

Commentary on Hebrews

Review

SIN OFFERING

I. RITUAL OF THE SIN OFFERING

- A. The ritual is designed to remove the principal aspects of the burnt, meal and peace offerings. It accentuates the central idea of expiation and atonement by the blood of the disposition of the victim.
- B. Presentation– “at the door of the tent of meeting” (Leviticus 4:4).
 1. The purpose is totally different from Burnt Offering and Peace Offering.
 2. The sinner brings his victim to the door of the tent meeting.
 3. The party involved is no longer a “worshiper.”
 4. He is a sinner seeking restoration to fellowship.
- C. Laying Hands on the Head of the Substitute Victim
 1. If it’s the congregation who sinned, the elders of each tribe lay one hand on the bullock representing the community of sinners (Leviticus 4:15).
 2. Thus they “lean on him” depending on the innocent blood to obtain forgiveness.
 3. The sinner assigns his sacrifice to die in his place.
- D. Confession – The Party or Parties must Confess the Specific Sin Done
He must confess in what way he has sinned (Leviticus 5:5).
 1. Sins covered by Burnt Offering and Peace Offering were unspecified.
 2. First time the specific sin must be confessed.
 3. Leviticus 5:1-6 still properly refers to the sin offering even though verse 6 uses the word “trespass offering”.
- E. Slaying – The Sinner Slays His Own Victim
 1. For all the purposes stated in the Burnt Offering ritual.
 2. His victim will symbolically bear his guilt.
 3. He is killing his own sin which the victim symbolically bears.
 4. In this way the sinner dies to his sin through repentance and faith in God's willingness to forgive his sins.
- F. The Sprinkling of the Blood by the Priest – Placement of Blood the distinct aspect.
 1. If the high priest or whole community sinned, the blood of the bullock was brought into the holy place and placed on the horns of the altar of burning incense and then sprinkled 7 times before the curtain dividing the holy place from the most holy place.
 2. If it was a ruler or a commoner, the blood was placed on the horns of the altar of burnt offerings and then poured on the sides of the altar.
- G. Fat Removed – and Incensed or Fumed to God on the burnt offerings of rulers and commoners.
 1. The fat is still God's “food” – Leviticus 4:31
 2. Even of the Sin Offering it is “aroma pleasing to God.”
 3. God is pleased because atonement has been made.

4. He is pleased when sinners repent and return.
 5. Whole animal is burned outside the camp in the case of the high priest and whole congregation.
- H. Disposition of the Body
1. In the case of the high priest and the whole congregation the whole victim was burned outside the camp
 2. In the case of the ruler and the commoner, the victim belonged to the high priest and his family.
- I. Priests Eat In Festive Banquet In the courtyard of the Tabernacle, hosted by God, the body of sacrifice for rulers or for commoners.
1. Leviticus 6:26 – The priest who offers it shall eat it; it is to be eaten in the sanctuary area, in the courtyard of the tent of meeting.
 2. Leviticus 6:29 – Any male in a priest's family may eat it; it is most holy.
 3. This is the priest's portion from God. Not the same as their portion from the peace offering.
 4. God recompensed His priests for the fruits of their ministry that effected reconciliation.

Continuation

THE SIN OFFERING

II. Difference Between Sin and Trespass Offering

- A. Difficult to understand, differing interpretations to differentiate from the text.
- B. Sin offerings deal with the first five commandments, the trespass offerings deal with the last five.
- C. The sin offering views sin as an insult against Divine nature and the trespass offering as an insult to Divine government.
- D. The sin offering involves sins as they wrong God, but the trespass offering involves sins that injure man.
- E. Atonement for the wrong done is central to both – as seen in the use of the blood
- F. It seems that both are offered to regain fellowship with God and man.
 1. This assumes that the sin committed broke the bonds of friendship and fellowship
 2. Under the assumption that the fellowship has been broken, we can understand why the burnt, meal and peace offerings are prohibited to the offender until the appropriate sin or trespass offering has been offered – Leviticus 22:2
 3. This is the reason the peace offering is called the offering of completion – Leviticus 3:1 ff.
- G. Views from different Old Testament scholars
 1. Ederheim: sin-offering atones for the person that sins, but the trespass offering atones for the sin itself in restitution.
 - a. Sin offering was offered even on festive occasions – but the trespass offering was not.

- b. Trespass offerings were seen as righting the wrong in as far as possible and was regarded as ransom for special wrongs done to one's neighbor.
 - c. He views sin offerings as towards God, and the trespass offerings towards man.
 2. Haldeman distinguishes this way
 - a. The sin offering deals with the nature of sin (disobedience to God or His representatives such as Moses, priests or parents).
 - b. Trespass offering deals with the specific nature of sins.
 3. Kellogg points out that the difference is not in atonement – which is central and common to each sacrifice
 - a. The sin offering regards atonement as an expiation of guilt and relieves all penal judgments of God.
 - b. The trespass offering regards atonement under the aspects of satisfaction and restitution for the wrong done, relieving the civil claims of man.
- H. In either case, God breaks fellowship with the man who commits the wrong.
 1. Whether wittingly or not – whether in ignorance or with a “high hand”.
 2. Such separation of God from the sinner is a necessary consequence of God's own holiness.
 3. Such a separation is the most terrible consequence and most awful punishment of the sinner.
- I. Difference between atonement in the sin and trespass offering and in the burnt and peace offering
 1. Atonement is central for the sin and trespass offering, but marginal in the burn and peace offering
 2. Burnt and peace offerings provide atonement for those IN fellowship with God, the sin and trespass offering were for those OUT of fellowship.
 - a. The burnt and peace offerings deal with moral and spiritual weakness and social contamination resulting in ceremonial uncleanness.
 - b. They deal perhaps more with what we are than with what we do.
 3. Sin and trespass offerings deal with individual acts of an overt nature – specific wrongs.
 4. Sin is more than a defect of nature – it is an action of disobedience to the will of God as revealed in the Law:
 - a. It is not the result of a “built-in” weakness of man.
 - b. It is either done because of his ignorance and waywardness both of which are voluntary actions – see Hebrews 8:2 where the ignorant and the erring are contemplated.