

# 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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וְעָשָׂה ה	הַכֹּהֵן	וְאֵת ד	לְחַטָּאת	וְאֵת ד	
shall offer	And the priest	and the other	for a sin offering	and the other	
H6213	H3548	H259	H2403	H259	
לְעֹלָה ה	וְכָפַר ר	עַל יו	מֵאִשׁ ר	חָטָא	
for a burnt offering	and make an atonement		for him for that	he sinned	
H5930	H3722	H5921	H834	H2398	
עַל	הַנֶּפֶשׁ	וְקִדְּשׁ ש	אֶת רֹאשׁ ו	בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא:
H5921	by the dead	and shall hallow	H853 his head	that same day	H1931
	H5315	H6942	H7218	H3117	