

# 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 (אֲשָׁמָה, *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

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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 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

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**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

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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

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כִּי נַפֶּשׁ	כִּי	תִּמְעַל	ל	מֵעַל	וְחִטָּאָה	בְּשִׁגְגָה
If a soul	H3588	commit		a trespass	and sin	through ignorance
H5315		H4603		H4604	H2398	H7684
הֵקֵד דָּשׁ	לַיהוָה	וְהָבִיא	אֶת	לְאַשָׁם:		
in the holy things	of the LORD	then he shall bring	H853	for a trespass offering		
H6944	H3068	H935		H817		
לַיהוָה	אֶל	תָּמִים	מִן	הַצֹּאֵן	בְּעֵרְכָךְ	
of the LORD	a ram	without blemish	H4480	out of the flocks	with thy estimation	
H3068	H352	H8549		H6629	H6187	
כֶּסֶף	בְּשֶׁקֶל	בְּשֶׁקֶל	הֵקֵד דָּשׁ	לְאַשָׁם:		
of silver	after the shekel	after the shekel	in the holy things	for a trespass offering		
H3701	H8255	H8255	H6944	H817		

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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