lord. One individual sin. We understand that the HP sin is a transgression of the Lord's laws as he carries out his duty on behalf of the people. He must give a sin offering for the sin he has committed. Unlike the offerings that we discussed previously, the burnt offering and the peace offering, in this chapter, the kind of offering that is desired God takes notice of the value of the offering. So the High Priest has to offer an expensive offering. He must bring a young bull and sacrifice it unto the Lord. The Young bull without defects, no blemish, He must bring this bull at the entrance, lay his hand on the head and kill it. Here we see another picture of substitution. The bull will be killed on behalf of the High Priest. Sacrifice is done in the presence of the Lord. The intention here is forgiveness of sin. One of the very first principles in Leviticus 4 is that when it comes to sin the principle of confession before God is quite real. HP takes the blood into the tabernacle and sprinkles the blood on the inner curtain of the sanctuary, it tells us that this Holy God will not tolerate sin in His presence. The Lord said you have sinned before me and brought guilt to the community, this is my instruction so your sins will be forgiven. "The wages of sin is death"

One of the principles we must understand is that forgiveness can only be received through obedience. If we have read the entire passage or chapter we recognize that the Lord covered the entire assembly of Israel. Dealing with unintentional sin. For us to seek forgiveness we must understand we all have broken the Lord's commands whether intentionally or unintentionally.

The HP confesses his sin and his sin has caused the entire assembly to be guilty because he is like an ambassador of Israel to the Lord. We recognize the impact of sin and how one person's sin how it impacts a community and how the Lord Himself judges sin. Now this bull that the HP is asked to offer symbolizes Christ in the sense that when we come to Him we trust in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The difference between this offering and the other is that the Lord offered himself Once and FOR ALL.

This bull had no blemish - Jesus was sinless and became the ultimate sacrifice for us. He stands before God and represents us as our High priest. (Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:6) as the high priest offered the bull for our sin so did Christ die for us. (Hebrews 2:9)

The HP is in the Holy place and stands before the veil and he has to sprinkle the blood 7 times. 7 is the number of completion this also shows how serious the sin of a high priest was as it affected the entire nation. He also had to sprinkle some blood on the horns of the altar for fragrant incense that stands in the tabernacle. This is the incense that goes up as a sweet aroma. When the blood touches the altar it became holy. It's significant to note how that relates to us. Sin has to be dealt with before God can act on our behalf. The HP's guilt must be removed, he wants his prayers to be answered and so he placed the blood upon the altar.

The HP removes all the fat and the kidneys and burns them on the altar this too is pleasing to the Lord. We see how detailed the Lord is in telling the High Priest what he desires. It's a Holy act. These are the choices parts that are offered up as a burnt offering. The Hebrew word used for this kind is a burnt offering Leviticus 4:8-9 this act of burning up - Qatar - that act of burning a sacrificial offering into smoke. This word is used when referring to the incense burnt in the holy place. This is a Holy act or procedure. Verse 11 says he must take what's left of the bull and carry it to a place outside the camp that is ceremonially clean and burn it on the ash heap on a wood fire.

Now he is telling the High Priest that whatever is left is to be taken outside the camp. If we read the Bible carefully we will understand that the nation was placed in camps according to their tribe around the tabernacle. Outside the camp, the entire remains of the sacrifice that is not accepted as a burnt offering must be burnt on an ash heap. This action is called Seraph - to destroy by burning.

Hebrews 13:10 - 13 - Jesus also suffered and died outside the city gates to make his people holy unto God. I Believe that it describes to us, depending on how we understand cubit feet, its 3000 feet there is a measurement from inside the tabernacle that measures from that point to the boundaries of the camp and so outside of this was a place designated for burning the rest of the sacrifice. Seeing that Jesus died outside the city gates to make us holy by his own blood. Let us go out to him to be crucified with him to be nailed with him to allow ourselves to dies with Him that Christ may live within us. So that the new life is not living from our old past we are dead we bore the disgrace with him that we can be in right standing with Him. The death and the blood of the Lord that pleases us from our sin. Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:9; Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7

The burnt offering was not a sin offering just a desire for man to be close to God so the Lord gives the instruction what to offer. Now when we look at the life of Jesus we see everything is in him and no man can come to God except through him. He is the way to God so anyone desirous of coming near to God must place his hand on the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ the one in whom the voice declared - My son in whom I'm well pleased. as we mentioned earlier in our teaching it is not only unintentional sin that

Jesus deals with. He deals with intentional sin any man that trusts in Him and repents God is able to forgive him. look at the woman caught in adultery (this is not unintentional) but we here of the Lord to her where are your accusers? go your way and sin no more. it is these actions that cause the Jews to question him because he was forgiving sins. so the only way to God is in Jesus Christ. the sacrifice offered up once and for all. once trust in him he has taken care of it.

When we reflect we will reflect that when we got saved we will recognize and be pricked by God's word as he enlightens our minds to the actions that are not pleasing to him and this is something for us to remember is that the believer lives a repentant life before God. this is not an activity that happens once, that's why Paul says he dies daily. that old sinful nature is gone and now He gives us His spirit to do right and obey his commands. before we had a sinful nature but now we have the spirit of the Lord (Romans 8) and we are no longer controlled by the sinful nature. It is so important for us to be filled with the Holy Ghost which gives us the power to do right.

The sin offering here refers to when the High Priest is aware - so if we are aware of unintentional sins we must bring it to the Lord and not let it linger it must be dealt with and we must confess before the Lord repent and move on.

Let's understand that God knows our hearts. we don't really know our own heart. He did say of Israel that those 40 years in the wilderness was to prove to Israel what was in their heart. The trying of the heart is an act where God shows us ourselves. As it pertains to the unintentional sin, somewhere God will allow us to know where we have transgressed. Perhaps we never read a passage in the word and the preaching or teaching or the move of the Holy Ghost where a person is spoken to directly that cause them to search the scriptures and find that they are in error. But the principle that we will understand is that once we identify or are aware that there is a sin it must be dealt with. Also, it must be dealt with according to what HE requires we cant create a formula outside of the scriptures.