

Leviticus 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.

Analysis

And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.

This verse falls within the section on **Guilt Offerings**. The guilt offering (אֲשָׁם, *asham*) addressed specific trespasses requiring both sacrifice and restitution, emphasizing sin's relational damage.

The holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

Historical Context

The guilt offering (אֲשָׁם, *asham*) addressed specific trespasses requiring both sacrifice and restitution, emphasizing sin's relational damage. Leviticus was given to Israel at Mount Sinai, shortly after the tabernacle's construction described in Exodus. The name 'Leviticus' (from Latin *Leviticus*, referring to the Levites) reflects its focus on priestly duties, though the Hebrew title *Wayyiqra* ('And He called') emphasizes God's initiative in revealing these laws. The first seven chapters detail the five main offerings, providing both worshiper instructions and priestly procedures. Ancient Near Eastern cultures had various sacrificial systems,

but Israel's sacrificial worship was unique in its ethical foundation, monotheistic framework, and emphasis on atonement rather than appeasement. Unlike pagan rituals focused on manipulating deities, Israel's sacrifices acknowledged God's sovereignty and sought reconciliation based on His gracious provision. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. In what ways does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ's atoning sacrifice and the seriousness of sin?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?

Interlinear Text

וְנֶפֶשׁ	כִּי	תַחַטָּא	וְשָׁמְעָה	קוֹל	אֶל־הַ	וְהוּא
And if a soul	H3588	sin	and hear	the voice	of swearing	H1931
H5315		H2398	H8085	H6963	H423	
וְהוּא	אִם	יָדָע	אִם	רָאָה	אִם	וְהוּא
and is a witness	whether	he hath seen	whether	or known		
H5707	H176	H7200	H176	H3045	H518	H3808
וְהוּא	אִם	יָדָע	אִם	רָאָה	אִם	וְהוּא
of it if he do not utter	it then he shall bear	his iniquity				
H5046	H5375	H5771				

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 5:17 (Sin): And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity.

Proverbs 29:24 (Sin): Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.

Matthew 26:63 (Parallel theme): But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

Leviticus 19:8 (Sin): Therefore every one that eateth it shall bear his iniquity, because he hath profaned the hallowed thing of the LORD: and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Leviticus 7:18 (Sin): And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings be eaten at all on the third day, it shall not be accepted, neither shall it be imputed unto him that offereth it: it shall be an abomination, and the soul that eateth of it shall bear his iniquity.

Ezekiel 18:4 (Sin): Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

1 Kings 8:31 (Parallel theme): If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house:

Leviticus 20:17 (Sin): And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and see her nakedness, and she see his nakedness; it is a wicked thing; and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people: he hath uncovered his sister's nakedness; he shall bear his iniquity.

Leviticus 17:16 (Sin): But if he wash them not, nor bathe his flesh; then he shall bear his iniquity.

Numbers 9:13 (Sin): But the man that is clean, and is not in a journey, and forbeareth to keep the passover, even the same soul shall be cut off from among his people: because he brought not the offering of the LORD in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin.