

Leviticus 5:14-6:7 – The Trespass Offering

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The last time I said **the titles of the offerings could be misleading** because English is not precise. So when you heard about the “sin offering,” you were not to interpret it in the limited sense of “missing the mark,” or the sin of omission. Rather, “sin” was used **in the broader sense** of violating God’s law and it covered all kinds of public sins – sins of omission and commission.

Today we come to the final sacrifice – the trespass offering- and I have to draw your attention to yet another language issue. The title “trespass offering” was not used in the sense of “doing what is forbidden,” the technical meaning. In this case **trespass is used in a narrower sense.** (So the sin offering was used in a broader sense and the trespass offering was used in a narrower sense.)

Our headings are:

The Nature of the trespass offering

The Method of the trespass offering

The Purpose of the trespass offering

Our goals are: **That you will guard yourself that you don’t personally sin against the Lord, but rather, that you diligently protect and support the sacred things of God.**

14 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 15 "If a person commits a trespass, and **sins unintentionally in regard to the holy things** of the LORD, then he shall bring to the LORD as his trespass offering **a ram without blemish** from the flocks, **with your valuation** in shekels of silver according to the shekel of the sanctuary, as a trespass offering. 16 "And **he shall make restitution** for the harm that he has done in **regard to the holy thing**, and shall **add one-fifth to it and give it to the priest**. So the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him. 17 "If a person sins, and commits any of these **things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments** of the LORD, **though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity**. 18 "And he shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish from the flock, **with your valuation**, as a trespass offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know it, and it shall be forgiven him. 19 "It is a trespass offering; he has certainly trespassed against the LORD."

1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "**If a person sins and commits a trespass against the LORD by lying to his neighbor** about what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or about a pledge, or about a robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor, 3 "or if he has found what was lost and lies concerning it, and **swears falsely** — in any one of these things that a man may do in which he sins: 4 "then it shall be, because he has sinned and is guilty, that he shall restore what he has stolen, or the thing which he has extorted, or what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or the lost thing which he found, 5 "or all that about which he has sworn falsely. He shall restore its full value, add one-fifth more to it, and give it to whomever it belongs, on the day of his trespass offering. 6 "And he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD, a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering, to the priest. 7 "So the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD, and he shall be forgiven for any one of these things that he may have done in which he trespasses."

The Nature of the Trespass Offering

1. The trespass offering was called the *asham*... (being “ashamed” for sins – is the way I remember it.)

2. The trespass offering was a bloody offering.

3. The trespass offering was a non-sweet aroma!

It couldn’t be “sweet” as it dealt dealing with correcting wrongs.

4. The trespass offering was a compulsory offering.

No one in any level of society was exempt. Even the priests had to make trespass offerings for themselves.

5. The trespass offering was distinct from the sin offerings as the trespass offering could only be brought by individuals.

6. The trespass offering was made of rams that were without blemish.

And to make sure this was a male animal God repeated this many times in our text.

7. The trespass offering was the holiest of the offerings and this was repeated for emphasis (Leviticus 7:1,6).

8. Lessons:

a. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. All sins must be confessed. Even sins that others don’t see, you must confess to God.

b. Since ignorance of the law is no excuse, so you must know the law-study it. Don't claim ignorance. You must daily examine your heart as well to see if there are sins against God's holy things.

The Method of the Trespass Offering

1. The offerer would place his hand on the head of the animal and it would be killed.

This showed a transfer of the guilt from the offerer to the animal that would die in his place.

2. The fat and some parts like the kidneys were burned as an offering and the blood sprinkled on the altar.

You can read more about this method in Chapter 7:1-7.

3. The priest ate the meat and did so in a holy place.

Since this sin was most personally directed against God, the offering was wholly given to God, so his representatives ate it. It was not eaten by the offerer or his friends, as in the fellowship/peace offering.

4. Lessons:

a. Worship God the way he says. Any other way is abominable to him. Don't bring applause. Don't bring ribbons. Don't bring personal performances. Don't bring choirs. Don't bring puppet shows or skits. Demand faithful preaching from the whole Bible, prayer and agree with the prayers offered, receive the sacraments regularly, and sing in unison, thinking of the words!

b. The sprinkling of blood is a reminder of the method and significance of baptism. Sprinkling symbolized that your sins were washed away and you were declared clean.

c. All sins require death, unless there is an acceptable substitute. This leads to the specific sins for which the trespass offering was offered.

