

# Commentary on Hebrews

## Review

### TRESPASS OFFERING

This is the sacrifice under the Law of Moses that was built around the concept of strict justice. It was the *eye for an eye* kind of justice that was demanded under the Law. Towards the end of this study we will look at Christ as the fulfillment of the sacrifice of the Guilt Offering.

Trespasses involve the last five of the Ten Commandments and all laws later given to amplify and articulate those laws.

#### I. BACKGROUND

- A. Name: "ASHAM" literally meant "guilt" or "debt."
  - B. Respect For Rights and Properties of Others Was Demanded
- II. **Trespasses Involving Man To Man Violations** – these violations were also seen as a sin against God’s government (Leviticus 6:1). They are called “sin and unfaithfulness to the Lord” by “deceiving or cheating a neighbor”. Trespasses always involve the invasion of the rights of others – especially in regard to property or service.
- III. **Restitution And Satisfaction** – this is the central theme of the Trespass Offering as seen from the peculiar aspects of this sacrifice.
- A. Restitution of the Property Was the First Demand
  - B. Satisfaction Involves An Added Amount – an additional one fifth, or 20% of the value of
  - C. No Exception for Ignorance – whether unwittingly, or wittingly – same ordinance.
  - D. Restitution and Satisfaction Does Not Atone – when restitution and satisfaction is fully made he is right with his neighbor but not yet with God.
  - E. **Selection of the Sacrifice** – “A ram without blemish of the flock" - Leviticus 5: 15, 18; 6:6
    1. The ram was not the most valuable sacrificial animal - that would be the bullock
  - F. **No variation allowed for the sacrificial animal** – always, and invariably, it had to be a ram.
- IV. **Basis For The Trespass Offering** – strict rigid justice is demanded on the basis of the law, “an eye for an eye, tooth for tooth.”
- A. The Strict Justice of the Law
    1. Jesus talks about this in Mat 5:23-26.
    2. The practice of torturing is mentioned in Matthew 18:32-35
  - B. Even in the Absence of Money (Deuteronomy 25:1-3)
    1. Could impose corporeal punishment on wrongdoer.
      - a. Limit of 40 stripes before judge or priest.
  - C. All Claims Must Be Well Proven (Deuteronomy 19:15-21)
    1. “A matter must be established by the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses.”
    2. “If a malicious witness” falsely accuses a man:
      - a. The judge or priest will investigate.
      - b. If he is proven to be false, “then do to him as he intended to do to his brother.”

- D. Further Litigation by the Priest (Deuteronomy 17:8-13) – if litigants cannot settle a matter of “bloodshed, lawsuits, or assaults” between themselves.
1. The matter is first taken to the priests of Levi; then to the judge. “Go to the priest or the judge, inquire of them and they will give you the verdict.”
  2. “You must act according to the decisions they give.” Whatever damages they assess **MUST BE PAID** – the penalty for refusal to meet the judges demands “according to the tenor of the law they shall teach” as DEATH!
  3. “The man who shows contempt for the judge or priest who stands ministering there to the Lord your God must be put to death.” It is as though God had handed down the sentence.
  4. This is why Jesus recommends that one “agree with thine adversary” – meet his demands, satisfy his claims – lest the penalty be greater – Mathew 5:25-26
    - a. **“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way...”** on the way to the priest or the judge.
    - b. For Jesus says he could be cast into prison and would not come out until he had paid it all – Matthew 5:26

## Continuation

### Ritual of the trespass offering

Since all trespasses are sins, then the ceremonial follows the pattern of the sin-offering - Leviticus 7:7 states: "The same law applies to both the sin offering and the guilt offering..."

#### I. **Stage One - “Restitution and Satisfaction”**

- A. Restitution and satisfaction is prerequisite to the beginning of the sacrifice for atonement.
- B. Restitution alone does not satisfy the moral obligations since a debt was created.
- C. Trespasses create moral and material debt.
  1. Material debt is handled with restitution and satisfaction – this cares for civil duty.
  2. Forgiveness (atonement) is not possible until satisfaction is given for the debt.
  3. Moral debt is handled by sacrifice of atonement and this cares for penal duty.
  4. The great doctrines of propitiation and satisfaction have their basis in the indebtedness caused by sin.
- D. In both the Old and New Testaments Divine wrath and hostility against all injustice and wrong done by man to man is evident (Rom 1:18).
  1. The seriousness of sin and the strictness of justice have not gone away under the New Covenant. God is still a just God as much as he is a merciful God! As we have discussed at the end of the sin offering and then at the end of the trespass offering, we experience God’s grace because we decided to let Jesus cover our sins and trespasses so we can enjoy a debt free existence!

