

THROUGH THE BIBLE *LEVITICUS*



ZAC POONEN

Illustrations by VINAY KURUVILLA

LEVITICUS

Leviticus is a book that speaks of the holiness of God which is His **very** nature. Just as we would not be afraid of perfect **health** for our **body**, we need not be afraid of perfect health for our **spirit**. Sin is like **sickness**. We must **not tolerate** sin any more than we tolerate sickness.



Chapters 1 to 7 describe five offerings which point us to Christ. The burnt offering is a picture of the way Jesus presented his body, throughout His **earthly** life, to His **Father** - and then **finally**, on the **cross** as well. He never **ONCE** did His **own** will. He kept His body **perfectly** pure in temptation and never did anything without the Father's **prompting**. Just as the bullock was **cut** up and offered piece by piece, we too must offer our bodily parts **piece by piece** to God. We say "Lord here are my **eyes**. I never want to look at anything you wouldn't. Here is my **tongue**. I never want to tell lies, backbite, gossip, accuse or speak in anger" Only then the **fire** of **God** consumes it.



But what if Christians **don't** want to pay the price of **yielding** their bodies and yet they want **fire**? They **manufacture** a **false** fire. This is what Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron, did. This time the fire came to **consume** these two **hypocrites** and **not** the offering! It is **dangerous** to imitate the real thing in **spiritual** matters. Those who have obtained the **true** fire of God have laid **everything** on the altar ...



The second offering was a **grain** offering. It was of roasted grain, salt and oil. No animal was slain. Salt is a picture of an **eternal covenant** (Numbers 18:19). We use salt to **preserve** things for a **long** time. Thus this indicated that the offerer was **committing** himself to the Lord **forever**, not just 5 or even 50 years. It was an **everlasting** covenant. This offering also was to have **NO LEAVEN** in it. Leaven speaks of **sin**.



The third offering was a **peace** offering. The offerer had to bring the animal and lay his hand on its head. Thereby, he was confessing that through the **death** of that animal, he had come to **peace** with God. Peace in our **conscience** is vital. As it says in Romans 5:1, we have peace with God through **Christ Jesus**, having been justified by **faith**. We also, in the same way, lay our hand on the **Lord** at Calvary and believe that He paid the price for all our sins and cleared the debt **completely**.

The 4th offering was a sin offering for unintentional sin. It **maybe** the anointed **priest** who had sinned. He **too** had to bring this offering.

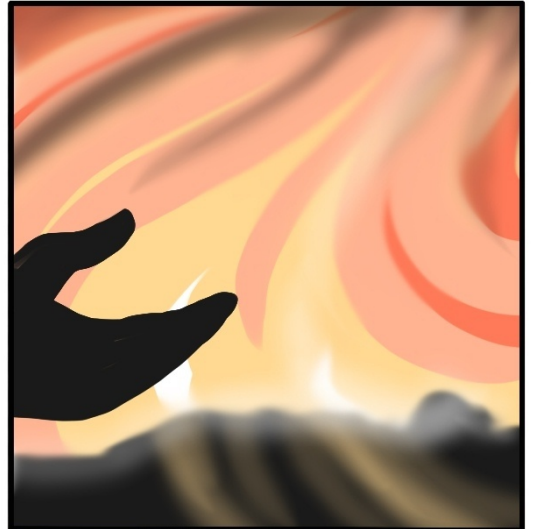


He had to take some of the blood of the bull, dip his finger in it and offer it to the Lord. Leaders **do** sin and need to **settle** matters with God and man - just like **everybody** else. I'm not asking leaders to confess their sins in public but leaders **shouldn't** give an **impression** that they **never** make a mistake or sin. If a leader never **apologises** to anyone in his church, that's the impression he is giving. It is **encouraging** that the Bible includes the **mistakes** of godly men like Abraham and Paul

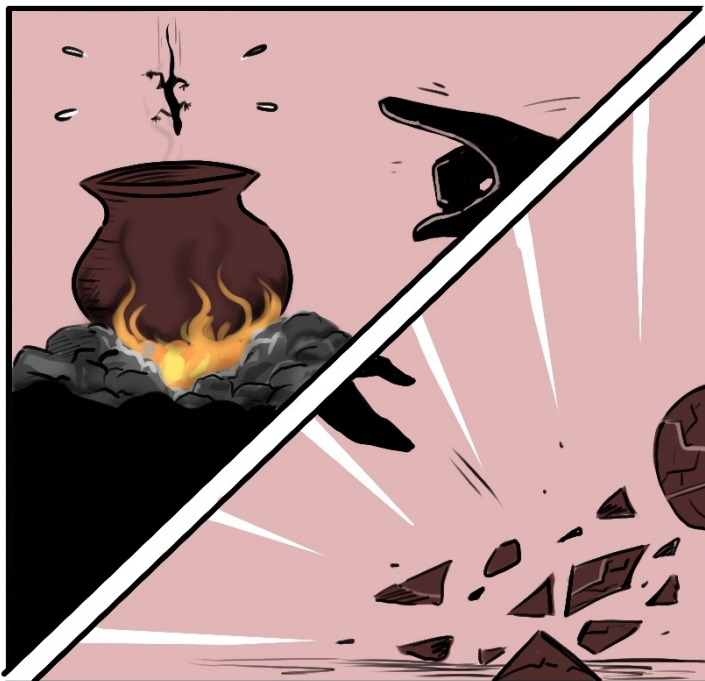


The 5th is a guilt offering. If the sin is against God, **20% extra** is given to the priest. Similarly, if we have cheated or robbed anyone, we **restore** **20% extra** to him (Num 5:6,7)

