

Leviticus 4

Verses 1-12

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘If a person sins unintentionally in any of the things which the Lord has commanded not to be done, and commits any of them, ³ if the anointed priest sins so as to bring guilt on the people, then let him offer to the Lord a bull without defect as a sin offering for the sin he has committed. ⁴ He shall bring the bull to the doorway of the tent of meeting before the Lord, and he shall lay his hand on the head of the bull and slay the bull before the Lord. ⁵ Then the anointed priest is to take some of the blood of the bull and bring it to the tent of meeting, ⁶ and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the Lord, in front of the veil of the sanctuary. ⁷ The priest shall also put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense which is before the Lord in the tent of meeting; and all the blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering which is at the doorway of the tent of meeting. ⁸ He shall remove from it all the fat of the bull of the sin offering: the fat that covers the entrails, and all the fat which is on the entrails, ⁹ and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them, which is on the loins, and the lobe of the liver, which he shall remove with the kidneys ¹⁰ (just as it is removed from the ox of the sacrifice of peace offerings), and the priest is to offer them up in smoke on the altar of burnt offering. ¹¹ But the hide of the bull and all its flesh with its head and its legs and its entrails and its refuse, ¹² that is, all *the rest of* the bull, he is to bring out to a clean place outside the camp where the ashes are poured out, and burn it on wood with fire; where the ashes are poured out it shall be burned.

In chapter 1-3 we covered

The Burnt Offering

The Grain Offering

The Fellowship Offering

These 3 were given out of thanksgiving for God’s blessings

Now we will address **The Sin Offering**

The Sin offering is divided into 4 groups

If the anointed priest sins

If the whole community sins

When a leader sins

If the common man sins

If the anointed priest sins so as to bring guilt on the people

In the consecration of Aaron and his sons, all of them were anointed

See Exodus 30:30

Some believe that this only refers to the High Priest. But if that is the case, where are the instructions concerning the sacrifice of the regular priests when they sin?

Let him offer to the Lord a bull without defect as a sin offering

The offering for sin was appropriate to their level of responsibility.

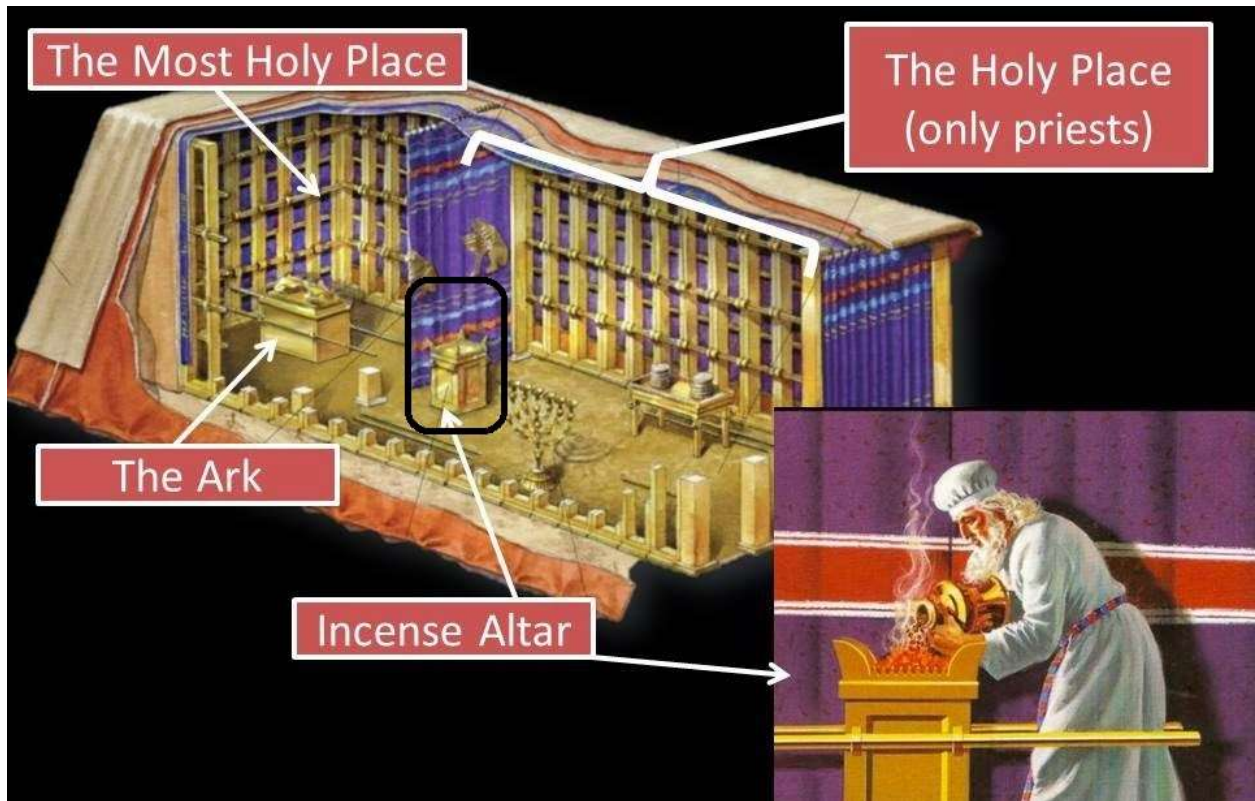
The priest	Bull
The community	Bull
The Leader	Male goat
The common person	female goat or lamb

