

Handout 1: Leviticus Lesson 3

The three distinctive features of the Sinai Covenant not found in pagan culture:

1. Worship of a single god in covenant with a people
2. Worship restricted to a single shrine and altar of sacrifice
3. The elaborate blood ritual in animal sacrifice

The different classes of sacrifices in the Sinai Covenant:

1. The compulsory communal daily whole burnt offering—'*olat ha-tamid* (Ex 29:38-42; Num chapters 28-29).
2. The individual covenant members' voluntary whole burnt offering—'*olah* (Lev 1:1-17; 6:1-6/6:8-13).
3. The individual covenant members' voluntary loyalty offering in the form of grain and/or bread—'*minhah* (Lev 2:1-16; 6:7-16/14-23) and first-fruits offerings (Lev 2:14-16; Dt 26:1-11).
4. The individual covenant members' voluntary communion sacrifices—'*zevah ha-shelemim* (Lev 3:1-17; 7:11-34/1-28; 22:18-23; 19:5-10).
5. The covenant members' and the covenant community's compulsory sin sacrifice—'*hatta't* (Lev 4:1-5:13; 6:17-22/24-30).
6. The individual covenant members' guilt/sacrifice of reparation—'*asham* (Lev 5:14-26/ 6:7; 7:1-10/6:31-40; Num 5:5-10).
7. The compulsory sacrifices and offerings for the appointed holy days (the Sabbath, the annual sacred feasts, the feast of the new moon, etc.) that are God's appointed time [*mo'ed*] for a sacred occasion—'*mikra' kodesh* (Lev chapter 23; Num chapters 28-29).

In Leviticus unintentional sin is described as:

- Sins committed “inadvertently against any of Yahweh’s commandments” and doing anything “prohibited by them” (Lev 4:2)
- Sinning “without being aware of it” in having “incurred guilt by doing something forbidden by Yahweh’s commandments” (Lev 4:13-14)
- To have “inadvertently incurred guilt by doing something forbidden by Yahweh’s commandments or if the sin which he has committed is drawn to his attention” (Lev 4:23, 28).

The five different classes of sin sacrifices for the *hatta't* and the required sacrificial offering:

1. For a high priest an unblemished young bull
2. For the covenant community an unblemished young bull
3. For a leader/ruler of the community an unblemished he-goat
4. For an individual covenant member an unblemished she-goat or ewe lamb
5. For the poor two turtledoves or two young pigeons and for the destitute a tenth of an ephah of wheat flour (1 ephah = 1.25 bushels or 45 liters)

The trespass/sin of reparation for the '*asham* and the required sacrificial offering: An unblemished ram, plus the cost of restitution plus a 20 % guilt fine.

Handout 2: Leviticus Lesson 3

Public confession of the sin in the presence of the priest came before the sacrifice:

- *If he is answerable in any of those cases, he will have to confess the sin committed (Lev 5:5).*
- *Aaron will then lay both his hands on its head and over it confess all the guilt of the Israelites, all their acts of rebellion and all their sins (Lev 16:21).*
- *They shall admit their guilt and that of their ancestors and their infidelities against me, and further, their setting themselves against me (Lev 26:40).*
- *The person must confess the sin committed and restore in full the amount owed, with one-fifth added. Payment is to be made to the person wronged (Num 5:7).*

The sin sacrifice (hatta't):

- The sin sacrifice of a high priest of the community: an unblemished bull calf.
- The sin sacrifice of an individual covenant member: an unblemished female from the flock.
- The sin sacrifice of the poor: two turtledoves or two young pigeons.
- The sin sacrifice of the destitute: one-tenth of an ephah of wheat flour.

The trespass sacrifice ('asham): Offered by an individual covenant member who has infringed Yahweh's sacred rights or commands or has infringed the rights of another covenant member: an unblemished ram and the debt of reparation plus 20%. A trespass of contingency does not require a fine. Classifications of the 'asham trespass sacrifices:

1. Sins against the Sanctuary/ holy things of Yahweh: verses 14-16
2. Sins of contingency: verses 17-19
3. Sins involving deceitful acts against fellow countrymen: verses 20-26

Jesus is our sin sacrifice and our trespass offering:

1. Jesus gave His life as a sin offering (Is 53:10; Mt 26:28) in atonement for our sins. His sacrifice has allowed New Covenant believers to be cleansed of sin and to become one with God (Rom 5:11; 2 Pt 1:4).
2. He is the unblemished "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (Jn 1:29). "He was bearing our sins in His own body on the cross so that we might die to our sins and live for uprightness" (1 Pt 2:24); "through His bruises you have been healed" (Is 53:5).
3. Jesus is our trespass offering: in His sacrifice He paid the debt owed God for our sins by making reparation on our behalf as our substitute sacrifice. He has died in our place, paying the price for our sins (Is 53:12; Mt 20:28; 1 Tim 2:6)—"the punishment reconciling us fell on him" (Is 53:5). As a result, our sin debt has been cancelled and forgiven.
4. Sin is forgiven because God has accepted the sacrifice of the innocent Victim offered as a sacrifice of expiation—His blood "poured out" for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Mt 26:28). The blood of Christ made complete atonement (Rom 3:25; Heb 9:5) because Jesus is our perfect sin offering (Rom 8:3; Heb 13:12). Just as the high priest took the blood of his sacrifice into the earthly Tabernacle to purge it of impurities and restore its holiness, the Lord Jesus took His own blood into the heavenly Sanctuary before the presence of God to cleanse our sin, "reconciling us to God" (2 Cor. 5:17-19) and making us holy in God's sight forever (Heb 9:12; 10:10, 14).