

**Message #6****Leviticus 4:1-35**

I doubt seriously that any of us truly realize the responsibility we have to deal with sin when we come to worship God.

**WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE COME TO WORSHIP GOD, BOTH HIS PEOPLE AND HIS PLACE OF WORSHIP MUST BE CLEAN FROM SIN.**

Now there are two words we want to define before we take a look at this text:

First, the word "sin" (v. 2) is one that means to miss the mark. This was an archer's term which spoke of an archer shooting at a target and missing the mark and not reaching the goal (Gesenius, p. 271). Of course sin is much more serious than archery, for one who misses the mark becomes liable to the penalty that has been imposed by God. Second, the word "unintentional" means to wander astray inadvertently. We could call this an accidental wandering off the path of God (Gesenius, p. 804-805). Now this is an important point—it is not that the sin is not known, it is that it was not planned. **What we do see from these required sacrifices is that ignorance does not cancel out guilt.**

This chapter breaks down into five main sections: **(Section #1)** - Introduction to the Sin Offering 4:1-2; **(Section #2)** - Sin Offering for the High Priest - 4:3-12; **(Section #3)** - Sin Offering for the Congregation - 4:13-21; **(Section #4)** - Sin Offering for the Tribal Leader - 4:22-26; **(Section #5)** - Sin Offering for the Individual Member - 4:27-35.

**SECTION #1** – The introduction to the sin offering. **4:1-2**

At this point there have been three previous offerings—burnt, grain, and peace offering—but now God directly addresses Moses and basically says this—if we are to go any further in our relationship with Him—we must come to terms with the matter of sin. The goal of coming to terms with sin is to receive forgiveness so that one could worship God (Lev. 4:20, 26, 31, 35).

**SECTION #2** – The sin offering for the High Priest. **4:3-12**

Now the "anointed Priest" was the High Priest and in Moses' day it was Aaron. Now I want you to notice something from **verse 3** that is very important—the sin of the leader can bring guilt on the people. Every pastor, every elder, every deacon, every Sunday school teacher, every committee member, and every parent needs to realize this—certain unconfessed sin can affect those around you. Now the steps to follow were these:

1. The Priest was to offer an unblemished bull. **4:4a**—the largest and most costly of sacrifices
2. The Priest was to bring the bull to the door of the tent. **4:4b**—God's choice of place
3. The Priest was to lay his hand on the bull and slay it. **4:4c**—total identification
4. The Priest was to take some blood and bring it to the tent. **4:5**
5. The Priest was to dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times in front of the veil. **4:6**—The veil separated the holy place from the Holy of Holies—seven, the number of completeness.

6. The Priest was to put some blood on the horns of the altar and pour it at the base of the altar. **4:7**—The emphasis is on cleansing the key places and objects of the sanctuary outside the Holy of Holies.
7. The Priest was to remove all fat covering all entrails. **4:8**
8. The Priest was to remove the two kidneys and the lobe of the liver and all fat that surrounds it. **4:9**
9. The Priest is to offer it all up in smoke on the altar. **4:10**
10. The Priest is to take the hide and head and entrails and the rest of the bull to a clean place outside the camp and burn it. **4:11-12**

**SECTION #3** – The sin offering for the congregation. **4:13-21**

The word “congregation” is the Hebrew word “hethah” which refers to the people of the congregation who have legal responsibilities. The word “assembly” is the word “Kahal” which refers to all people. So the emphasis here is on leaders within the body who sin. They are not priests, but they are leaders.

- 1) A bull is to be brought to the tent. **4:14**
- 2) The elders are to lay their hands on the head of the bull and it is to be slain. **4:15**
- 3) The anointed priest is to bring some of the blood to the tent of meeting. **4:16**
- 4) The priest is to dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times in front of the veil. **4:17**
- 5) The priest is to put some of the blood on the horns of the altar and at the base of it. **4:18**
- 6) The priest is to remove all fat and burn it on the altar. **4:19**
- 7) The priest is to take the rest of it outside the camp and burn it. **4:20-21**

**SECTION #4** – The sin offering for the leader. **4:22-26**

The leader here is a tribal leader or ruler.

- 1) He is to bring a male goat without defect. **4:23**
- 2) He is to lay his hand on the head and slay it on the burnt offering. **4:24**
- 3) The priest is to take some blood and put it on the horns of the altar and pour out the rest of the blood. **4:25**
- 4) All fat is to be offered up on the altar. **4:26**

**SECTION #5** – The sin offering for the individual member. **4:27-35**

**(Offering #1)** – The offering of the goat. **4:28-31**

- 1) He is to bring a female goat without defect. **4:28**
- 2) He is to lay his hand on the goat and slay it at the place of the burnt offering. **4:29**
- 3) The priest is to take some of the blood and put it on the horns of the altar and pour out the blood at the base of the altar. **4:30**
- 4) The priest is to remove all fat and offer it to God. **4:31**

**(Offering #2)** – The offering of the lamb. **4:32-35**

1) He is to bring an unblemished female lamb. **4:32**

2) He is to lay his hand on it and slay it at the place of the burnt offering. **4:33**

3) The priest is to take some of the blood and put it on the horns and around the altar. **4:34**

4) The priest is to burn the fat. **4:35**

Here is the point—if people were to worship God—sin must be dealt with.