

October 8th 2023
Sin and Guilt Offering

Leviticus 4:1-4

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, **2** “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If anyone sins unintentionally in any of the Lord's commandments about things not to be done, and does any one of them, **3** if it is the anointed priest who sins, thus bringing guilt on the people, then he shall offer for the sin that he has committed a bull from the herd without blemish to the Lord for a sin offering. **4** He shall bring the bull to the entrance of the tent of meeting before the Lord and lay his hand on the head of the bull and kill the bull before the Lord.

[Quick recap from last Sunday's Message]

Remember the goal of the Israelites is to get access to a Holy God. And because God is pure and Holy and we as humans are sinful in nature, we cannot just enter into the presence of God **without some type of offering**. There has to be a bridge that can take us to a Holy God. And before we cross the bridge to a Holy God, God is wanting us to deal with our sin before entering to the presence of God. And that is the whole purpose of the book of Leviticus. **How can we deal with our sin**, so we can cross the bridge and encounter God?

Burnt Offering (Hebrew: ‘ôlâh, Pronounced: **o-law**) = Is an effort to renew the relationship between Holy God and sinful man. It was a sacrifice of general atonement on behalf of the nation of Israel — an acknowledgement of the sin and a request for renewed relationship with God.

The entire animal would be sacrificed in the alter except for the skin which was to be given to the priests.

So God in exchange for my sin, here are the animals: The **bull/cow, sheep, goat, turtle dove, pigeons**. This was a voluntary gift to God.

Grain Offering : minhâ (pronounced *min-khaw'*) and it means a gift, tribute, offering, present, and was to worship God and acknowledge His provision.

The priests would take a fine flour, a handful and put oil and frankincense on it and put it in the alter. The rest would go to the priests for their service. **Once again this was a voluntary offer.**

Quick side note: (Grain: wheat or barley) *Have you ever wondered where they would find wheat or barley in the wilderness?* During the Israelites' forty years of wilderness finding grain would have been very difficult. This made grain offerings **more expensive and very precious for the people to offer to God.**

You're not at one place for a long time. So giving a grain offering in those circumstances represented the Israelites' **complete dependence on God to provide for their needs** each day. And that is why Grain Offering is considered a **Thanks Offering** for what God has done.

Peace Offering: The Hebrew Word **šelem** pronounced *sheh'-lem* or in English "Shalom" meaning sacrifice for alliance or friendship. The word **Shalom** also means hello and good-bye.

Peace or Fellowship Offering: is a slaughter of an animal that results in well-being or peace. This offering is different because it results in a meal.

Example: I get into an argument with my wife and I feel bad about it, (feelings of guilt). So I stop by the **flower shop and get a dozen roses to give to her.** I ask her to forgive me and she accepts it and then we go have dinner together. Making a "peace offering."

Three purpose for peace offering:

1. Is a way to say thank you to God for **His goodness**.
2. Peace offering could be given alongside to **fulfilled vow**.
3. Another purpose was to give thanksgiving for **God's deliverance**.

Fulfilled Vow: A good example of this was when Hannah (Hannah could not have a child so she prayed to God for a child and if she was given a child, then she would give that child to God), fulfilled her vow to God by bringing Samuel to the temple to be a priest; on that occasion she also brought a **peace offering** to express the **peace in her heart toward God** concerning her sacrifice—it was a way to say, *“God you have fulfilled your promise, now I will fulfill my promise to you and to show that I have no remorse, I am giving you my peace offering.”* Because Hannah fulfilled her peace offering, God gave to her many more children.

Anytime you make a vow to God and God fulfills it, it's important for you to make a “peace offering” to the Lord. It's simply to say, *“God thank you for who you are and what you are doing in our lives.”*

Before we get into our next offerings of Sin and Guilt offerings, there is an important note, the **Burnt, Grain and Peace offerings are all voluntary offering or free will offerings**.

God is not forcing anyone to give, it is up to you to give from your heart. **God is not interested in taking from us**. That is not His heart at all. It is always about God willing and wanting to give something to us. Like His **salvation**, His **love**, His **protection**, and His **forgiveness**.

So Burnt, Grain and Peace offerings are voluntary, you do it from your heart, but moving forward from Sin and Guilt offerings they are mandatory, and it requires an animal sacrifice. A blood has to be shed.

Now let me briefly explain the **differences between pagan sacrifices vs the sacrifice of God of Israel**. Before God instructed the Israelites how to properly make sacrifices, the pagans (Non-Jews) were already making sacrifices.

