



A Torah Study Guide
for the Young
& Young at Heart

by
Ya'acov Natan Lawrence
& his kids

PARASHAT VAYIKRA

פרשת ויקרא

Leviticus 1:1-6:7

(Leviticus 1:1-5:6 in Jewish Bibles)

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries In This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 1:1 From the Tabernacle, YHVH Instructs His Children How to Become His Friend
- 1:3 Burnt Offering From Cattle
- 2:1 Meal/Grain (Minchah) Offerings of Wheat Flour, Olive Oil and Frankincense
- 3:1 Peace (Shelamim) Offering as an Expression of Thankfulness, Love For YHVH's Goodness
- 4:1 Sin (Chatat) Offering to Atone for Sins; to Be Accompanied by a Repentant Heart
- 5:1 The Variable-Cost Sin Offering for the Sin of Contaminating Set-Apart Things, False or Unkept Oaths or Touching a Contaminated Thing
- 5:4 A Sin Offering for Not Keeping One's Word
- 5:14 Guilt/Trespass (Asham) Offering for an Error—Careless Sin
- 5:17 A Guilt Offering in Case of Doubt (for Careless Intentional Sin)
- 5:20 (6:1) Guilt Offering for Stealing Something (Theft)

Exploring This Week's Parashah

1 The Purpose of the Sacrificial System: YHVH's Love for His Children

When we break a law, there is a penalty to pay. When we break YHVH's laws, it is called sin (1 John 3:4). Our sin separates us from YHVH, and we become at odds with him. If we persist in sin, we become his enemy.

To become YHVH's friend, the penalty for the sins we have committed must be paid, and then we must turn away from our sins. YHVH made a way for the Israelites to do this through sacrificing innocent



animals in the tabernacle. Animals could die in place of sinful humans, for the wages (the price to be paid) of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and YHVH requires the death penalty for one who sins (Ezekiel 18:4). The sacrificial system caused the death of an innocent animal instead of a guilty human, and at the same time prophetically pointed to the time when a Man would be born whose life was worth more than all humans combined, and who would become the ultimate sacrifice for sinful humans. That Person was Yeshua, the Messiah, the Son of Elohim, the Son of man, and the Creator of man.



Below is a list of the sacrifices that YHVH required the Israelites to bring to him to atone (pay the price) for various sins.

When reading about the sacrifices in the Tanakh (Old Testament), many people have the idea that YHVH required this of the Israelites because he was angry with them because they had sinned, and that somehow, sacrificing an animal caused YHVH not to be angry with the sinner any longer. In reality, this was not the purpose of the sacrificial system. YHVH loves his people, and it hurts his heart when they sin against him. Sin causes man to be separated from YHVH so that man and YHVH cannot have a close and loving relationship. Offering sacrifices was a way YHVH provided for man to get right with YHVH again after he had sinned. An innocent animal would die instead of the sinner having to die; it was the penalty payment necessary for man's sin. Once paid, justice was satisfied, and YHVH would extend mercy and forgiveness to the sinner, and relationship was re-established between YHVH and the former sinner.



- (a) Have you ever sinned? Have you ever done something that your parents told you not to do? Have you ever lied, stolen something, said something bad about someone else, thought a bad thought, been dishonest, hurt someone, or dishonored your parents? Did you get caught? Was there a penalty for your sin? Did your parents spank you, deprive you of some special privilege, talk sternly to you, or discipline you in some other way? After the discipline, did your parents then hug you, and tell you that they forgave you and did they reaffirm their love for you? Did they stay angry with you? Do you know that when they disciplined you, they did it because they loved you, wanted you to do the right thing, and wanted things to go well for you?

Your parents discipline you because they love you. YHVH does the same thing. He is our loving Parent in heaven who is trying to teach his children to follow the rules (his laws). When we obey him, we are blessed; when we disobey him this is called sin, and we have to pay a price and receive discipline. We are not blessed when we sin.

2

Could Animal Sacrifices Really Pay for Men's Sins?



- (b) Who was required to bring a sacrifice and when did YHVH require the Israelites to sacrifice an animal? (Read Leviticus 4:2,3,13,22,27; 5:1,4,15,17-18; 6:2.)

Just about every time someone sinned in ancient Israel, they had to offer a sacrifice or offering of some sort. This was a never-ending process, for as long as a person lived.



- (c) Imagine that every time you lied, disobeyed your parents, didn't keep the Sabbath, ate some unclean food or broke one of YHVH's other laws, you had to bring a kosher animal before YHVH to be sacrificed. How large of a flock of sheep or cattle would you personally need to have—just for your sins alone? How large would your family flock have to be for your parents and all your brothers and sisters? You might have to own a huge ranch to supply all those sheep, goats and cattle depending on how often you and your family sinned! Isn't that kind of a scary thought? Yet this is the

problem the Israelites were faced with.