If a **common** person sinned they needed to bring a goat but if the whole **congregation** sinned they had to offer a **bull**. An interesting fact to note here is that if a **priest** sinned, he **ALSO** had to offer a **bull**. A **leader** sinning was equivalent to the **whole** congregation sinning. When an anointed leader sins in the same way as a common man, they are **NOT** equal in God's eyes. The sin of the anointed priest is **far more serious**. To whom more is given, from him more will be required (Luke 12:48)



Each person had to bring the offering by fire by "**his own hands**" (Lev 7:30) They had to bring their offering **personally**, whomever they were - big or small. They **couldn't** send it through a **servant**. However great they were, they had to come **themselves**, humble **themselves**, admit their mistake and acknowledge they have sinned.



Chapter 13 deals with the test for *leprosy*. Let us apply the passage to *sin* not leprosy. When we see *possible* sin in a brother what should we do ?



The person was brought before the *priest* (picture of *Christ*) and the priest's *sons* (picture of the church *elders*). Thus *false* rumours can be avoided



A number of chapters deal with *holiness* and *health*. These show God's intense interest in the *little* details of our lives. If a lizard fell into a cooking pot, the pot should be broken and none of the food in it should be eaten, for it may produce an *infection* and death. They had to wash their clothes and bathe in *running* water. *I am excited to read such things!* Who said Leviticus was boring? God's *care* for His people are shown in other such laws of cleanliness as well.



On assessment, if there was a *raw* area, he was *unclean* but if the leprosy covered the *whole* skin, *the person was declared clean!* This implies that if we *acknowledge* that we are sinners and that there is *nothing* good in our *flesh*, then we are *clean* in God's eyes. But, if we *think* we have some good then we are *unclean*. Now to cleanse the leper, *blood* and *oil* were put on three spots, the right ear lobe, the right thumb and the right big toe. This symbolized the *blood* of Christ and being *born* of the Holy Spirit.

But things didn't *stop* there. Afterward, the priest *poured* the rest of the oil on the cleansed leper's *head*. This symbolizes the *baptism* in the Holy Spirit. So let us , *cleansed* lepers, be open to receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit as well. Leviticus is a *foreshadowing* of *both* ministries.

In chapter 23, 7 feasts are described. The 1st was the *Sabbath* symbolizing **rest** with God through Christ

2 - The Passover



On the 14th day of their first month, they remembered when God **saved** their forefathers from **Egypt**, by the **blood** of the lamb. This is a picture of **deliverance** from Satan's kingdom by the **blood of Christ**.

3 - The feast of unleavened bread



Following the Passover, they ate **unleavened** bread for 7 days. This symbolizes the new covenant **cleansed** life we are called to live (free of **leaven** which was a picture of the **old** life).

4 - The feast of Pentecost



Pentekoste means fiftieth. This "feast of weeks" was to be held 50 days after the feast of unleavened bread began. The **outpouring** of the **Holy Spirit** took place on this day 1500 years later.

5 - The feast of trumpets



Two loaves of bread were offered symbolizing **Jews** and **Gentiles** who would be united. The bread was **leavened** (indicating that there was still **sin** in them) **yet** God makes a **covenant** of salt with them.

A celebration that symbolizes the **Lord's return** for His people at the **last trumpet**

6 - The Day of Atonement



This was the most **important** day in the whole year when the high priest entered the **Most Holy Place**. This feast looked forward to **Calvary**, when our great **High Priest** offered **Himself** for our **sins**.

7 - The feast of Tabernacles



For seven days the Israelites lived in little shelters called "booths" as they expressed **thanksgiving** for the **good** houses they lived in **now**. This symbolizes the **reign** of **Jesus** as **King** when the kingdom of **God** will be on earth.



Every 7th year the land was to be given a Sabbath of **rest** where **no** sowing or pruning was to be done. But the Israelites **disobeyed** this law for **490** years so God sent them into captivity to **Babylon** for exactly **70** years thus fulfilling the **required** Sabbath rest for the land.



They were to give a **tenth** of their flock to God. The flock was made to pass under a rod and every tenth animal was given to the **Lord**. This could **not** be **exchanged** for a **sick** animal if the tenth one was a **good, fat** one. This taught them not to be **covetous** and calculating but **rich** towards God!