[Show picture of God of Molech]

Worship of Molech included infanticide: specifically, it included the murder of infants as a pagan sacrifice. Molech was one of the pagan deities of the Canaanites. They would sacrifice a little child to the god of Molech and they would have loud drums play in the background to drown out the noise of a dying child. Whether it be for a good harvest or just for the forgiveness of their sins or salvation.

I was watching a documentary about Human trafficking that is very prevalent still to this day and among the children they rescued were **children that was to go for human sacrifice**.

God is speaking to the Israelites and letting them know that these type of **sacrifices are pure evil**. So instead of you making your own type of sacrifices, I am going to give you a direct revelation on how you need to give a proper sacrifices and that became the book of Leviticus.

Food Sacrifices to Deities:

As I was doing my research, I found something very interesting. In the ancient times, there were a lot of food and drinks given as a sacrifice to the different deities. **Why food and drinks?**

In ancient times the beliefs were that the lesser gods would serve the bigger gods but later on the lesser gods got sick of serving the bigger gods and so they created the humans to serve the bigger gods. So humans were created to be servants to the big gods.

That is why you see many humans have to work their way UP to salvation or for the forgiveness of their sins. Like the Mormons and

Jehova Witnesses have to meet a certain quota. They have to meet certain number of people a year. Or that the Muslims musty pray five times a day towards Mecca. You have to work your way or you have to serve your way to a god.

In the ancient times, the idea was that when the humans gave food and drinks to the big gods, they **hope that the bigger gods would be pleased with their service**. For many cultures in the east still to this day, you give money to their gods for good success and prosperity or for forgiveness of their sins. **They hope that these gods would listen to their prayers**. That's the bottom line.

[show a picture from the link: Why do they pull a curtain after offering “prasadam” to the Lord in Hinduism]

They would put the food in front of the gods and sometimes money and they would close the curtain and believe that those foods would give strength and nutrition.

So here's the primary difference between the pagan gods and the God of Israel: The **pagan gods hope (no guarantee) that they will receive salvation and the forgiveness of their sins**. But the God of Israel actually gives assurance of forgiveness for your sacrifices.

Leviticus chapter 4 and 5 leads us to that very topic. God will forgive you of your sins.

Let's quickly review what sin is:

Sin is described in the Bible as transgression of the law of God and rebellion against God, or “**missing the mark.**”

1 John 3:4

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (disobedience to God)

- Remember, no one has to teach you how to be jealous, angry, or have conflicts with other people. We do this on our own, right.
- Let's just say that I went on a 10 mile hiking trail with two other friends. But for me I stopped only after a mile because I was out of breathe. But my other friend, "Danny" went up to about five miles and gave out. However, my friend "Jae" went all the way up to 9.9 miles but he still didn't make it to the finish line.

Question: Who finished the line? Who was the greatest sinner?

Nobody because

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

By God's standard (because God is Holy and Pure) no one can finish the line, **because no one is perfect**. All of us have missed the finished line. **All of us have missed the mark.**

And that is why we need Jesus. Only Jesus is the sinless God and only a sinless God can help us get to the finish line. Jesus is pure and holy and He becomes the bridge for us to cross.

You know what the beautiful picture is: When you accept Jesus, God will start wherever you are in your journey. He will start where I am. He will start where Danny is and He will start where Jae is. **And as long as you are on that hiking trail God will help you finish the race.**

So this then leads us to Leviticus 4 and 5 about sin but specifically about unintentional sins that you and I will make all the time.

Leviticus 4:13-14

13 "If the whole congregation of Israel sins **unintentionally** and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the

assembly, and they do any one of the things that by the **Lord's commandments ought not to be done**, and **they realize their guilt**, 14 when the sin which they have **committed becomes known**, the assembly shall offer a bull from the herd for a sin offering and bring it in front of the tent of meeting.

Let's say for example your giving the Grain Offering and you totally forgot to bring the frankincense oil and you only brought the olive oil. God says, "**Don't worry just make your sacrifice, and I will forgive you.**"

Leviticus 4:20

Thus shall he do with the bull. As he did with the bull of the sin offering, so shall he do with this. And the priest shall make atonement for them, and **they shall be forgiven**.

And it continues down when a **leader sins unintentionally** and **realizes his guilt** then he needs to make a sacrifice. Then ,...

Leviticus 4:26

And all its fat he shall burn on the altar, like the fat of the sacrifice of peace offerings. So the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin, and **he shall be forgiven**.

Are you starting to see a pattern? Are you starting to see the nature of God's character. With pagan gods, there is no guarantee of forgiveness of your sins.