3 All the Sacrifices Had Some Common Themes

Though there were several different kinds of sacrifices, they all had some things in common. See if you can discover what they were. We will give you the Scriptures where you can find the answers.



-  (d) What type of animals were required for the sacrifices? (Read Leviticus 1:5,10; 3:7; 4:3; 5:6,11,15,18; 6:6.) What did all these animals have in common? Were they clean or unclean animals?
-  (e) In what physical condition were these animals to be? (Look up Leviticus 1:3,10; 3:1,6; 4:3,23,28,32; 5:15,18; 6:6.)
-  (f) Blood was an important part of the sacrificial system. What was done with the blood of the animals? (Read Leviticus 1:5,11,15; 3:2,8,13; 4:6,7,16-18,25,30,34; 5:9.)
-  (g) What did the sinner do to the animal before it was sacrificed as a symbolic act of transferring their sins from themselves onto the animal? (See Leviticus 4:15; 8:14,22; 16:21.)
-  (h) How were the animals prepared before the sacrifice? (Read Leviticus 1:9,13; 9:14.)
-  (i) How were the sacrifices cooked and what fuel was used for the fire? (Note Leviticus 1:7-9,12-13.)
-  (j) How did YHVH view the sacrificial offering made by fire? (Look up Leviticus 1:9,13,17; 2:2,9,12, 3:5,16; 4:31; 6:21; 8:21,28.)
-  (k) What happened to the ashes of the animals? (See Leviticus 4:12; 6:11; Numbers 19:9.)

The altar of sacrifice in the outer court of the tabernacle was the place where the animals were killed and offered. The altar was like a giant barbecue grill. Sometimes the animals were totally burned up (called a burnt offering), and sometimes the meat was barbecued and then eaten by the priests and the people. For cooking utensils, the priests used a long three-pronged fork and a flat shovel-like tool that resembled a large spatula. The high priest (kohen hagadol) wore a large hat called a turban as part of his official uniform. It kind of resembled a chef's hat. He also wore a fancy robe called an ephod that resembled an apron. Perhaps you have seen your dad dress in a similar manner when he barbecues some meat on his backyard grill.



4 All the Sacrifices Pointed to One Who Would Die Once and For All of Man's Sin

As we mentioned above, sacrifices had to be made every time an Israelite sinned. The sacrifice did not permanently pay for man's sin. Every time a person sinned, he fell out of relationship with YHVH and had to offer another sacrifice to pay the penalty for his sin so that

he could come back into a right relationship (friendship) with a righteous and sinless Elohim (God). There had to be a better and more permanent solution to fixing man's sin problem. What was that solution?

-  (l) Who became a sacrifice to pay for the sins of men, and did so once and for all time? (Read John 3:16; Hebrews 7:24-27; 9:11-14, 24-28; 10:10-12.)

5 How Did the Sacrificial System of Old Point to Yeshua's Death?

-  (m) Only a kosher or clean animal like a lamb was slaughtered under the sacrificial system. How did this point to Yeshua? (See John 1:29, 36; Acts 8:32; 1Peter 1:19; Revelation 13:8.)

-  (n) The animal was to be perfect and without blemish and was washed in water before being sacrificed. This is a picture of Yeshua being perfect and without sin. (Read 1Peter 1:19; 2:22.)

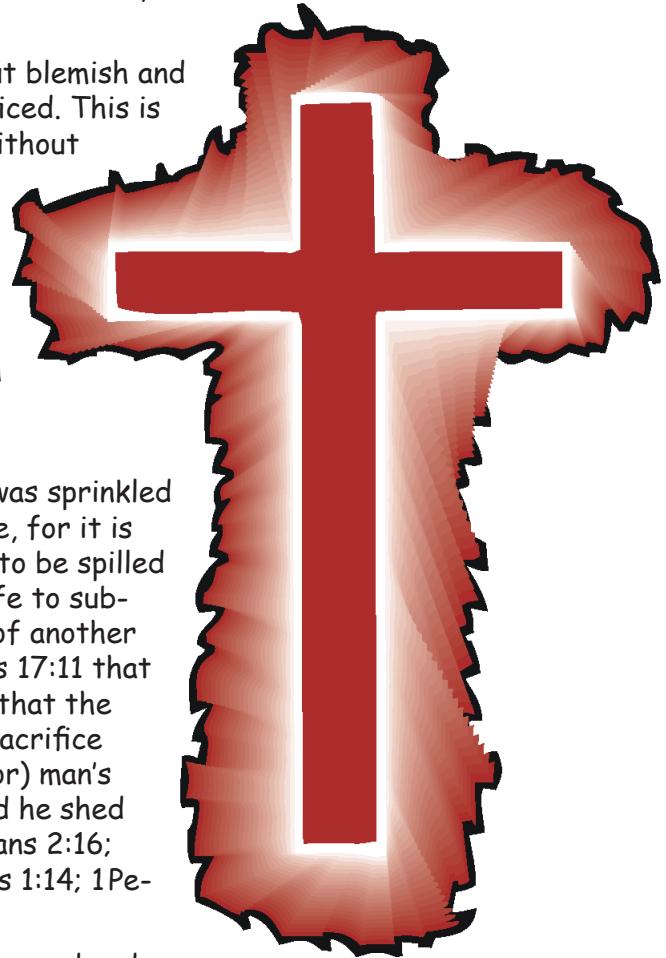
-  (o) The sinner laid his hands on the animal as if to transfer his sins to the innocent beast. Similarly, Yeshua took our sins upon himself to die in our place. (Look up 2Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:4-6, 11; Romans 8:3; Ephesians 5:2; 1Peter 3:18; 1Peter 2:22; 1John 3:5.)

