

וַיִּקְרָא

Vayyiqra

(and called)

Vayyiqra (Vayyiqra [Leviticus]) 1:1-5:26

[in English Bibles - 1:1-6:7]

The Sin Offering for the Cohen

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 4:1-12

1 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

2 "Speak to the children of Yisrael, saying, 'If any one shall sin unwittingly, in any of the things which YHWH has commanded not to be done, and shall do any one of them:

3 if the anointed priest (cohen) shall sin so as to bring guilt on the people, then let him offer for his sin, which he has sinned, a young bull without blemish to YHWH for a sin-offering.

4 And he shall bring the bull to the door of the tent of meeting before YHWH; and he shall lay his hand upon the head of the bull, and kill the bull before YHWH.

5 And the anointed priest shall take of the blood of the bull, and bring it to the tent of meeting:

6 and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle of the blood seven times before YHWH, before the veil of the sanctuary.

7 And the priest shall put of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense before YHWH, which is in the tent of meeting; and all the blood of the bull shall he pour out at the base of the altar of burnt-offering, which is at the door of the tent of meeting.

8 And all the fat of the bull of the sin-offering he shall take off from it; the fat that covers 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 loins, and the lobe on the liver, with the kidneys, shall he take away,

10 as it is taken off from the ox of the sacrifice of peace-offerings: and the priest shall burn them upon the altar of burnt-offering.

11 And the skin of the bull, and all its flesh, with its head, and with its legs, and its inwards, and its dung,

12 even the whole bull shall he carry forth without the camp to a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn it on wood with fire: where the ashes are poured out shall it be burnt."

If the kohen gadol (high priest) shall commit sin, YHWH states that his sin brings guilt upon the whole nation. Because this is so, the sin offering of the high priest is very expensive, being a young bull. Remember now, that this sin offering is only for one person, the kohen gadol. The sin offering that the whole nation was to offer for the sin of the nation, was the same as the sin offering of the kohen gadol. Why? When the kohen gadol sins and breaks YHWH's commandments, he brings guilt upon the nation as a whole. Therefore, it only makes sense that these two offerings would be equivalent.

Please note the following passage of Scripture.

Ivrim [Hebrews] 4:14-15

14 Having then a great high priest, who has passed through the heavens, Yeshua the Son of Elohim, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that has been in all points tempted like as (we are, yet) without sin.

It is a blessing beyond compare that our High Priest is without sin! May we never forget this eternal truth; for there are many in our day who are led astray by many false doctrines, and end up denying Yeshua as Mashiach. May YHWH keep this truth squarely in front of us at all times! Amein!

The Sin Offering of the Nation

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 4:13-21

13 "And if the whole congregation of Yisrael commits error, and the thing be hid from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done any of the things which YHWH has commanded not to be done, and are guilty;

14 when the sin wherein they have sinned is known, then the assembly shall offer a young bull for a sin-offering, and bring it before the tent of meeting.

15 And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bull before YHWH; and the bull shall be killed before YHWH.

16 And the anointed priest shall bring of the blood of the bull to the tent of meeting:

17 and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before YHWH, before the veil.

18 And he shall put of the blood upon the horns of the altar which is before YHWH, that is in the tent of meeting; and all the blood shall he pour out at the base of the altar of burnt-offering, which is at the door of the tent of meeting.

19 And all the fat thereof shall he take off from it, and burn it upon the altar.

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.

21 And he shall carry forth the bull without the camp, and burn it as he burned the first bull: it is the sin-offering for the assembly."

It is truly a grievous sin when the whole nation is guilty of breaking YHWH's Torah commandments. Truly, that is where we are today.

Judah is guilty of rejecting Mashiach and adding to His Torah, and replacing His Torah with manmade traditions.

Ephrayim is guilty of doing away with His Torah, and replacing it with other manmade traditions and pagan worship of the sun.

When we come back together as a twelve tribe Nation it would seem that this sin offering would be in order.

However, we should also realize that Yeshua was the ultimate sin offering for His people Yisrael.

Yochanan [John] 18:13-14

13 and led him to Chanan first; for he was father in law to Qayapha, who was high priest that year.

14 Now Qayapha was he that gave counsel to the Yehudi, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

That one Man, of course, was Yeshua!

The Sin Offering of a Leader

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 4:22-26

22 "When a leader sins, and does unwittingly any one of all the things which YHWH his Elohim has commanded not to be done, and is guilty;

23 if his sin, wherein he has sinned, be made known to him, he shall bring for his oblation a goat, a male without blemish;

24 and he shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat, and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt-offering before YHWH; it is a sin-offering.