Leviticus 4:27

"If anyone of the **common people sins unintentionally** in doing any one of the things that by the Lord's commandments ought not to be done, and realizes his guilt,

Then in **Leviticus 4:31** it says that **you shall be forgiven**. Over and over we see a pattern of a God who is full of grace and forgives all whether they know that they committed sin or that they unknowingly committed sin. When anyone wants to make things right before God, God himself will forgive.

There is a guarantee of forgiveness!

Breaking of Vow or Oath is a sin.

Did you know that in Leviticus when you unknowingly **don't fulfill a vow or an oath that is sin against God**. Sometimes, we say, ***"I promise to do that or take care of it, but we don't."***

God doesn't consider a persons' vow or an oath to be taken lightly. **He holds us to our promise**. When you make a vow in a wedding, that shouldn't be something to take lightly.

Leviticus 5:4-5

4 or if anyone utters with his lips a **rash oath** to do evil or to do good, **any sort of rash oath** that people swear, and it is hidden from him, when he comes to know it, and **he realizes his guilt** in any of these; 5 when he realizes his guilt in any of these and **confesses the sin** he has committed,

Leviticus 5:4 NLT

"Or suppose you make a **foolish vow** of any kind, whether its purpose is for good or for bad. When you realize its foolishness, you must **admit your guilt**.

Making a Vow:

Has any of you ever said something like this, **"I'll pray for you"** but then you got busy or that you just totally forgot and you never prayed for that person and then you realize that you never prayed for that

person. God then reminded you, **you need to pray for that person** because out of your lips, you said you would do so.

If you have not noticed about our church, is that if anyone makes a prayer requests or talks about a difficult situation you are in, **we pray right then there. We don't wait.**

Making an Oath: "Building a Church for God"

I remember many years ago, I had made a promise to God that if you would find me a good wife, then I will build you a church. Well, after I got married, I totally forgot about my promise to God.

But God didn't forget, He reminded me of my promise that I had made to Him. In the morning on my way to work, I was listening to a sermon and the sermon was about **"Fulfilling Your Promise to God."**

I thought to myself, "That was very interesting message." And then later on that night, on my way home, I listened to another sermon and the sermon was about **"Don't forget to fulfill your promise."** Oh my gosh, I freaked out. Never in my time of driving to work and home have I ever had two same messages.

God reminded me of the vow that I had made years ago. So I repented before God and I told God that I will start to build His church. What exactly does **"Building a church means?"**

Well that was my personal journey. Through the business, I started a non-profit organization called **"Church Builders International"** and built up over 25 churches in third world countries. Then ultimately that promise led to New Beginning Community Church. God is very serious about holding your vows to the Lord.

So when you make a vow with another person, or you make a vow between you and God, just go and make things right before God and then go and make things right with the other person.

As we close

Guilt Offering

Leviticus 5:17-19

17 “If anyone sins, doing any of the things that by the Lord's commandments ought not to be done, **though he did not know it, then realizes his guilt**, he shall bear his iniquity. **18** He shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish out of the flock, or its equivalent, for a guilt offering, and the priest shall make atonement for him for the mistake that he made unintentionally, and **he shall be forgiven**. **19** It is a guilt offering; he has indeed incurred guilt before the Lord.”

God is a very forgiving God. So if you are uncertain about whether you have sinned or not, do what Job did:

Job 1:1-5

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was **blameless and upright**, one **who feared God** and **turned away from evil**. **2** There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. **3** He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. **4** His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. **5** And when the days of the feast had run their course, **Job would send and consecrate them**, and **he would rise early in the morning** and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For

Job said, “**It may be that my children have sinned,** and **cursed God in their hearts.**” Thus Job did continually.

- “**Blameless and Upright**”: Good standing in his community.
- “**Who feared God**”: He revered God above all else. He does not fear man but honor and respect God above all else.
- “**Turned away from evil.**” : He made sure that he didn’t turn to any temptations in life.

I thought to myself, this guy has all the good things going on in his life.

Yet, Job gave a an expensive “**burnt offering**” to the Lord. He didn’t care about the cost or how expensive it would be to give an offering. **Even though Job himself did not sin**, but he interceded on behalf of his children.

Job would send and consecrate them first thing in the morning.

And we know later on that even to a good person like Job and even as Job feared God, many bad things happened to His family. Lost of his children, lost of his wealth, and basically lost all that he has. Even his friends accused him of sinning against God.

What carried Job through these challenging times?

His enduring faith and steadfast faith in God. Yes, there was times when Job struggled and wondered why these things happened, but by the end of the story, he realized God had never left him.