

Leviticus 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If a soul commit a trespass, and sin through ignorance, in the holy things of the LORD; then he shall bring for his trespass unto the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flocks, with thy estimation by shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for a trespass offering:

Analysis

If a soul commit a trespass, and sin through ignorance, in the holy things of the LORD; then he shall bring for his trespass unto the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flocks, with thy estimation by shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for a trespass offering:

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

The central theme of Leviticus is God's holiness and the call for His people to be holy. The Hebrew word qadosh (קָדוֹשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes. The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice.

Hebrews 9:10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

Historical Context

The guilt offering (אַשָּׁם, 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 Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. In what ways does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ's atoning sacrifice and the seriousness of sin?
3. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?

Interlinear Text

בְּשַׁגַּג הַ
If a soul H3588 commit a trespass and sin through ignorance
H5315 H4603 H4604 H2398 H7684

לֹאָשָׁם: דְּשֵׁנָה
in the holy things of the LORD then he shall bring for a trespass offering
H6944 H3068 H935 H853 H817

בְּעֶרֶב
of the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flocks with thy estimation
H3068 H352 H8549 H4480 H6629 H6187

לֹאָשָׁם: בְּשַׁקֵּל
of silver after the shekel after the shekel in the holy things for a trespass offering
H3701 H8255 H8255 H6944 H817

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 30:13 (Sacrifice): This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD.

Leviticus 4:2 (Sin): 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:

Leviticus 7:1 (Holy): Likewise this is the law of the trespass offering: it is most holy.

Leviticus 7:6 (Holy): Every male among the priests shall eat thereof: it shall be eaten in the holy place: it is most holy.

Leviticus 6:6 (Sacrifice): And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD, a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest:

Ezra 10:19 (Parallel theme): And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass.

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