2. Also, understand that when we died with Christ we died to our old self whose punishment was going to be death anyway. We got an early release from strictness of justice and its punishment thanks to Jesus!
  3. The fact that we die is proof of God's strictness since the souls who sins is the soul who dies. No one is exempt. God's own justice and righteousness has been offended and must be appeased or propitiated by restitution and satisfaction by the offender.
  4. Satisfaction really cannot be given for sinful man cannot return things as they were. So we are dependent on Christ, who is "our propitiation" to pay the debts we owed but could not pay. We will further discuss this at the end of this study
- II. **Stage Two – Open "Confession of the Wrong"**(Numbers 5:7)
- A. The specific wrong or trespass must be specified.
  - B. Establishes law of one sacrifice for each wrong done.
  - C. This is parallel to the sin offering.
- III. **Stage Three – Slaying of the Animal Required: a Male Sheep**
- A. Regardless of who wrongs another, the ram is required as the only sacrifice allowed.
  - B. Whether High Priest, priest, civil ruler, rich or poor – invariably the Law demands a ram.
  - C. No provision made for the poor man as in the Sin Offering.
  - D. Teaching that poverty is no excuse for stealing.
  - E. Only pride would cause one to steal rather than beg.
  - F. Leviticus 7:1 dictates that the sacrifice be killed in the same place where "they kill the burnt-offering."
  - G. The penalty for all violations of God's government is death
    1. And even though the penalty is exacted of an innocent ram
    2. It is never-the-less exacted
- IV. **Stage Four – Sprinkling of the Blood by the Priest**
- A. Blood is applied on the sides of the altar of Burnt Offering in courtyard.
  - B. This is the place when atonement is marginal.
  - C. In Sin Offering atonement was central – thus on horns.
  - D. But here the major abuse of the trespass has been made right already by restitution and satisfaction.
  - E. So atonement is secondary to restitution and satisfaction.
  - F. It is to be placed on the sides of the altar of burnt-offering according to Leviticus 7:1-2
    1. This places the idea of atonement in a secondary position
    2. On a par with the use of blood in the burnt and peace-offering
  - G. Such is demanded so that primary importance can be given to the major thrust of the trespass offering, that of restitution
- V. **Stage Five – All the Fat Is Removed and Fumed, Incensed to God**
- A. This is characteristic of all bloody sacrifices, whether of the "sweet-savor" or the "most holy" types
  - B. Leviticus 3:16-17; 4:31 affirms that regardless of the sacrifice, the fat is "smoked unto God" as a "sweet savor"
  - C. It is seen by God as a "fragrant odor."

- D. As the fat of the Sin Offering, for atonement is accepted.
- VI. **Stage Six – Disposition of the Sacrificial Body**
  - A. Leviticus 7:7 says the law of the Sin Offering and Trespass Offering are the same.
  - B. The priest who officiates at sacrifice gets the body.
  - C. Only it is “to be eaten in a holy place” (Leviticus 7:6).
    - 1. That "holy place" would be in the tabernacle courtyard
    - 2. And not in the tabernacle itself - see Leviticus 6:26
- VII. **Note:** There was no laying on of the hand as in all other sacrifices.
  - A. Possibly because in restitution and satisfaction the major wrongs have been righted.
  - B. More likely the public confession of trespass took the place of laying on the hand.

### Lessons from the trespass offering

- I. **A Man Can Trespass Against God – “Rob God” Malachi 3:8-9**
  - A. By depriving God of worship, service and offerings that belong to God.
  - B. Shows a lack of respecting God’s law and order.
- II. **In Sin Offering Faith in Expiatory Sacrifice Demanded, but in Trespass Offering “fruits worthy of repentance” are demanded (Matthew 3:8).**
  - A. Those who sinned needed to have faith in God’s vehicle of atonement. That was shown in obedience.
  - B. Those who trespassed showed repentance by making restitution, satisfaction and atonement according to the trespass offering
  - C. Jesus says: [Matthew 3:8 NIV](#) Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
  - D. Obedience is fruit of repentance.
- III. **Offering or No Offering, a Man Is Not Right with God with His Neighbor’s Money in His Pocket**
  - A. Lack of action is lack of repentance, which is lack of faith, shown by lack of obedience.
  - B. A true penitent attitude is undeniable by anyone, no one is left guessing:
  - C. [2 Corinthians 7:11 NIV](#) See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.
- IV. **Station, Office, Economics of the Individual Do Not Diminish Guilt – God is not a respecter of persons – Col 3:25; Rom 2:11**
  - A. [Colossians 3:23-25 NIV](#) Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, (24) since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (25) Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.
  - B. [Romans 2:9-11 NIV](#) There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; (10) but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (11) For God does not show favoritism.
- V. **God’s Justice and Righteousness Are Defended in Trespass Offering**
  - A. Repayment or satisfaction for every wrong must be made “according to the shekels of the tabernacle” – Leviticus 5:15; 18

- B. The justification process must come about by God's standards
  - C. The sacrifice must not only be "without blemish" but be evaluated by Divine measures
  - D. God's justice is still seen today by the wrath that is being revealed against all godlessness and wickedness (Rom 1:18) and by the fact that we die (Rom 5:12; 6:23).  
Death is necessary for we all have sinned!
- VI. **The Priest or Judge Hands Down God's Decisions, and the Offender Must Bow to That Decision or Die – Deut 17:8-13**
- A. The trust put is not in the people, but in God's chosen leaders and servants.
  - B. Obedience shows trust in God's system
  - C. Those who don't obey or show contempt are undoubtedly putting their trust in man
  - D. [Psalms 146:3 NIV](#) Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.
  - E. [Jeremiah 17:5 NIV](#) This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD.
- VII. **Matthew 5:23– "If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you . . ."**
- A. "Leave your gift there in front of the altar. . ."
  - B. "First go and be reconciled to your brother. . ."In other words make restitution and satisfaction.
  - C. Then come and offer the atonement sacrifice.
  - D. Verse 25, "Settle matters quickly. . . taking you to court."