25 And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin-offering with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt-offering; and the blood thereof shall he pour out at the base of the altar of burnt-offering.

26 And all the fat thereof shall he burn upon the altar, as the fat of the sacrifice of peace-offerings; and the priest shall make atonement for him as concerning his sin, and he shall be forgiven."

When a leader (נָשִׂיא – nasi) commits a sin against YHWH, YHWH commands that a male goat without blemish must be offered in order for the leader to be forgiven. Why a male goat?

Please consider the following passage.

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 16:6-9

6 "And Aharon shall present the bull of the sin-offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself, and for his house.

7 And he shall take the two goats, and set them before YHWH at the door of the tent of meeting.

8 And Aharon shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for YHWH, and the other lot for Azazel.

9 And Aharon shall present the goat upon which the lot fell for YHWH, and offer him for a sin-offering.”

Please note, that in this case, the presiding kohen gadol (high priest) was Aharon, and that YHWH commanded him to offer first a young bull as a sin offering for himself, just as we saw in verses 1-12 above. Next, he is to take two goats for a sin offering.

Now this seems to parallel our passage of Scripture in our current Parasha very closely. We have a bull for a sin offering for the kohen gadol and a sin offering for the leader who sins, which is exactly half of the two goat sacrifice YHWH commands to be done on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). So, it seems that perhaps the reason for the male goat being the sin offering of the leader, is that this seems to represent the leadership's half of the two goat sacrifice; the other half or the other goat perhaps representing the people's sin.

The Sin Offering of a Common Person

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 4:27-31

27 “And if any one of the common people sin unwittingly, in doing any of the things which YHWH has commanded not to be done, and be guilty;

28 if his sin, which he has sinned, be made known to him, then he shall bring for his oblation a goat, a female without blemish, for his sin which he has sinned.

29 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin-offering, and kill the sin-offering in the place of burnt-offering.

30 And the priest shall take of the blood thereof with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt-offering; and all the blood thereof shall he pour out at the base of the altar.

31 And all the fat thereof shall he take away, as the fat is taken away from off the sacrifice of peace-offerings; and the priest shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savor to YHWH; and the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be forgiven.”

When a common person breaks YHWH's Torah, the offering for his sin which he is to bring, is a female goat. Just as in the other sin offerings, he is to lay his hands upon its head, and he is the one who is to slay the goat.

Basically, the reason for a female goat, is that out of his herd, the female goat is perhaps the most valuable of his small herd. He will be losing all the milk production of that animal and all the future offspring because of his sin. He will be losing life giving sustenance and income. Sin does that!

He has to select the animal that has to die because of his sin, and then as he takes it to the priest, he must then also kill the animal before the priest. Perhaps it is one of his favorite goats!

YHWH wants to convey in a very sharp way to His people, that sin is expensive, and that sin is bad, and terrible, and damaging, and full of death. If you have to do this once, it will make a lasting impact upon you, and you will think twice before breaking YHWH's Torah in that same way again, which seems to be why YHWH commands the sinner to sacrifice in this manner.

If you do not think that you could do this (kill a goat as a sin offering), then you had better learn His Torah very well and not break it, because when you break it, this is what YHWH requires.

A Substitute Sacrifice

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 4:32-35

32 “And if he bring a lamb as his oblation for a sin-offering, he shall bring it a female without blemish.

33 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin-offering, and kill it for a sin-offering in the place where they kill the burnt-offering.

34 And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin-offering with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt-offering; and all the blood thereof shall he pour out at the base of the altar:

35 and all the fat thereof shall he take away, as the fat of the lamb is taken away from the sacrifice of peace-offerings; and the priest shall burn them on the altar, upon the offerings of YHWH made by fire; and the priest shall make atonement for him as touching his sin that he has sinned, and he shall be forgiven.”

YHWH lists first a female goat for a sin offering for the common people. This seems to be what He prefers (because He lists it first). However, He will allow for a substitute. He will allow us to choose a female lamb.

Once again, the female lamb is worth more to the owner of the small herd because of the future potential offspring. Sin is expensive, and YHWH desires to drive that point home at every opportunity.

Please consider this passage.

Yochanan [John] 1:29

29 On the morrow he (Yochanan the Immerser) sees Yeshua coming to him, and says, “Behold, the Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world!”

