

Video - Paul Washer - How Wicked is Our Sin?: <https://youtu.be/hpCtCAcafCg>

1. **The Sin Offering.** Also called a “purification offering” or “inadvertent sin offering.”
 - a. **Overview.** The primary significance of the sin offering is **purification by blood**. This offering is how an Israelite received **forgiveness** for their sin and **cleansing** from their impurity, and at the same time remedied the **tabernacle contamination** their sin may have caused.
 1. Note that Lev 4:20 is the **first mention** in Leviticus of **forgiveness**. Forgiveness is also mentioned in 4:26, 4:31, 4:35, and 5:13 in association with the sin offering; and in 5:16, 5:18, 6:7, 19:22 in association with the guilt offering.
 2. The **blood** and its manipulation have special prominence in this offering. Read Lev 17:11. Who gives the animal blood to the Israelites? Read Mat 26:28. Who give us blood for our sins?
 3. Calling it a “**purification offering**” fits better for those circumstances where the offering was mandated but moral sin was not involved such as 1) after childbirth (Lev 12), 2) after healing of a skin disease (Lev 14), and 3) after contact with the dead through burial of a person.
 4. While the patriarchs offer burnt and peace offerings, **the sin offering doesn’t exist until Israel buids the tabernacle** at Mt. Sinai. This helps us understand what the blood of this offering is doing. It cleans the areas of the tabernacle the worshipper defiles.
 5. The sins associated with this offering were those where restitution was not possible. When restitution was required, then the guilt offering was applicable.
 - b. **Ritual.** The actions and animals required varied based on the **status** of the person bringing the sin offering. A higher status caused a higher degree of guilt/defilement and required the blood to be brought further into the tabernacle.

Offerer	Animal	Ritual	Blood Rite (done by Priest)	Disposal Rite
High Priest or Whole Congregation (Lev 4:3-21)	Bull	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lay hand on animal head 2. Kill animal 3. Perform blood rite 4. Remove fat and burn on altar 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sprinkle blood 7 times in front of veil in the Holy Place 2. Put blood on horns of incense altar in the Holy Place 3. Pour remainder of blood at base of bronze altar 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priest burns remains of animal outside the camp 2. Nothing is eaten
A Leader (Lev 4:22-26)	Male goat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lay hand on animal head 2. Kill animal 3. Perform blood rite (priest) 4. Remove fat and burn on altar (priest) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put blood on horns of bronze altar 2. Pour remainder of blood at base of bronze altar 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priest eats meat (most holy) in tabernacle area 2. Priest disposes of cooking vessels properly (break or scour and rinse)
Common People (Lev 4:27-35)	Female goat or lamb	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lay hand on animal head 2. Kill animal 3. Perform blood rite (priest) 4. Remove fat and burn on altar (priest) 		
Poor Person (Lev 5:7-13)	Dove or pigeon	Kill bird (priest)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sprinkle some blood on side of bronze altar 2. Drain rest of blood at base of bronze altar 	Nothing is eaten
	or grain offering but no oil or incense	Priest burns a handful on the altar as a memorial portion	<i>not applicable</i>	Priest eats remainder of grain

Read 1 Pet 1:1-2. What do you think he had in mind when he wrote the phrase “and for **sprinkling with blood**”?

- c. **Federal Headship.** Read Lev 4:3. If the high priest sins, who does he bring guilt upon? This is an example of **collective guilt** and what theologians call “**federal headship.**” A federal head represents the people. What he does as their representative impacts them, as if they personally had done it.
- God has designated **Adam** and **Christ** as the two federal heads of the human race: Adam heads the old creation and Christ heads the new creation (2 Cor 5:17). Christ is called the Last Adam (1 Cor 15:45, 49). Their actions impact those they represent.
 - Read Rom 5:18-19. Adam committed one trespass, one act of disobedience. What impact did it have on all men? Christ committed one act of righteousness, one act of obedience. What impact can it have for all men?

	In Adam	In Christ
Important Truth	We are included in the guilt and corruption of Adam’s sin, our representative	We are included in the righteousness and life of Christ’s obedience, our representative