When it came to The Sin Offering, the person's ability to pay was not a factor in what animal had to be sacrificed. Otherwise, a distinction would have been made among the common people, weather they were rich or poor, as it was with the Guilt offering. Also, the community could afford a much bigger sacrifice than a priest.

The priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the Lord, in front of the veil of the sanctuary

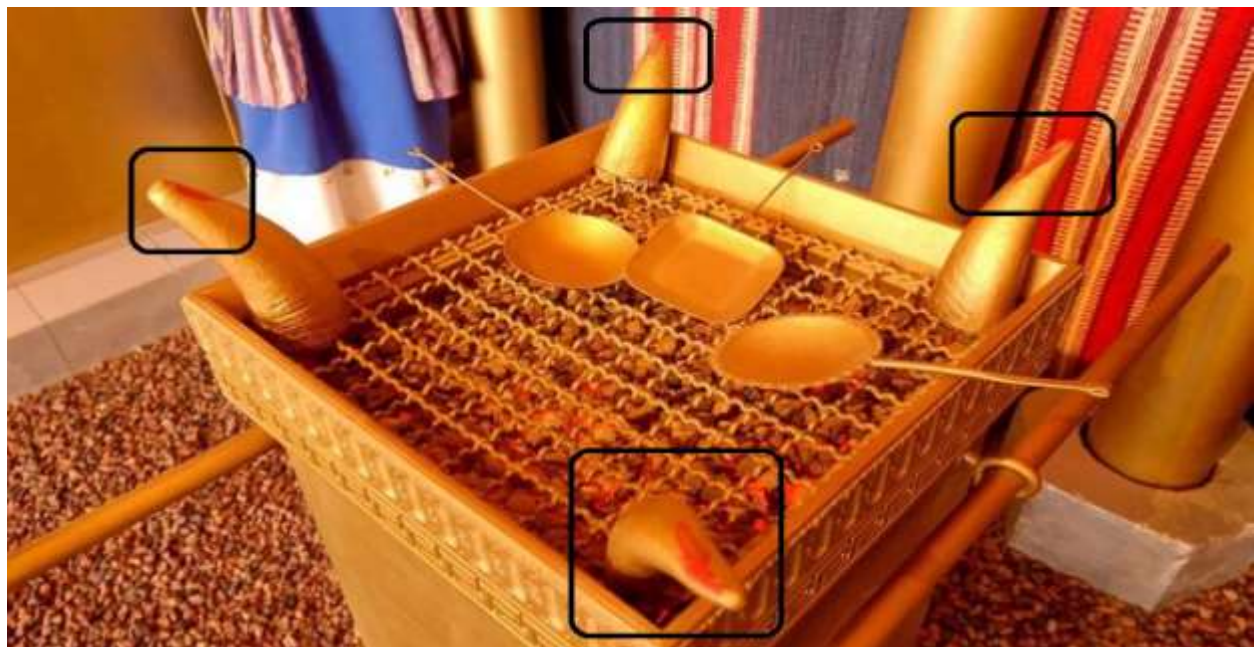
Only in the case of the priest, or of the whole community, was it sprinkled near the veil.