Yeshua is our (substitute) sacrifice, if we choose Him. However, if we do not choose Him; i.e., refuse to choose Him, then we will have to find another sacrifice to take away our sin. But as Scripture also teaches us, the blood of bulls and goats does not take away our sin in the way that the Blood of Yeshua our Mashiach does.

Ivrim [Hebrews] 10:4

4 For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.

YHWH has provided the means and the wherewithal for us to have a substitute sacrifice. Let us not squander it away foolishly!

Also, please note, that this passage from Ivrim 10:4 seems to be a direct reference to the sacrifices of Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). It is this blood in particular that is perhaps the highest sacrifice done by the Kohenim, but even it cannot take away the sins of the people.

While it seems that history and Scripture bear out that YHWH accepted this particular sacrifice year by year, this does not mean that the sins of the people were removed far from them.

Offering for Additional Sins

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 5:1-6

1 *“And if any one sin, in that he hears the voice of adjuration, he being a witness, whether he has seen or known, if he does not tell it, then he shall bear his iniquity.*

2 *Or if any one touch any unclean thing, whether it be the carcass of an unclean beast, or the carcass of unclean cattle, or the carcass of unclean creeping things, and it be hidden from him, and he be unclean, then he shall be guilty.*

3 *Or if he touch the uncleanness of man, whatsoever his uncleanness be wherewith he is unclean, and it be hid from him; when he knows of it, then he shall be guilty.*

4 *Or if any one swear rashly with his lips to do evil, or to do good, whatsoever it be that a man shall utter rashly with an oath, and it be hid from him; when he knows of it, then he shall be guilty in one of these (things).*

5 *And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these (things), that he shall confess that wherein he has sinned:*

6 *and he shall bring his trespass-offering to YHWH for his sin which he has sinned, a female from the flock, a lamb or a goat, for a sin-offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him as concerning his sin.”*

If a man sees another person break YHWH’s Torah (verse 1) and does not make it known, then he is also guilty.

Or, if he becomes unclean for any reason, then he is guilty and must offer the commanded offering.

Or, if he makes a vow rashly and does not keep his word, he is guilty and must offer the sacrifice for sin.

He may choose to offer a female lamb or goat. Once again, this is an expensive sacrifice; even by today’s standards, it would be expensive!

The Sin Offering of the Poor

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 5:7-10

7 *“And if his means suffice not for a lamb, then he shall bring his trespass-offering for that wherein he has sinned, two turtle-doves, or two young pigeons, to YHWH; one for a sin-offering, and the other for a burnt-offering.*

8 *And he shall bring them to the priest, who shall offer that which is for the sin-offering first, and wring off its head from its neck, but shall not divide it asunder:*

9 *and he shall sprinkle of the blood of the sin-offering upon the side of the altar; and the rest of the blood shall be drained out at the base of the altar: it is a sin-offering.*

10 And he shall offer the second for a burnt-offering, according to the ordinance; and the priest shall make atonement for him as concerning his sin which he has sinned, and he shall be forgiven.”

YHWH wants it to be abundantly clear, that being poor is not sufficient excuse for not taking care of your sin. We must all offer a sin offering, no matter into what station in life YHWH has placed us.

For the very poor, YHWH commands that two turtle doves or two young pigeons are to be offered. Please consider this passage.

Luqa [Luke] 2:24

24 and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the Torah of YHWH, a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

We know from this passage, that the earthly parents of Yeshua were not well off financially. They could only afford to offer to YHWH a pair of doves instead of the lamb.

This seems to be rather apropos considering that the Son that they were coming with, was the Lamb that would be offered for the whole world.

The Sin Offering for the Destitute

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 5:11-13

11 “But if his means suffice not for two turtle-doves, or two young pigeons, then he shall bring his oblation for that wherein he has sinned, the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour for a sin-offering: he shall put no oil upon it, neither shall he put any frankincense thereon; for it is a sin-offering.

12 And he shall bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take his handful of it as the memorial thereof, and burn it on the altar, upon the offerings of YHWH made by fire: it is a sin-offering.

13 And the priest shall make atonement for him as touching his sin that he has sinned in any of these things, and he shall be forgiven: and the remainder shall be the priest's, as the meal-offering.”

When a person is destitute and he is wondering where his next meal is going to come from, the sin offering which YHWH commands is basically bread. In other words, YHWH commands that the destitute man give his next meal as a sin offering.

