

# Leviticus 5:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall make amends for the harm that he hath done in the holy thing, and shall add the fifth part thereto, and give it unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him.

## Analysis

**And he shall make amends for the harm that he hath done in the holy thing, and shall add the fifth part thereto, and give it unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him.**

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 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 Hebrew word *kaphar* (כָּפַר) means 'to cover' or 'to make atonement.' The sacrificial system provided temporary covering for sin, pointing forward to Christ's perfect, once-for-all sacrifice. The Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel, offering sacrifices and maintaining the tabernacle. This prefigured Christ's superior priesthood after the order of Melchizedek. The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice.

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

## 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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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## 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. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאִתּוֹ	אֲשֶׁר	חֵטְא	מִן	הַקֹּדֶשׁ	
H853	H834	for the harm	H4480	that he hath done in the holy thing	H6944
		H2398			
וְיָשַׁלְתִּי	וְאֶת	חֲמִישִׁיתוֹ	וְיֹסֵף	עַל	יוֹ
And he shall make amends	H853	the fifth part	and shall add	H5921	
H7999		H2549	H3254		
וְנָתַתְּ	אֵת	וְהַכֹּהֵן	וְהַכֹּהֵן	וְיַכִּיף	ר
thereto and give	H853	and the priest	and the priest	shall make an atonement	
H5414		H3548	H3548	H3722	
עַל	בְּעַד	הָאֵשׁ	וְנִסְלַח	לּוֹ	
H5921	for him with the ram	of the trespass offering	and it shall be forgiven	H0	
	H352	H817	H5545		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 22:14** (Holy): And if a man eat of the holy thing unwittingly, then he shall put the fifth part thereof unto it, and shall give it unto the priest with the holy thing.

**Numbers 5:7** (Parallel theme): Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed.

**Leviticus 27:15** (Holy): And if he that sanctified it will redeem his house, then he shall add the fifth part of the money of thy estimation unto it, and it shall be his.

**Leviticus 27:13** (Parallel theme): But if he will at all redeem it, then he shall add a fifth part thereof unto thy estimation.

**Leviticus 5:10** (Sacrifice): And he shall offer the second for a burnt offering, according to the manner: and the priest shall make an atonement for him for his sin which he hath sinned, and it shall be forgiven him.

**Leviticus 27:31** (Parallel theme): And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.

**Leviticus 27:27** (Parallel theme): And if it be of an unclean beast, then he shall redeem it according to thine estimation, and shall add a fifth part of it thereto: or if it be not redeemed, then it shall be sold according to thy estimation.

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