

if a
soul shall
sin
through ignorance

4:1 – 12 Leviticus

~ Our Spiritual Safari has considered the first three of five offerings in the Bible in the Levitical leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God; and the first three are sweet savor offerings. In this section of Scripture, we are instructed on an offering we have previously heard nothing about. It is natural for you and me to sin. We are not sinners because we have sinned; we sin because we are sinners. The old nature is a part of you that is just as real as your right arm. Man is, actually, a sinner on two counts; man is a sinner naturally, but he is also a sinner because of what he chooses to do! And, interestingly, man chooses to do what man chooses to do because he is a sinner, naturally! In this chapter we have a "sin" offering but we also have a "trespass offering." We are guilty of sins and trespasses – two of the top counts; think of it as armed robbery and murder against God! We've been found guilty of both charges.

We have seen very clearly the Person of Christ in the first three offerings of Leviticus. This non-sweet savor offering also shows the Person of Christ; but it shows Him on the cross and His work for sins. There are several very striking features that separate this from all the other offerings and distinguishes just how important understanding this really is. Interestingly, out of the five offerings, the instructions for this one is more than twice as long as the other four.

Prior to Moses receiving the instructions from God in the wilderness for the sin offering, there is no record of it. There has been no previous mention of a sin offerings in the Bible. No other nation had anything even remotely similar to a sin offering. Now that the law has been given, this becomes the most important offering we have. Man has been a sinner since chapter three of Genesis. God did not reveal that sinful condition to man through the law - until now. A sin offering played a prominent part in all of the feasts: Passover, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Feast of Tabernacles and the Great Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur - all required a sin offering! The

sin offering immediately preceded the high priest entering the Holy of Holies.

So, let's look at the striking contrasts between the burnt offering and the sin offering; and the first thing we notice is that they are both made in the same place. The law for the sin offering begins where the burnt offering leaves off. The burnt offering reveals Who Christ is, but the sin offering tells what Christ did for us down here! In the burnt offering, Christ meets the demands of God's high and holy standard, but in the sin offering Christ meets the deep, dark, desperate, depressed, discontented, discouraged remittance of the debts of mankind. We see the preciousness of the Lord Jesus Christ in the burnt offering; but here in the sin offering we see God's hatred of sin. The burnt offering was voluntary, but this sin offering is a command! The burnt offering ascended and went up; but this sin offering is poured out which, naturally, means it goes down.

Alright, our first sin is that of ignorance. This is the sin we don't even realize because we are, well, stupid. We really aren't stupid altogether, but we just don't take the time to realize our sinful condition - which renders us unreasonable. Why? – Because we don't take the time to properly study the Word of God, friends! Right now, we're not talking about the sin that man made the conscious decision to go commit willfully and deliberately. He who despises Moses law shall die without mercy under two or three witnesses. There is no salvation for the man that willfully rejects the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. If we had to narrow down an unpardonable sin – this would be it - but it is really a state of being. The cure is rejected so the patient dies is the picture. Those who knowingly and willfully reject the remedy of Christ dying for their sins have no recourse. God has no way to help them with that. THAT – their rejection of Christ – and it is where one shall find themselves utterly alone!

The realization of sins of ignorance definitely reveals that we are sinners by nature. YOU are a sinner, whether you know it or not! We commit sin because we sin naturally; we were conceived in sin! Irrespective of the estimate of any line in time - man is a sinner in the sight of God. We naturally do things that are contrary to God; and it is impossible for the natural man to do anything at all that will please God unless he has faith in

Him - because man does not have the capacity to please God. You're a sinner by nature and God calls that to your attention in this report. The sin offering gave a profound conviction of sins that stands out in the literature of mankind and the races that nothing in this world can compare to.

The deep guilt complex of man must be diagnosed before a proper remedy can be prescribed. God searches us and knows our hearts and thoughts. God knows your wicked ways and yet He leads us in the way everlasting. That is where you begin with God, friends – not at your psychiatrist. We have a lot of people with that guilt complex today searching out answers with pills and alcohol. Man has given the impression to society that a psychologist or psychiatrist has some special skills that the Word of God somehow missed. I'm here to tell you that is the most ignorant and asinine impression we have bought hook, line and sinker – especially in this country! Only the Word of God has the remedy for your problems, friend.

Whatever your hang up is and whatever is bothering your personality complex; why don't you take that problem to the Great Psychiatrist in prayer. Crawl up on His couch and tell Him everything about yourself and your sins. If you can't think of anything to confess, then just tell Him you want to confess just because of who you are! While you're there, cry out, "...search me, oh, God – and know my heart!" Most people want to approach this with: "Oh, Lord, IF I have sinned forgive me." – Well, you have, so, that prayer is obnoxious and contemptuous to God. Why don't you just tell God what it is in your life that you cannot deal with? You may not even realize what it is, but God knows.

