

Leviticus 5:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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 access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to God.

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. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. In what ways does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ's atoning sacrifice and the seriousness of sin?
2. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם	נִפְשׁ	כִּי	תִּחַטֵּא	אֶת	תַּעֲשֶׂה	יְנָה	אֶחָת	מִכָּל
H518	And if a soul	H3588	sin		and commit		any	H3605
	H5315		H2398		H6213		H259	
	מִצְוֹת		יְהוָה	לֹא	אֶשָּׂא	רָ	תַּעֲשֶׂה	יְנָה
	by the commandments		of the LORD				and commit	
	H4687		H3068		H834	H3808	H6213	H3808
	וְיָדַע		וְאִשֵּׁי		וְנָשָׂא	אֶת	עֲוֹנוֹ:	
	though he wist		it not yet is he guilty		and shall bear		his iniquity	
	H3045		H816		H5375		H5771	

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 4:27 (Word): And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty;

Leviticus 4:13 (Word): And if the whole congregation of Israel sin through ignorance, and the thing be hid from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which should not be done, and are guilty;

Psalms 19:12 (Parallel theme): Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Leviticus 5:15 (Sin): 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:

Leviticus 4:22 (Word): When a ruler hath sinned, and done somewhat through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD his God concerning things which should not be done, and is guilty;

Luke 12:48 (Parallel theme): But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of

him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

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