

“Sin, Guilt, and the God Who Draws Near”

October 4, 2026

5. The God Who Draws Near

Why does God take sin so seriously?

Because God is **holy**.

Because sin is **serious**.

Because guilt is **real**.

But also because God desires to dwell with His people.

Hebrews 10:3-4 “*But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*”

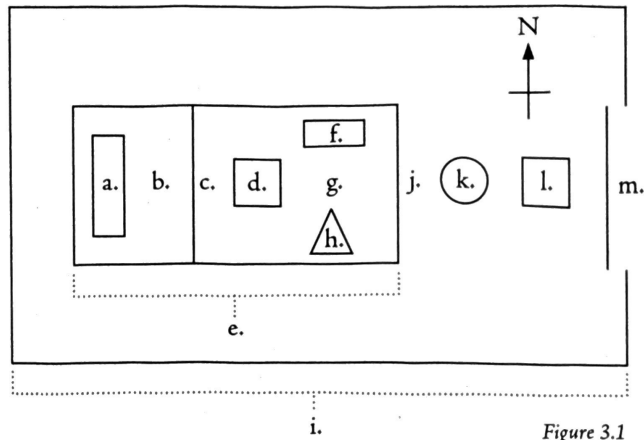


Figure 3.1

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|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| a. The Ark | e. The Tent of Meeting
(30 x 10 cubits*) | i. The courtyard
(100 x 50 cubits*) | m. Tabernacle
entrance |
| b. The most
holy place | f. The Table | j. Outer curtain | (* 1 cubit = approx.
18 inches or 46
centimetres) |
| c. Inner
curtain | g. The holy place | k. Washbasin | |
| d. The altar
of incense | h. The lampstand | l. The altar | |

Sermon Text: Leviticus 4:1-5:13

Main Truth: Our sin is serious, but God’s provision is greater.

Main Questions of Leviticus: How can sinful people live in the presence of a holy God?

5 Ingredients for Reconciliation in Leviticus 4-5:15

1. The Problem We Would Rather Minimize: Our Sin

Sin is still sin even when it is **unintentional**.

Sin is not merely a problem of intention; it is a problem of **guilt** before a holy God.

We often minimize the sins that we **didn’t intend**.

Question:

What sins have I minimized because I *didn’t mean them*?

If our standard for sin is simply, ‘Did I intend to do something wrong?’ we will always find a way to **excuse** ourselves.

2. The Substitute We Cannot Provide: Perfect Sacrifice

4:2b-35 — Unintentional sins

If the anointed priest sins (4:2b-35)

If the whole community sins (13-21)

If the tribal leader sins (4:22-26)

If a common person sins (4:27-35)

5:1-13 — Sins of Omission

Four representative sins (5:1-4)

If offering from the flock (5:5-6)

If offering birds (5:7-10)

If offering flour (5:11-13)

The pattern of the sin offering: The guilty person → substitute → sacrifice → forgiveness

Our sin is rarely as private as we imagine it to be.

The animal dies, and the guilty person lives.

	Culpable person	Suffering guilt's	Offering	Officiant	Blood use	Remainder of animal
4:3-12	High priest	Community	Bull	High Priest	Curtain & incense altar	Burnt (4:12)
4:13-21	Whole Community	Community	Bull	High Priest	Curtain & incense altar	Burnt (4:21)
4:22-26	Tribal Leader	Individual	Male goat	Priest	Bronze Altar	Eaten (6:26)
4:27-31	Commoner	Individual	Female goat	Priest	Bronze Altar	Eaten (6:26)
4:32-35	Commoner	Individual	Female goat	Priest	Bronze Altar	Eaten (6:26)

3. The Mercy That Can Reach Every Sinner: Atonement

Not all sins are equal.

But sinners are equal.

Chapter 4 emphasizes sins of commission.

Chapter 5:1–13 emphasizes sins of omission.

When sin becomes known, the command is: Confess.

4. The Main Ingredient for Reconciliation: Honesty

When we recognize our guilt, we are called to:

1. Confess our sin.
2. Trust God's promise of forgiveness.
3. Walk in repentance.

“The divine verdict of ‘forgiven’ was not audible. The offender had to go away simply *believing* that Yahweh had forgiven, premised on His prior promise to do so for genuinely penitent people. This is salvation by grace, through faith, Leviticus-style.”(Geoffrey Harper)

Repentance is both a moment and a path.

Grace doesn't make obedience unnecessary; grace makes joyful obedience possible.