Now, lest you think this seems rather harsh, let us remind ourselves that our sin cost YHWH the life of His only begotten Son. If there is anything harsh, it is our sin!

Let us forever learn that sin is expensive, terrible, and full of death; and get out of the “sin business” once and for all!

The Sin Offering for Sinning Against Anything Set-apart

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 5:14-16

14 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

15 "If any one commit a trespass, and sin unwittingly, in the set-apart of YHWH; then he shall bring his trespass-offering to YHWH, a ram without blemish out of the flock, according to your estimation in silver by shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for a trespass-offering:

16 and he shall make restitution for that which he has done amiss in the set-apart thing, and shall add the fifth part thereto, and give it to the priest; and the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass-offering, and he shall be forgiven."

YHWH wants us to know that there are just some things that are more expensive than other things. If anyone sins against YHWH by doing that which is not commanded, with anything that is set-apart unto YHWH, then he must offer this offering. Then, in addition to this, he must also pay an additional fine of twenty percent (20%).

Does YHWH have your attention yet? Sin is expensive and if you break His Torah, you are going to pay for it!

Lack of Knowledge is No Excuse for Sin

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 5:17-19

17 "And if any one sin, and do any of the things which YHWH has commanded not to be done; though he knew it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity.

18 And he shall bring a ram without blemish out of the flock, according to your estimation, for a trespass-offering, to the priest; and the priest shall make atonement for him concerning the thing wherein he erred unwittingly and knew it not, and he shall be forgiven.

19 It is a trespass-offering: he is certainly guilty before YHWH."

Please know that YHWH states very clearly, that even if we do not know that we have broken His Torah, we are still guilty!

We need to study and know His Torah by heart. But that is not enough. What we need in order to walk in the fullness of keeping and obeying His Torah, is the presence of His Spirit in us. It is only then, that we are able to keep His Torah in a way that is pleasing to Him.

If you do not have the wonderful gift of His Spirit dwelling within you, then please seek Him with your whole heart until He fills you with His Spirit.

Also, when we teach our children His Torah in the fashion in which He has commanded us to teach them, then they will grow up knowing His Torah; and it will be much easier for them to keep it, because that is all they will have ever known!

Restitution

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 6:1-7

1 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,
2 "If any one sin, and commit a trespass against YHWH, and deal falsely with his neighbor in a matter of deposit, or of bargain, or of robbery, or have oppressed his neighbor,
3 or have found that which was lost, and deal falsely therein, and swear to a lie; in any of all these things that a man does, sinning therein;
4 then it shall be, if he has sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took by robbery, or the thing which he has gotten by oppression, or the deposit which was committed to him, or the lost thing which he found,
5 or anything about which he has sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in full, and shall add the fifth part more thereto; to him to whom it pertains shall he give it, in the day of his being found guilty.
6 And he shall bring his trespass-offering to YHWH, a ram without blemish out of the flock, according to your estimation, for a trespass-offering, to the priest:
7 and the priest shall make atonement for him before YHWH; and he shall be forgiven concerning whatsoever he does so as to be guilty thereby."

If a person defrauds his neighbor in any way, then he must repay it in full, plus he is to add a full twenty percent (20%) to the valuation of that which he attempted to steal, defraud his neighbor of, lie to gain possession of, go back on a vow about, or in any other way, cheat his neighbor out of, his property and/or possession(s).

For example, if a man took \$40,000 from his neighbor wrongfully, then in order to make atonement for his sin, he would need to not only pay back the \$40,000, but he would also need to add to it another \$8,000; and that is in addition to the sacrifice of the animal that he himself must select, lay his hands upon, and then kill before the priest.

Make no mistake about it, sin is expensive and we need to live uprightly before YHWH and guard our mouths with diligence so that we do not sin against YHWH and thus incur guilt upon ourselves either knowingly or unknowingly.

Future Sin Offerings

Yechezqel [Ezekiel] 45:21-22

21 In the first (month), in the fourteenth day of the month, you shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten.

22 And upon that day shall the nasi (prince) prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bull for a sin-offering.

Next month is Pesach (Passover). Since this verse is dealing with Pesach and the sin offering, it is doubly pertinent to our study.

Please note that the prince or nasi (perhaps the elected head of Yisrael) is commanded to prepare a sin offering, first for himself, and also for the Nation. This is a very strong indication that this prince is not Yeshua, but rather is a human leader of the Nation of Yisrael. This seems to be a prophecy that will be fulfilled before Yeshua returns. After all, why would Yeshua be offering a sin offering for Himself?