Our problem today is not that we didn't get enough love from our momma's as children. No, our problem is: we're sinners by nature. It would sure be helpful if you told God all about them in prayer. The Psalmist asks, "who can understand his errors; cleanse Thou me from my secret faults?" Do you need to go to God today for a counseling session? He is available without appointment. God has made provision for your deliverance; why don't you take advantage of that? God has the solution for your problems – I don't care who you are or what you've done or do. Remember the cities of refuge? Usually, we know what our sins are but, if we don't, we have a refuge. Peter said he wrote his epistles that we sin not. Peter goes on to say

that when we do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ. Paul says he was the chief of sinners and explains why he obtained mercy. Paul says he was an injurious blasphemer that obtained mercy. Paul did those things ignorantly and in unbelief.

I have done things that I look back on today and I hate myself for them. I did those things in ignorance and just thinking about them makes me ashamed; but I don't have to unpack all that garbage with some man that likely has more problems than I have, and isn't really interested in my problems nearly as much as he is my bank account. Thank God we don't have to confess to some man down here that could never help us anyways! It's none of his business to begin with, but it sure is God's business! Have you been to see Him today? Only God can sprinkle you from an evil conscience and wash you with the pure water of His Word. We are able to come into the presence of God the Father with boldness because Jesus is our sin offering....

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

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:

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.

~ The priest stood in the place of leadership, so he is considered first. If the priest is wrong, then the people are definitely wrong. The priest's sin is the people's sin; like priest, like people. That's what the Word of God says. The young bull that a priest was to bring was the most valuable animal of them all. The position of the one who sinned determined the type of animal that was to be brought. The priest's sin was no different; but his responsibility with that sin was much greater! James was quite practical, and said, "...brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation." I am still asking myself WHY I even bother with this so-called safari, quite frankly!

When we deign take on the position to teach, preach or even just sing a solo connected to Christ, it creates a tremendous responsibility. Why would you want to do that? God is going to hold you to that responsibility. The law makes men high priests that have infirmities; but the word of the oath that was since the law maketh the Son, Who is consecrated forever! That's the difference between Aaron and our High Priest the Lord Jesus Christ. They were just ordinary men that had to bring an offering. The Lord Jesus offered Himself for you and me....

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.

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

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

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.

~ To sprinkle the blood seven times before the vail completed God's relationship with the offender. At face value, this sounds as if it borders on paganism, but we have a supreme spiritual message here for us. When they put some of the blood on the altar of incense, which spoke of prayer, that indicates that Christ is faithful and just to forgive us our sins when we confess them in prayer! Christ then cleanses us from our sins and restores us to the place of worship and to a place of privileged, meaningful fellowship with the Father in prayer. It's all dependent on the blood of Christ and by law almost all things are purged with blood. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. The remainder of the blood

is poured out at the bottom of the brazen altar which speaks to satisfying the consciousness of the sinner. It removed the guilt complex.

The important thing for you and me to remember is that when Christ forgives our sins, they are gone and there is nothing more to be said about them. Christ settles our sin questions, and they will be remembered no more. This is the only thing that will remove your guilty conscious. Most people wonder if they are truly forgiven. I wish I could convey to them that Christ took all that away. This is the remedy for the conviction of sin. Christ is the only One Who can satisfy both our mind and our heart. When we turn to Him in the proper way, we will find Him more than adequate. From here on fellowship is complete and service is restored. God is calling us to enjoy His best! ~

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,

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,

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.

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

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.

~ The whole bull being taken out of the camp and being burned is a radical departure from any other offering instructions we have seen. This is an overbearing emphasis on the exceeding sinfulness of sin! This animal is a sin offering with no thought of the Person of Christ; here, Christ is made sin for us. Hebrews says, "...we have an altar whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts whose blood

is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin are burned outside the camp. Wherefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His Own blood suffered without the gate. Let us, therefore, go forth unto Him without the camp bearing His reproach; for here we have no continuing city but we seek one to come." Turn that over in your mind several times, my beloved.

Religion can never satisfy the heart of man, nor can it meet the holy requirements of God. Outside of the death of Christ on the cross we have NO forgiveness available whatsoever for our sins in this world. If we do not accept Christ, we will die in those sins! Christ took it all away if we believe. Do you believe you are a sinner by nature? Do you understand you are not fit for Heaven? If God wrote you and me and this earth off into eternal damnation, the angels in Heaven would still rejoice and God would still be holy and righteous and just! Our sins are frightful, but He was made sin for us! If you have never turned to Christ and trusted Him - He is calling to you right now. You will see that He is adequate to meet all of the deep needs in your heart and desires of your soul ~
