

Numbers 28:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And one goat for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you.

Analysis

One goat for a sin offering, to make an atonement (שָׂעִיר־עִזִּים אֶחָד לְחַטָּאת לְכִפּוֹר, se'ir-izzim echad lechattat lechaper)—the sin offering (חַטָּאת, chattat) dealt with unintentional sins and ritual impurity. The verb kaper (כִּפּר, "to atone") means "to cover" or "to purge." Even during joyful Passover celebrations, atonement remained necessary, acknowledging persistent human sinfulness requiring ongoing cleansing.

The goat's blood was applied to the altar, purifying the sacred space from contamination by human sin (Leviticus 16). This daily sin offering during Passover week anticipated Yom Kippur's comprehensive atonement. Hebrews 10:4 declares such blood could not actually remove sin but was a "reminder" (ἀνάμνησις, anamnesis) pointing to Christ, who by one offering perfected forever them that are sanctified (Hebrews 10:14).

Historical Context

The sin offering was introduced in the Mosaic law, distinct from older patriarchal sacrifices. It addressed Israel's covenant relationship, providing ritual means to restore fellowship broken by sin. In Jesus's sacrificial death, all categories—burnt offering (total consecration), sin offering (purification), peace offering (fellowship)—converge in one sufficient sacrifice.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why would even a feast celebrating redemption (Passover) require ongoing sin offerings?
2. How does the repeated need for atonement in the Old Testament highlight the sufficiency of Christ's once-for-all sacrifice?
3. What does it mean that Christ serves as both the sacrifice and the High Priest offering it (Hebrews 9:11-14)?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׂעֵר	רָאשָׁת	חַטָּאת	אֶחָד	לְכַפֵּר	עֲלֵיכֶם:
goat	for a sin offering		And one	to make an atonement	
H8163	H2403		H259	H3722	H5921

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