The Purpose of the Trespass Offering

1. When there were violations of the sacred things of God the offerer was required to bring the trespass offering to God.

a. This included violation of oaths made to God.

Example 1: **If a man made an oath to God and then said, "I made a mistake,"** he had to make this offering.

Ecclesiastes 5:6 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands?

Example 2: **If a man made a vow to God, but didn't keep it,** he needed to make this sacrifice.

Example 3: **If a man pledged on oath to give certain gifts to the priests and then changed his mind,** he needed to make this sacrifice. (Remember how Ananias and Sapphira were judged for the vow they made and failed to keep?)

Example 4: **If a man ate of the first fruits of his crops – which should have been given to God,** he had to bring this offering.

b. This included violation of God's laws whenever his name was invoked in dealing with fellow man.

Example 1: **If a man stole something that was left with him by a neighbor for safe-keeping** but he then swore on oath to God he didn't steal it, then that guilt required him to make a trespass offering to God.

Example 2: **When Jezebel stole Naboth vineyard for Ahab, she had 2 scoundrels lie by oaths before God,** falsely accusing Naboth of sin. They would have had to make a trespass offering to God.

Example 3: **If a Jew found something that belonged to someone else and he swore to God he didn't have it,** for that sin he would have to make a trespass offering. (Remember how God judged Achan for taking what Israel was forbidden by oath to take?)

c. Even if a man were ignorant of the sin when he committed it, to God or man, he would still have to bring a trespass offering. (Remember Job offering sacrifices in case his children sinned?)

On top of the offering, the offerer had to make restitution to the value of the fraud and then add 20% to it. It was as if God were demanding double the tithe for attempting to rob God. **Reparations were sent to the house of God for use by the priests and Levites.**

2. The offering made had to be of significant value because it pictured the Lord Jesus.

Look how Apostle Peter described the value of Jesus' sacrifice.

1Peter 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

You get the sense of the "high cost" when you consider that a man who robbed God had to make restitution, bring a large animal as a sacrifice...plus double the tithe.

3. When the offerer made atonement for his trespass, he knew his sins were forgiven, not because the animal was killed, but because the animal represented the Lamb of God who would die for the world's sins.

The sacrifice the Israelites **pictured was the means of grace to them!** The blood of bulls and goats could not forgive sins! Only the blood of Jesus washes away sins.

4. Lessons:

a. Every man deserves to die for his sins, and he deserves death even more when he violates God person and doesn't worship him or honor him like he should! This means all men must always make sure his sins are atoned for.

b. The sprinkling of the blood was the most important work of the priest and it pictured the work of Jesus, whose blood was sprinkled for the removal of your sins.

c. David could see Jesus' suffering in Psalm 22, and Isaiah could see him suffering in Isaiah 53. Jesus was the Lamb without blemish.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

d. All who offer Christ's perfect trespass sacrifice of himself to the Father are now clean.

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.**

Hebrews 9:26 ...**but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**

Conclusion:

The trespass offering was made when a Jew violated any of the sacred things of God, like when he offered polluted worship to God, or when he misused God name by making a rash vow or making a vow and not keeping it. **The animal sacrifices were given to God and to his servants.** When the offerer properly made these sacrifices, **God was pleased with him** and their broken relationship was restored.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Come to worship with hearts ready to worship. Sing psalms, paying keen attention to the words. Listen attentively to the preaching. Receive the sacraments. Pray and agree with the prayers made.

2. Keep your promises to your brothers, in Canada and around the world. Encourage your pastor and your elders. Remember those who are straying. Keep your vows you made to children when they were baptized. Children, claim the promise God made to you at your baptism.

3. Search out your heart to see if you have failed and, more likely, how you have failed. If you haven't cherished and worked to preserve the sacred things and honor and name of God, ask God to forgive you and plead the Lamb of God for your sins. You don't have to make bloody trespass offerings today because Jesus was your trespass offering. All you have to do is lay your hands on Jesus as the Jews did for the trespass offerings, for he bore all your sins. God will forgive you.

Finally: If you don't believe in Jesus, you will have to die for your own sins. I hope that is not what you want, but that you want your sins to be placed on Jesus so you can go free...go free to live obediently before the Lord.