

# Numbers 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest shall offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, and make an atonement for him, for that he sinned by the dead, and shall hallow his head that same day.

## Analysis

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The priest making atonement 'for his sin which he hath sinned by the dead' reveals that ceremonial defilement required sacrificial atonement, not mere washing. The Hebrew *kipper* (make atonement/cover) indicates substitutionary blood payment. Even though defilement was unintentional, it required priestly mediation and blood sacrifice. This teaches that all impurity before God—intentional or not—requires atonement, anticipating Christ's blood that cleanses all sin (1 John 1:7). Mere human effort cannot remove defilement; only priestly mediation through blood suffices.

## Historical Context

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This law distinguishes ceremonial impurity from moral guilt. The Nazirite had not sinned morally by being near unexpected death, yet ceremonial defilement required atonement. This shows that holiness in God's presence requires more than moral innocence—it demands ritual purity provided only through blood sacrifice.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does the need for atonement even for unintentional defilement reveal sin's pervasiveness?
2. What is the relationship between ceremonial purity and moral righteousness?
3. How does Christ's blood provide complete cleansing for all impurity?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַשْ	הַפְּנִים	וְאַתָּה	לִמְפָטָאת	וְאַתָּה
shall offer	And the priest	and the other	for a sin offering	and the other
H6213	H3548	H259	H2403	H259
לְעַל	רִכְפָּה	עַל	עַל	עַל
for a burnt offering	and make an atonement	H5921	for him for that	he sinned
H5930	H3722		H834	H2398
עַל	רָאשׁ	וְ	בַּיּ	פְּנִים
H5921	by the dead	and shall hallow	H853	H1931
H5315		H6942	H7218	H3117

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