So what we are seeing, is that when the next Temple is built, and the sacrificial system is reinstated, it will include all of the offerings and particularly the sin offering.

Now wait just a minute! I thought that Yeshua was our sin offering?

He is!

There can be no debate about that, because Scripture clearly teaches us this truth. Please note again this passage quoted earlier.

Yochanan [John] 1:29

29 On the morrow he (Yochanan the Immerser) sees Yeshua coming to him, and says, "Behold, the Lamb of Elohim, that takes away the sin of the world!"

It is the Blood of Yeshua our Mashiach that truly takes away our sin.

So, what does this passage mean, then?

Ivrim [Hebrews] 10:18

18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

Doesn't this teach us that there is no longer any offering for sin needed?

As we are about to see, this is not what this teaches at all!

What Yeshua's Blood Offering Actually Does

Qolsosyn [Colossians] 1:13-14

13 who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love;

14 in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins:

When we come to the knowledge of the truth, and then accept His truth, repenting of our sins (Torah breaking), Yeshua then transfers us out of the kingdom of darkness into His Kingdom of Light.

He makes this transfer possible by forgiving us of all our past Torah breaking (sins). He accomplishes this by and through His Blood.

Once we are part of His Kingdom, He then expects us to act like subjects of His Kingdom. Basically, what this means, is that we agree to keep His commandments, known as the "Torah." We obey His commandments because we love Him (Exodus 20:6; John 14:15). We do not keep His commandments for salvation; He already saved us and has brought us into His Kingdom.

Please note the following passage of Scripture which we find in the same context as the previous passage in Hebrews 10:18.

Ivrim [Hebrews] 10:26-27

26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries.

The operative word above seems to be “willfully.” We cannot willfully continue to break His Torah after He saves us and brings us into His Kingdom of Light.

However, according to Torah, if we unknowingly sin and break a commandment, and then that sin is made known to us, then YHWH has prescribed a certain remedy. That remedy is to follow and obey Torah.

As we quoted above:

Ivrim [Hebrews] 10:4

4 For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.

The sin sacrifices that YHWH commands us to do, in accordance with Torah commandments, do not remove our guilt or sin; Yeshua’s Blood does that.

Yochanan Alef [1st John] 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

But, let us not be deceived into thinking that being a part of His Kingdom is just something that we simply believe. No, rather it is something that we do!

Yochanan Alef [1st John] 3:7-8

7 Little children, let no man lead you astray: he that does righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous:

8 he that does sin is of the devil; for the devil sinned from the beginning. To this end was the Son of Elohim manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

We are not to practice lawlessness (Torah-lessness).

Part of Torah keeping includes the sin sacrifices as we have studied in this Parasha above. At some time in the near future (YHWH willing), the Millennial Temple will be rebuilt. Will you obey all of Torah then?

Satan has already planted the seeds of deception in our world to have people think that the renewed Temple and the sacrificial system is of the devil. This teaching is prevalent in the pre-millennial return teachings. However, how is it possible for something that YHWH has commanded us to do, be of Satan? YHWH commanded us to offer sin offerings. May He find us in complete obedience to His Torah at all times.

Some Additional Thoughts

Yermeyah [Jeremiah] 30:7

“Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”

When we are dealing with prophecy, it is difficult most of the time to have perfect understanding of what we are reading in Scripture. Many times, the best that we can do, is to see and understand different possible scenarios that could fulfill His prophetic word. The good thing is that YHWH will bring it to pass exactly the way in which He desires.

When I read the context of the above passage, one of the possible scenarios that I see, is that it will be the house of Yehudah that builds the next Temple. It may just very well be the house of Yehudah that fulfills those passages in Yechezqel that we looked at above where it is the nasi that brings a sin offering. Perhaps it is during the time of Ya'aqov's trouble that this prophecy is fulfilled. Perhaps Ephrayim is not yet in the land, who has accepted Yeshua as Mashiach; but since Yehudah, who has not accepted Yeshua as Mashiach, would still bring a sin sacrifice into the Temple once it is rebuilt. It could reasonably explain what is happening in these passages in Yechezqel (Ezekiel). It is something to prayerfully consider.

ABBA YHWH, please open the eyes of Your people that we may know and understand Your truth in order that we may do it with a loving heart towards You; in Yeshua's Name. Amen.

Shabbat Shalom.

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