

March 20, 2024

Reconciliation and Restoration

Shalom,

This week's study—**Leviticus 1:1-5:26, Vayikra**, or “**He called**”—is the teaching of God to show His people **an incredibly detailed system of blood sacrifices**. They are shown the **nearly impossible** instructions to receive **temporary covering of their sins**. Every sacrifice had specific requirements, and they were offered with meticulous attention to every detail. **Another name for this system in Scripture is “The law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2).**

*Speak to the people of Isra'el; say to them, “When any of you brings an offering to ADONAI, you may bring your animal offering either from the herd or from the flock. If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he must offer a male without defect. He is to bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, **so that it can be accepted by ADONAI** (Leviticus 1:2-3 CJB).*

*“If an individual among the people **commits a sin inadvertently**, doing something against any of the mitzvot of ADONAI concerning things which should not be done, he is guilty. **If the sin he committed becomes known to him**, he is to bring as his offering a female goat without defect for the sin he committed, ...” (Leviticus 4:27-28 CJB).*

As we read through this section, it is obvious that this is not written to just a few bad actors in the nation of Israel, but to everyone, including leaders, who commits sin whether they know they are sinning, or not. Therefore, the blood of the sacrifice is necessary for all who sin and the only way to restore relationship with the Holy God Who made us.

*...for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, and are **justified by His grace as a gift**, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,... (Romans 3:23-24 ESV).*

The instructions to bring sacrifices and offerings were given through **the mercy of YHWH** to bring about atonement, **or temporary covering of sins!** Each offering was **specifically detailed** and was to be followed by the people and the priests to comply with every requirement so that they could have a **temporary covering for their sins**.

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For **the law of the Spirit of life** has **set you free** in Christ Jesus from **the law of sin and death**. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order*

that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (Romans 8:1-4 ESV).

I am so glad that Jesus became sin for us so that we are made righteous through Him by trusting in the complete remission of sin through His shed blood. Praise God! **The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death.** Certainly, any person who carefully considers what Yeshua has accomplished for us through the shedding of His blood should marvel, rejoice, and thank Him for His love. Think of it! **There is no condemnation; no adverse sentence pronounced by God against any person who puts their trust in the eternal blood sacrifice offered by Jesus when He died for us, paying the entire penalty for our sin enabling us to live as new creations led by the Spirit of God.**

We need to consider all the detailed instructions for each of the various sacrifices: the burnt offerings, the peace offerings, the grain offerings, the sin offerings, and the guilt offerings and not get overwhelmed with the many details and requirements. It may be that we, especially we believers who are set free from the law of sin and death, fail to see that **this is not about God giving people busy work to keep them occupied with religion.** We need to understand that **every laborious instruction He gave them is fulfilled in the eternal sacrifice of Jesus, the Messiah.** When He was offered for us and became sin for us through offering His body and blood, He fulfilled every detail of the Levitical process, and we can see that **all the offerings required by God were not just about the physical sacrifices, but could only be fully realized in their spiritual sense by trusting.**

Don't forget that all our problems began with sin which produces death, or separation from God. From the moment that sin entered the world, God's love was manifested to bring about His solution that was ordained from the foundation of the world to reconcile His children to a place of restoration, or right standing, with Him. When we view the system of sacrifices introduced in the book of Leviticus, we should always start with that foundational truth before us and know that **every part of His teaching and instruction are to point us in the direction of reconciliation and restoration.**

*To wit, that God was in **Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself,** not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the Word of reconciliation* (2 Corinthians 5:19 KJV).

The work of Jesus on this earth restored everything the fall into sin had lost and returned right standing to everyone who receives the truth by faith.

... It was for this very reason that the Son of God appeared, to destroy these doings of the Adversary (1 John 3:8 CJB).

Redeemed by His blood,
Terry

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