- d. **Example Sins Needing the Sin Offering.** Read Lev 5:1-6. These are a few examples of sins: 1) failure to testify as a witness, 2) becoming unclean by touching a dead animal or human uncleanness of any sort (see Lev 12 - 15), and 3) careless oaths.
- e. **Unintentional vs High Handed Sins.** Read Lev 4:1-2. Note the type of sin covered by this offering, sin done: unintentionally (ESV,NASB,NIV,NLT), inadvertently (CJB), by mistake (EMPH), through ignorance (KJV), unwittingly (RSV).
- Read Num 15:28-31. What type of sin is not covered? The one who acts: with a high hand (ESV,RSV), defiantly (CSB,NASB,NIV), presumptuously (KJV), with disdainful arrogance (LES).
 - Read Heb 9:7. What type of sin is associated with the annual blood ritual performed by the high priest once a year on the Day of Atonement in the Most Holy place? Various translations render it unintentional sins (ESV), sins committed in ignorance (CSB, NASB, NIV, NLT)
- f. **Degrees of Sin.** Are all sins the same in God’s eyes or are some sins greater? Read James 2:10-12. This is often quoted as evidence that all sins are equal. But James is teaching that even “smaller” sins, such as showing partiality to the rich, are enough to classify us as lawbreakers before God, just like murder or adultery. When we consider other scriptures, we find that there are degrees of sin. Some sins incur **greater** guilt/judgment and have greater **consequences** than other sins.
- Read what Jesus told Pilate in John 19:11. Who had the greater sin?
 - Read Mat 11:23-24. What city will receive more severe judgment, Capernaum or Sodom?
 - Read Luke 12:47-48. Which servant will receive more severe punishment? On what basis?
- g. **Geographical Sin Pollution.** Leviticus teaches that sin not only defiles the person sinning, but it also pollutes **the place** where the sin occurs. That is why the tabernacle needed cleansing by blood. Notice that the land where sin occurs can only absorb so much pollution until it “vomits” out the inhabitants (Read Lev 18:24-30). How does this relate to our land’s immorality, infanticide, and idolatry?
- h. **Confession.** Read Lev 5:5. Confession is part of the sin offering ritual. Read 1 John 1:9. What does God ask us to do when we realize we have sinned? What two results are promised?

i. **Sin and Blood.** The book of Revelation teaches us 4 important things about the blood of Jesus:

	Sin Problem	The Blood of Jesus	Verse
Sin Enslaves	Sin is like a cruel task master which compels us to do things that are wrong. We need release/freedom from this slavery.	Jesus frees us from our sins by his blood	Rev 1:5
Sin Bankrupts	Sin puts us in debt over our heads with no resources to get us out of debt.	Jesus pays for our release from all debt	Rev 5:9
Sin Defiles	Sin covers us with filth and pollution	Jesus cleanses us from our pollution by his blood	Rev 7:14
Sin Indicts	Sin & satan accuse us in God’s court of law for wrongs done and seek a guilty verdict.	Jesus acquits us from all accused crimes by his blood	Rev 12:10-11

2. **The Guilt Offering.** Also called a “reparation offering” or “trespass offering” or “compensation offering.”

- a. **Overview.** The primary significance of the reparation offering was to “make it right” with the party that had been defrauded (either the LORD or another person) and bring the offering to receive forgiveness and cleansing. Read Num 5:6-7. The guilty person had to:
 - Confess the sins publicly
 - Make full restitution of what was defrauded; and
 - Pay an extra surcharge of 20% of the amount defrauded
- b. **Ritual.** A male ram was the usual animal offered. A male lamb was prescribed for the guilt incurred by 1) a person healed of a skin disease (leper); and 2) a Nazirite who became defiled by death during his vow.

Offerer	Animal	Ritual	Blood Rite (done by Priest)	Disposal Rite
Anyone	Male ram or male lamb (in some cases)	1. Lay hand on animal head 2. Kill animal 3. Perform blood rite (priest) 4. Remove fat and burn on altar (priest)	1. Splash blood on the sides of the bronze altar 2. For a person cleansed of a skin disease, some blood was applied to the right ear lobe, thumb of right hand and big toe of right foot (Lev 14:14)	1. Priest eats meat (most holy) in tabernacle area.

- c. **Restitution in the NT.** Sin often does financial and material harm to people, so it is not enough to just be sorry (repent) and confess to the LORD our sin. We must also do what we can to compensate the injured party by making restitution to them. This provides genuine evidence of our repentance.
 - Read Mat 3:5-8. What did John the Baptist demand of the religious leaders above and beyond repentance?
 - Read Mat 5:23-24. What did Jesus say to do first before bringing the offering?
 - Read Luke 19:8-9. What did Zacchaeus do to those he had defrauded?
3. **Isaiah 53:10-11** (the Message translation) “Still, it’s what GOD had in mind all along, to crush him with pain. The plan was that he give himself as **an offering for sin** so that he’d see life come from it—life, life, and more life. And GOD’s plan will deeply prosper through him. Out of that terrible travail of soul, he’ll see that it’s worth it and be glad he did it. Through what he experienced, my righteous one, my servant, **will make many “righteous ones,”** as he himself carries the burden of their sins.” Hallelujah!