

Leviticus Chapter 04 Verses 1-3; Sins Of Ignorance

Le 4:1 ¶ "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them: 3 If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering."

In the first three chapters we studied about the three voluntary offerings, the voluntary burnt offering, the voluntary meat offering, and the voluntary peace offering. We looked at the prophetic picture pointing to Christ, the one voluntary offering that made us accepted in the Beloved, and how they applied to our lives today, as children of God in the New Testament Church. We come now to sacrifices for sins of ignorance. Sins committed against the law of God that the people were unaware of, whether it be one person, many people, or even the priests. There is a great prophetic lesson here for us to see. In these verses, we see that if the priest, who was serving and was to make the sin offering, was also guilty, the priest had to first make an offering for himself, and then for the people. To teach, you should have more knowledge than the students.

Praise and glory to our Saviour, who was sinless, who offered himself for the remission of our sins. Jesus was sinless, yet our sin was laid upon him, for which Jesus shed his blood. Jesus being the great high priest, the Lamb for sinners slain, sinless Jesus stood in the place of the priests and the people of God, who sinned in ignorance. Willful sin is eternally forgiven for God's people, through Jesus, but for the lost no kind of sin is forgiven.

This is one reason we are commanded to pray for those who have rule over us. You see, it is just as easy for the preachers and pastors to sin, as it is for the people. How often do we sin, and we are not even aware of our sins? This is why God commanded that the kings over Israel were to write a copy of the law and read it every day, that they may teach the people the ways of God, seen in **De 17:18-20; 18 "And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."** This is the reason God made a way for the King James bible to be printed, and available to anyone who may desire to have one. Please do not do as our parents did and make the bible into a sacred ornament that was not to be touched. Teach your children that the bible is the Word of God, it is the absolute truth, and it is a gift of God to be read, to be handled, and to be treasured up in their hearts, minds, and souls. If properly taught, it may keep them, and us, from sins of ignorance.

Do you remember when Israel had turned to idolatry for many years and Israel had lost account of where the law of God was recorded? Seen in **2Ki 22:8-13; 8 "And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. 9 And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD. 10 And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. 11 ¶ And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes. 12 And the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying, 13 Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us."** Read the whole chapter to get the full context.

This was under the reign of king Josiah, who after this gathered all Judah to the house of the Lord, and he read the word of God to all the people, seen in **2Ki 23:1-4; 1 ¶ "And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. 2 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. 3 And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to**

keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant. 4 ¶ And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel." Again, read the whole chapter to get the full context of the scene.

As we consider these words of God, we see how easily it is to commit sins of ignorance, if we are not well studied in the word of God. I highly recommend that everyone get a King James Bible, proven to be the true unadulterated Word of God, and read it all. Please do not put it in a prominent place and make an idol of it, do not put it in a closet, or on a shelf, and forget your duty to read the truth, and arm thyself against sins of ignorance.

This applies to the ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as to all of God's people. I must confess that I have preached, in times past, things which were not right because of my own ignorance of God's word. The sad part is that no one recognized this, or if they did, they did not bring it to my attention to be rectified. However, God over time, as I have studied the Word of God, has brought my failures to my attention, to which I have tried to publicly confess my failures and rectify my mistakes. Thanks be to God; we serve a forgiving God.

May God help us all to yield complete obedience to the Word of God, as Jesus taught us in **Mt 22:36-40; 36 "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."** May God help us to read, and study diligently, the whole word of God; that we may know the commandments of the law and the prophets. But preacher: we do not live under the law and prophets, so why do we need to know about them? Because Jesus declares to us that the law and the prophets are a testimony of Him. Wherefore, we need to know the law and prophets, as well as the teachings of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, as demonstrated in **Joh 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."** We pray for deliverance from sins of ignorance, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen! Also, Jesus explained to the Scribes and Pharisees how they had misinterpreted the intent of the law, and showed how it was to be truly interpreted, seen in **Mt 5:28 "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."** This is demonstrated again in **1Jo 3:15 "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."** This demonstrates that the priests thought the outward keeping of the law brought them righteousness, while God meant that they were to not even have the intent of breaking these commandments in their heart. This is the higher plane upon which the New Testament Church walks.

As Israel was surrounded by a world of idolatry, and they themselves had also turned to idolatry. Only Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, as pointed out above were trying to keep the law covenant. Likewise, we, the New Testament Church, today are living in a world of idolatry. We lived in that world ourselves before the new birth. What a great blessing to be given the new birth, eternal remission of sins, and eternal life in Christ. What a blessing to have easy access to the written word of God. What a blessing, to have the fellowship of the saints of God to build us up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Because of the idolatrous world in which we live; we must be careful to do as instructed in **2Ti 2:21-22; 19 ¶ "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 ¶ Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."**

Thank God, every day, if you had, or have, parents that are bringing you up and teaching you the whole truth of the Word of God. Thank God for the true ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who constantly warn us, and remind us, that eternal salvation is only through Jesus Christ, teaching and preaching all of the Word of God. Thank you, King Jesus, for putting us among faithful fellowships and under sound ministers of the Gospel. We pray that through the Holy Spirit power residing in us, which is greater than the power and temptations of sin, that we be kept from committing sins of ignorance against our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen!