



Message 3-17-18
VaYikra-And He Called
Leviticus 1:1-5:26
Ezekiel 45:16-46:18
Revelation 21:22-22:9

Introduction

Known in the English Bible as a priestly manual for the Levites, Leviticus gives voice to the way a priestly nation is to enter the holy presence of the living God. The Hebrew name of the book highlights the narrative aspect of Israel's spiritual journey, as explained by the Holy One at Sinai: *VaYikra*, meaning "and He called." Though it contains many instructions for priests, readers would do well to consider how it gives important information for all.

Leviticus 5:17-19

5:17 "If anyone sins, doing any of the things that by the LORD's commandments ought not to be done, though he did not know it, then realizes his guilt, he shall bear his iniquity. ¹⁸ He shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish out of the flock, or its equivalent for a guilt offering, and the priest shall make atonement for him for the mistake that he made unintentionally, and he shall be forgiven. ¹⁹ It is a guilt offering; he has indeed incurred guilt before the LORD." (ESV)

The intent of the Torah command is that an individual can sin unintentionally, but when they realize they have sinned, then they must bring a sacrifice to the priest who will make atonement for them, and the sin will be forgiven. If you sin unintentionally, how do you know when you have sinned? The answer would be, once you come to understand what sin is, as defined by the Torah. The Torah reveals what the Holy One considers to be sin, and it makes no difference what else anyone might say is or is not sin. It only matters what the Holy One decides is sin. While the book of Vayikra or Leviticus is usually seen as a manual for the Priesthood, there are places in it that deal with people other than the priests. The sacrificial system is for where man enters into the mix. It clears the way between man and his Maker. In the case of the sacrificial system that was part of the sanctuary and temple, it was a temporary reprieve from the consequences that accompany sin. This system has been replaced by the sacrifice of the Son of the Holy One – Yeshua. Does that mean there will not be any more sacrifices?

The possibility exists that when the third Temple is built, the sacrificial system will resume. We need to keep in mind that after the death and resurrection of Yeshua, the talmidim continued going to the Temple. While the Apostolic Scriptures tell us that the talmidim

went to the temple to share about Yeshua, we would have a sense of the fact that they still participated in the sacrificial system as shown to us with Rav Shaul or Paul. He had been under a Nazirite vow, and the only way to fulfill the vow was to shave one's head and offer the hair as an offering at the temple with whatever else was required. Shaul tried to do this but was prevented from doing so when a crowd revolted against him causing a near riot bringing the Roman soldiers stationed nearby to intervene. It was because of this incident that Shaul appealed to Caesar, which he could do because he was a Roman citizen. This also entitled him to a Roman death being beheaded according to legend at Rome. Coming before Caesar and sharing about Yeshua had been prophesied about Shaul. As Shaul was making his way to Rome under guard, he stopped and visited the many congregations he had helped start and the many lives he touched knowing full well his time was ending. Legend also has it that the Shaliach Shimon also died in Rome, the result of being crucified upside down at his own request.

The point of all of this is to get us to understand that an animal sacrifice cannot do anything but offer a temporary covering for our sins. It takes putting our faith in Messiah to have Him forgive our sins as long as we ask Him with a sincere heart. He knows what is in our hearts and in our minds. It was through Him that the Father created all that there is and asked His Son to become the Kinsman Redeemer for all who belong to Him. Since Yeshua created us, we are His, and we are kin to the Father of us all.

Colossians 1:14 It is through his Son that we have redemption- that is, our sins have been forgiven. ¹⁵ He is the visible image of the invisible God. He is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ because in connection with him were created all things- in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, lordships, rulers or authorities- they have all been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He existed before all things, and he holds everything together. ¹⁸ Also he is head of the Body, the Messianic Community- he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might hold first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it pleased God to have his full being live in his Son ²⁰ and through his Son to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace through him, through having his Son shed his blood by being executed on a stake. ²¹ In other words, you, who at one time were separated from God and had a hostile attitude towards him because of your wicked deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in the Son's physical body through his death; in order to present you holy and without defect or reproach before himself- ²³ provided, of course, that you continue in your trusting, grounded and steady, and don't let yourselves be moved away from the hope offered in the Good News you heard. This is the Good News that has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven; and I, Sha'ul, have become a servant of it. (CJB)

We have redemption through the sacrifice of the Son, not through animals. Only the blood of Yeshua could take away the sins of mankind forever, but it is conditioned on the premise that we must continue in faith or trust, grounded and steady, never turning from Good News of redemption through the Son.

Ezekiel 45:16-17

16 "All the people of the land shall give to this offering for the prince in Israel. ¹⁷ "It shall be the prince's part *to provide* the burnt offerings, the grain offerings and the drink offerings, at the feasts, on the new moons and on the sabbaths, at all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel; he shall provide the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering and the peace offerings, to make atonement for the house of Israel." (NAU)

At this late stage in the book of Ezekiel, the prince can be no one other than Yeshua. While He is the king of Israel, He is also the prince as the Son of the Holy One of Israel, His Father. His Father would be the king, and the Son would be the prince. All the people of the land will give the offering for the prince. It's quite possible that the time being spoken about is during the Messianic Age when Yeshua rules from Jerusalem for one thousand years. The prince provides the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the drink offerings at the Moedim, New Moons, and on the Sabbaths. He shall also provide the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offerings for Israel. In Messiah comes the offerings required in Torah. Does His death and resurrection do away with these offerings since the Levitical priesthood was eternal? We are told in the book of Ezekiel that a third temple will probably be built because it has a place to play in the plan of the Holy One of Israel with Satan as one of the main actors in His plan. He does not hide His plan. No, He willingly and openly shares His plan with all mankind, and most likely He came to it with the agreement of His Son and the Ruach HaKodesh. The Bible, all of it, is certainly a very prophetic book, and the word of the Almighty must come to pass. He does not put it out there so it can fail. It cannot!

Revelation 21:22-22:9

21:22 I saw no Temple in the city, for *ADONAI*, God of heaven's armies, is its Temple, as is the Lamb. ²³ The city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God's *Sh'khinah* gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never close, they stay open all day because night will not exist there, ²⁶ and the honor and splendor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure may enter it, nor anyone who does shameful things or lies; the only ones who may enter are those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. **22:1** Next the angel showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² Between the main street and the river was the Tree of Life producing twelve kinds of fruit, a different kind every month; and the leaves of the tree were for healing the nations- ³ no longer will there be any curses. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ Night will no longer exist, so they will need neither the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because *ADONAI*, God, will shine upon them. And they will reign as kings forever and ever. ⁶ Then he said to me, "These words are true and trustworthy: *ADONAI*, God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must happen soon." ⁷ "Look! I am coming very soon. Blessed is the person who obeys the words of the prophecy written in this book!" ⁸ Then I, Yochanan, the one hearing and seeing these things, when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel showing them to me. ⁹ But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am only a fellow-servant with you and

your brothers, the prophets and the people who obey the words in this book. Worship God!" (CJB)

Even in the New Jerusalem, there will be no temple, the temple will be Messiah Yeshua. The Father's *Shechinah* will give the city its light, and the lamp will be the Son, the Lamb of the Almighty, sacrificed to bring mankind the gift of redemption. We are told there will be kings on the earth, so there will be some form of government where the Almighty finally takes the reins to lead the way for mankind after allowing mankind to do things their own way, making a mess of it along the way. The only ones permitted to enter the holy city must be written in the Lamb's Book of Life. We will finally be able to look upon the face of the Father, and we will know His name and be marked with it. Night, where evil existed, will no longer exist because the light that comes from the Almighty will shine upon us. In the tabernacle and the temple, blood was shed to provide a temporary covering for sin. Now, the light of the Almighty will shine, in place of the sun and moon. His light will shine on us, the redeemed of Israel gathered from the multitude who have lived on the earth throughout time. We are the redeemed – the remnant who have been chosen because we have held on to our faith in Messiah and walked in the light of His Torah as best as we could.

The writer of the Book of Revelation is said to be the Shaliach Yochanan, and as this vision played out before him, he fell at the feet of the angel who had been sent to show His servants the things that will happen, to worship the angel of the Almighty. The angel told him not to worship him because he was only a fellow-servant with Yochanan and his brothers, the prophets, and those who obey the words in this book. Are we to obey what is written in the Book of Revelation or the book we know as the Bible and all that it contains? The angel tells Yochanan to worship the Holy One and only Him.

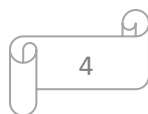
Acts 24:14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, **I worship the God of our fathers**, believing everything laid down by the Torah and written in the Prophets. (ESV)

And I will close with this: ***Torah man says: "Man's idea of eternity may be known by the use he makes of time."***

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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