



Sowing the Word



"Then the priest shall burn it on the altar, according to the offerings made by fire to the LORD. So the priest shall make atonement for his sin that he has committed, and it shall be forgiven him."
—Leviticus 4:35

Leviticus 4-5 **November 5th-11th, 2009**

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.
(Nehemiah 8:8)

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Helpful Study Resource:

Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout
this booklet is:

With the Word Bible Commentary
by Warren W. Wiersbe.
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Outline

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The Offerings: Understanding the Offerings listed in Leviticus is key for this book, but also the rest of the Bible. There are five basic offerings...see what you can learn about them. *You may want a separate piece of paper.*

	The Trespass Offering	The Sin Offering	
What is sacrificed?			
What is the purpose of this sacrifice?			
Is this a required sacrifice?			
Anything distinctive about this sacrifice?			
What is this offering a picture of for us?			

With the Word Bible Commentary

Leviticus 4

The sin offering was for unintentional sins of ignorance and not for deliberate sins of disobedience. For deliberate sins, God made no provision for a sacrifice (Num. 15:30–31). All the offender could do was plead the mercy of God (Ps. 51:16–17).

But ignorance is no excuse in God's sight! Once we know that we have sinned, we must come to God for forgiveness. Jesus Christ was the sin offering for the whole world, including ignorant Israel (Luke 23:34; Acts 3:17). Our Lord's prayer on Calvary did not automatically forgive their sins, because the people did not repent; but it did postpone the outpouring of God's wrath for nearly forty years.

The priest's sacrifice was the same as that of the whole congregation (vv. 3, 14), for the higher the privilege, the greater the responsibility (Luke 12:48). But when the offerings were brought by faith, God promised to forgive (vv. 20, 26, 31, 35). Of course, the final and complete atonement was wrought by Jesus Christ on the cross (Heb. 10:1–14).

When we sin, it affects our prayer life. This is why the priest had to cleanse the golden altar (v. 7). (See Ps. 66:18.)

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Le 4:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Leviticus 5

The trespass offering could involve both sacrifice and restitution. It reminds us that sin harms others (v. 16) and that true repentance ought to result in our making right the things we have done wrong.

The sin offering deals with the fact that we are sinners by nature, while the trespass offering deals with individual acts of sin. We must be honest with God about both what we are and what we do (1 John 1:8, 10).

Sometimes we commit sin by keeping quiet (v. 1), or we may cover up (vv. 2–3) or speak out (v. 4). Our sins may be unintentional, and we may be ignorant of them; but once we know about them, we must come to God for cleansing. Sin is not “deliberate disobedience to a known law.” If we disobey God, we are guilty whether we realize it or not.

Have you claimed 1 John 1:9 lately?

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Le 5:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.