-  (p) In the ancient sacrificial system, blood was sprinkled on the altar. Blood represents human life, for it is our blood that keeps us alive. Blood had to be spilled in order for one innocent and sin-free life to substitute for or pay the sin-penalty price of another sinful life. Scripture teaches in Leviticus 17:11 that the life of the flesh is in the blood, and that the blood is to be sprinkled on the altar of sacrifice to pay for and to cover over (or atone for) man's sins. How did Yeshua fulfill this? How did he shed his blood? (Read Colossians 1:20; Ephesians 2:16; Revelation 5:9; Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:14; 1Peter 1:18-19; Titus 2:14.)

-  (q) The animals to be sacrificed were laid on wood and then burned in fire on the altar. How does this point to Yeshua, the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for man's sins? (See Matthew 27:32-35.) As the animal to be sacrificed was laid on wood and tied to the altar with cords (Psalm 118:27), so Yeshua was nailed to a wooden cross or tree. As the blood of the animal was sprinkled on the altar, so Yeshua's blood ran down the cross onto the ground. Blood came from the nails in his hands and feet, from the crown of thorns on his head, from the whipping to his back that laid open his flesh, and to the Roman spear that was thrust into his side.

-  (r) The animal was burned in the fire. Similarly, a person being crucified burned with thirst and pain in the hot sun. While Yeshua was in this state of suffering while hanging on the cross, someone had pity on him and tried to give him something to ease his pain and thirst. (Read John 19:28-29.)

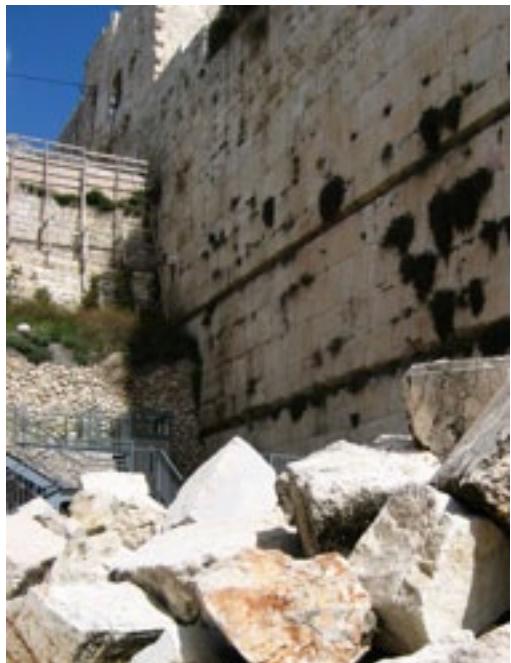
These examples are just a few of the ways that the sacrificial system that YHVH gave to the



Israelites pointed to Yeshua, the Lamb of Elohim, who was to come and to take away the sins of the world as the ultimate, perfect and final sacrifice for all time and for all mankind.

After Yeshua's death on the cross, his disciples spread the good news (or gospel) that YHVH had provided his Son as the ultimate and final sacrifice for their sins. They taught that when we place our faith in Yeshua we could be saved from the penalty of sin, which is death, and through Yeshua, we could have eternal life, and have a place reserved for us in his spiritual kingdom. Yeshua was the perfect and final Lamb of Elohim who came to take away the sins of the world.

As a result of Yeshua's disciples teaching the good news message of hope, many Jews put their faith in him as that ultimate and perfect sin sacrifice to which the ancient sacrificial system had so long pointed.



At the same time, there were many Jews who did not believe the message of the gospel as taught by the disciples of Yeshua. They continued to look to the sacrifices made in the temple in Jerusalem for atonement for their sin. From the death of Yeshua and onward for forty years, the message of the gospel continued to spread. But in A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem thus ending the sacrificial system for good. To this day, the non-believing Jews have no means of atoning for their sins. Only through faith in Yeshua, the Lamb of YHVH, do men have atonement (covering or payment) for their sins. He remains our Savior and Redeemer (the one who saved us from our sins by paying the death penalty for our sins and by dying in our place). Have you placed trusting faith in him?

