

Torah Portion #24: Vayikra (ויקרא) "and he called"

Torah ~ *Leviticus 1:1-6:7* | Prophets ~ *Isaiah 43:21-44:23* | New Covenant ~ *Hebrews 10:1-18; 13:10-15***Repentance**

In this weeks Torah Portion the Lord gave Moses the sacrificial system for the Tabernacle. The Hebrew word for "sacrifice" or "offering" is Korban. It could also be translated as "to draw near." Drawing near to God was only accomplished by bringing a sacrifice.

Isaiah 59:2a "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God" MEV

The Sin Offerings

The offerings in *Leviticus 4:1-5:13* are for repentance of sin. Sin separates us from the presence of God. It took an innocent animal sacrifice as payment for the sins of the people to bring them near to God once again. Even when sins are done unintentionally there must be repentance.

Repentance is being remorseful of our sin, asking the Lord to forgive us, turning away from sin and turning back to God. Repentance is an inward change that produces outward effects. *Psalm 51:1-13* is us the perfect example of repentance.

Obedience is better than Sacrifice

In *Hosea 6:6* the Lord said, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." Paul referenced this verse in *Hebrews 13:16* when he says, "do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" MEV. But none of us are perfect, we all need a sacrifice for our sins.

Yeshua is our Sacrifice

Isaiah 53:5-6 "(5) But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. (6) All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all." NLT

1 Peter 2:24-25 24 He Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. "By His wounds you were healed." 25 For you were as sheep going astray, but now have been returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls." MEV

The sin offering for repentance is a clear picture of Yeshua's sacrifice. He spoke of Himself in *John 14:6* when He said "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." KJV

Repentance is the primary message of the Gospel's. Most of Yeshua's teachings were calls to repentance and most of His parables were illustrations about repentance. In *Matthew 6:12*, Yeshua taught us to pray by saying "forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us." NLT

In *Matthew 4:17* Yeshua said "Repent! For the kingdom of heaven is at hand" MEV

In Yeshua we have met all the sacrificial requirements given in the Torah. In Him our sins are forgiven when we repent. *Ephesians 1:7* speaks of Yeshua when it says "In Him we have redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace" MEV

Hebrews 9:11-15; 10:11-14 tells us that the blood of Yeshua is the only blood that cleanses us from our sins eternally.

In Closing

Matthew 7:3-5 says that we first need to repent of our own sin before we point out the sins of others.

1 John 1:8-9 "(8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." MEV

Revelation 3:19b "Therefore be zealous and repent" MEV