See pics 405



The priest shall also put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense

See pic 406

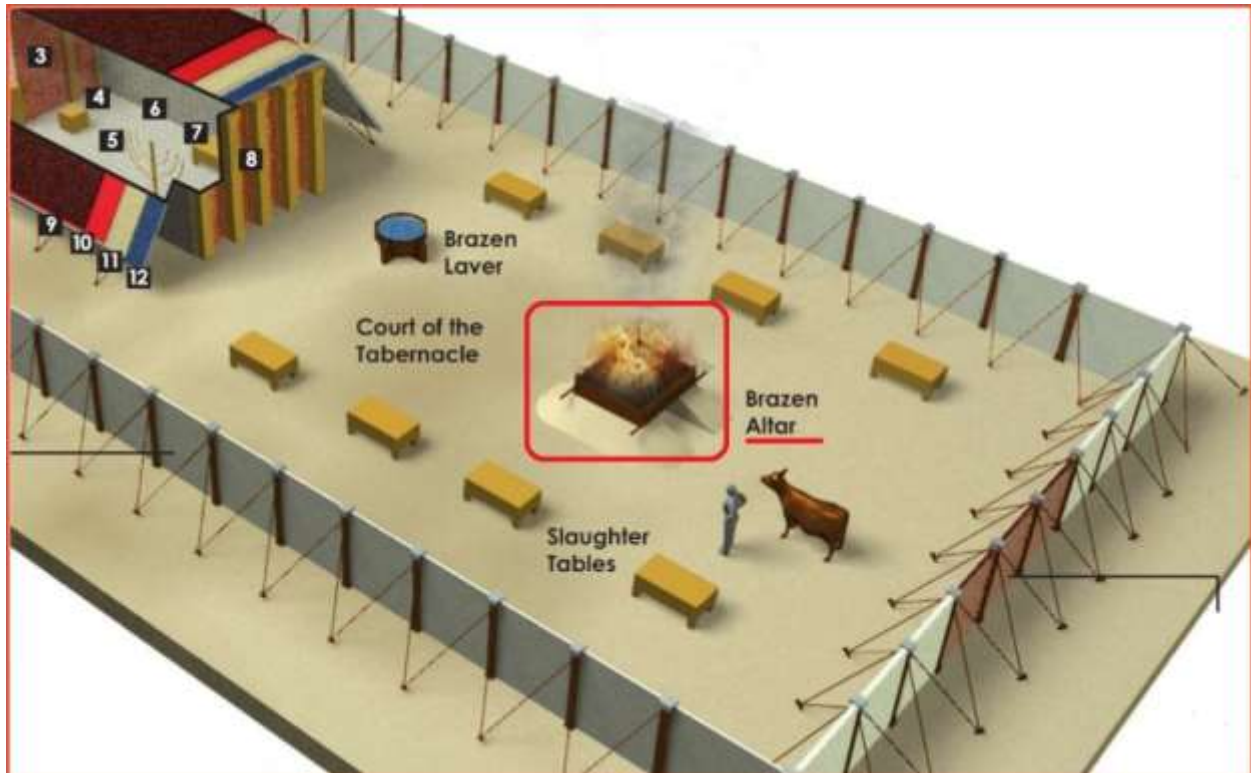


He shall remove from it all the fat of the bull of the sin offering....

And the priest is to offer them up in smoke on the altar of burnt offering.

Moses is referring to The Bronze Alter

See Pic 410



All *the rest of the bull*, he is to bring out to a clean place outside the camp where the ashes are poured out, and burn it on wood with fire; where the ashes are poured out it shall be burned.

All of the bull was to be consumed by fire.

The fat of the bull was burned on the altar of burnt offering.

The rest of the bull was burned outside the camp where the ashes from the altar of burnt offerings were placed.

Verses 13-21

¹³ **Now if the whole congregation of Israel commits error and the matter escapes the notice of the assembly, and they commit any of the things which the Lord has commanded not to be done, and they become guilty;** ¹⁴ **when the sin which they have committed becomes known, then the assembly shall offer a bull of the herd for a sin offering and bring it before the tent of meeting.** ¹⁵ **Then the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands on the head of the bull before the Lord, and the bull shall be slain before the Lord.** ¹⁶ **Then the anointed priest is to bring some of the blood of the bull to the tent of meeting;** ¹⁷ **and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle *it* seven times before the Lord, in front of the veil.** ¹⁸ **He shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar which is before the Lord in the tent of meeting; and all the blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering which is at the doorway of the tent of meeting.** ¹⁹ **He shall remove all its fat from it and offer it up in smoke on the altar.** ²⁰ **He shall also do with the bull just as he did with the bull of the sin offering; thus he shall do with it. So the priest shall make atonement for them, and they will be forgiven.** ²¹ **Then he is to bring out the bull to a *place* outside the camp and burn it as he burned the first bull; it is the sin offering for the assembly.**

Now if the whole congregation of Israel commits error

During various times the whole nation was guilty of worshipping false gods except for the few faithful in the land.

