

# Numbers 5:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if the man have no kinsman to recompense the trespass unto, let the trespass be recompensed unto the LORD, even to the priest; beside the ram of the atonement, whereby an atonement shall be made for him.

## Analysis

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The provision that restitution go to the priest when the wronged party had no kinsman demonstrates God's concern that justice not be thwarted by technicalities. The Hebrew goel (kinsman-redeemer) normally received restitution, but if none existed, the priest represented God's claim. This establishes that all sin is ultimately against God, even when it directly harms neighbors. The priest receiving the restitution pictures Christ who, as our kinsman-redeemer, receives the satisfaction for sins committed against God and His people.

## Historical Context

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The kinsman-redeemer system provided social safety nets in ancient Israel, ensuring that widows, orphans, and the destitute had family advocates. If a wronged person died without family, his claim did not die with him—God remained the ultimate claimant of justice through His priestly representatives.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ as our kinsman-redeemer satisfy both justice and mercy?
2. What does it mean that all sin is ultimately against God, even when we wrong others?
3. How should the church ensure that justice is not forgotten even when human claimants are absent?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאִם	אֵין	לֹא	יֵשׁ	גֵּאֵל	הַמּוֹשֵׁב	הָאֵשׁ
H518	H369	But if the man	have no kinsman	be recompensed	the trespass	
		H376	H1350	H7725	H817	
אֵל	הָאֵשׁ	הַמּוֹשֵׁב	לִיהוָה	לַכֹּהֵן	מִלֵּב	ד
H413	the trespass	be recompensed	unto the LORD	even to the priest	H905	
	H817	H7725	H3068	H3548		
אֵיל	הַכֹּפֶר	אֲשֶׁר	יִכָּפֵר	בִּו		
beside the ram	of the atonement	H834	whereby an atonement shall be made	H0		
H352	H3725		H3722			
עֲלָיו:						
H5921						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 7:7** (Parallel theme): As the sin offering is, so is the trespass offering: there is one law for them: the priest that maketh atonement therewith shall have it.