It happened periodically during the time of the judges (1375 to 1070 BC)

It happened somewhat more during the time of the kings (1050 to 586 BC)

See 1 Kings 19:18

Then the assembly shall offer a bull of the herd for a sin offering and bring it before the tent of meeting

This offering was the same as for a priest that had sinned.

Some of the blood was sprinkled on the Altar of Incense in the Holy Place.

The fat was burned at the Bronze altar, and the rest of the bull was burned outside the camp.

So the priest shall make atonement for them, and they will be forgiven.

God always gave Israel a chance to repent of their sin and to be forgiven.

Unfortunately, most of Israel refused to repent of the sin of worshipping false gods during the time of the kings, and paid the price of deportation.

Verses 22-26

²² ‘When a leader sins and unintentionally does any one of all the things which the Lord his God has commanded not to be done, and he becomes guilty, ²³ if his sin which he has committed is made known to him, he shall bring for his offering a goat, a male without defect. ²⁴ He shall lay his hand on the head of the male goat and slay it in the place where they slay the burnt offering before the Lord; it is a sin offering. ²⁵ Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering; and *the rest of its* blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering. ²⁶ All its fat he shall offer up in smoke on the altar as *in the case of* the fat of the sacrifice of peace offerings. Thus the priest shall make atonement for him in regard to his sin, and he will be forgiven.

When a leader sins

The term ruler in this passage is not well defined but it makes sense that it refers to local leaders.

The position of king, which came later, would have demanded a greater sacrifice.

He shall bring for his offering a goat, a male without defect

The Hebrews had two words for goat.

~Sa`iyr and ~attud

~Sa`iyr a rough-haired shaggy kind of goat

~attud a goat of stately appearance

The goat commanded here, was the goat of noble appearance

Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering.

For the sin of a priest and the community some of the blood was sprinkled on the horns of The Golden Altar in the Holy Place.

See pics 405 and 406 above.

For a local leader some of the blood was put on the horns of the Bronze Altar that was in the courtyard.

See pic 410 above.

He will be forgiven.

All animal sacrifices in the Old Testament were a temporary solution.

See Hebrews 10:4 -10

Verses 27-31

²⁷ 'Now if anyone of the common people sins unintentionally in doing any of the things which the Lord has commanded not to be done, and becomes guilty, ²⁸ if his sin which he has committed is made known to him, then he shall bring for his offering a goat, a female without defect, for his sin which he has committed. ²⁹ He shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slay the sin offering at the place of the burnt offering. ³⁰ The priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering; and all *the rest of its* blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar. ³¹ Then he shall remove all its fat, just as the fat was removed from the sacrifice of peace offerings; and the priest shall offer it up in smoke on the altar for a soothing aroma to the Lord. Thus the priest shall make atonement for him, and he will be forgiven.

Now if anyone of the common people sins

This was not a derogatory term, but rather a term used to denote their level of responsibility.

Priests and leaders had a greater responsibility because of their position.

Then he shall bring for his offering a goat, a female without defect

The offering for sin was appropriate to their level of responsibility within the community.

The priest shall offer it up in smoke on the altar for a soothing aroma to the Lord.

This statement indicates that these offerings, though occasioned by sin, are dear to God, who welcomes the repentant sinner.

Verses 32-35

³² **‘But if he brings a lamb as his offering for a sin offering, he shall bring it, a female without defect. ³³ He shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slay it for a sin offering in the place where they slay the burnt offering. ³⁴ The priest is to take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and all *the rest of* its blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar. ³⁵ Then he shall remove all its fat, just as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of the peace offerings, and the priest shall offer them up in smoke on the altar, on the offerings by fire to the Lord. Thus the priest shall make atonement for him in regard to his sin which he has committed, and he will be forgiven.**

But if he brings a lamb for a sin offering, he shall bring a female without defect

The common person had a choice to bring a female goat or a female lamb.