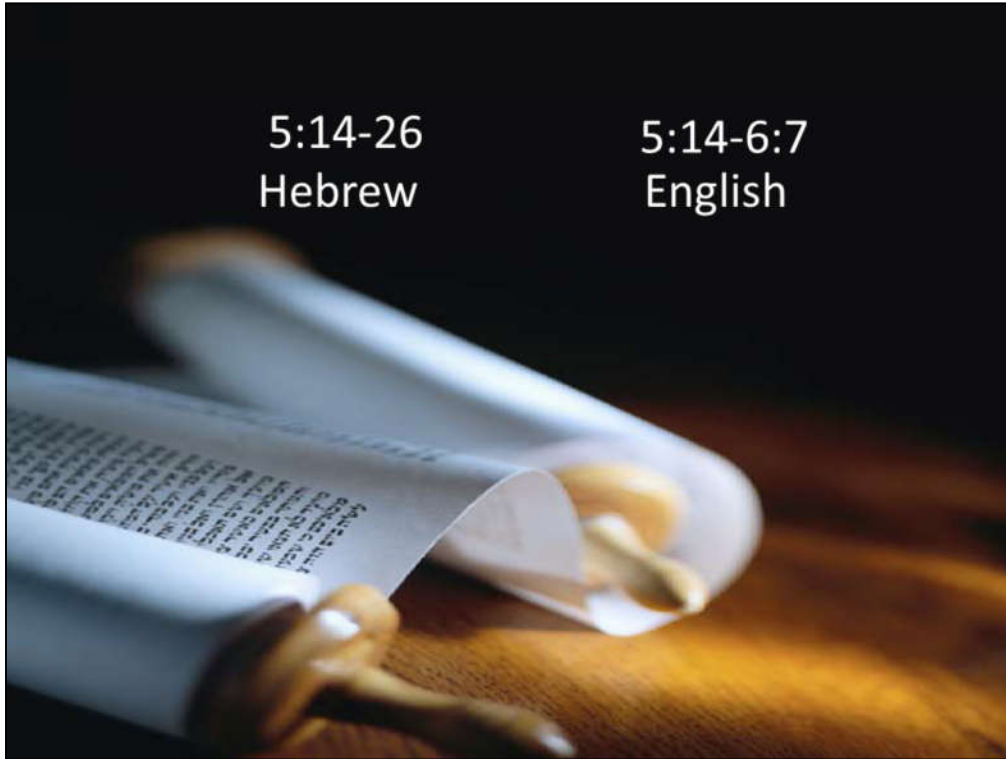


Holy to the Lord

You and the book of
Leviticus



Chapters 5 & 6



Have a look at Leviticus 5:14-26. What do you notice about this section? (It doesn't go up to verse 26)

The Hebrew Bible treats this section as a whole unit, and therefore has 26 verses in chapter five.

English Bibles end chapter five with verse 19 and then continue the verses in chapter 6.

Does this make a difference? (not really, unless you are trying to cross reference between the two)



The word Ma'al is significant in this section. This is one of those words that is difficult to translate its meaning, and that shows up in some of the translations. In the NIV you find the same word used twice in close proximity, but two different translations are used.



The ESV translates it as “sins” but it is much more specific than that.

It has the connotation of “trespassing on divine domain.” What does that mean? (Trespassing on God’s stuff.)

Therefore the word “sacrilege” is a more descriptive translation. This is the abuse of something holy, a sacrilege of something belonging to God.

This word and a similar word, the word for desecrate, are used synonymously later in the book (19:12)

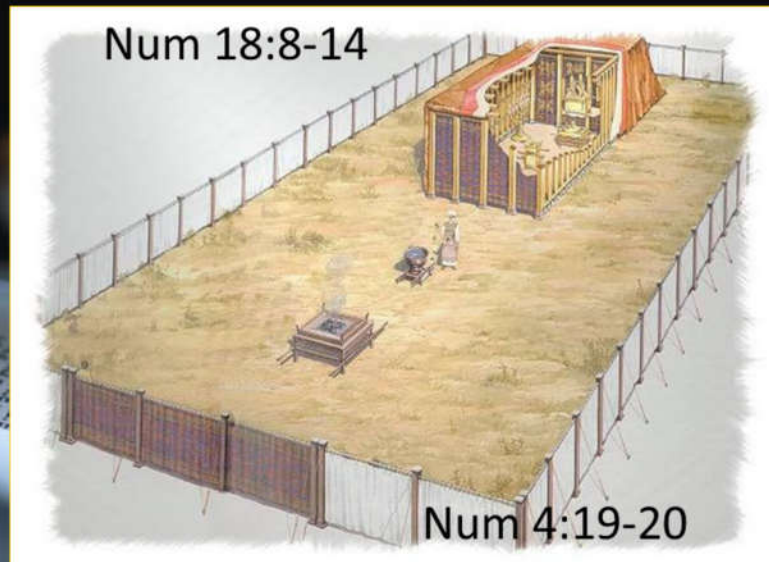
Examples of

מעל

- Joshua 7:1
- 2 Chron 26:16-21
- 2 Chron 28:22-27



Holy Things



What would the “Holy Things” of God be? (Specifically, the items in the Tabernacle, which is God’s holy place.)

Also the food that is separated from the sacrifice and given to the priest. Only the priests were allowed to contact it and eat it because they were ritually clean. Consecrated. Read Num 18:8-14

The holy things communicated holiness by physical contact. (think on how this relates to us and our worship)

What was the penalty for sacrilege against the holy things? Read Numbers 4:19-20

Lev 5:14-19

- What is different in this offering?
- What object is made into smoke?



This offering includes reparation or compensation as part of it. Keep this in mind. We will discuss this more a little later.

A ram is made into smoke. There is no option here.

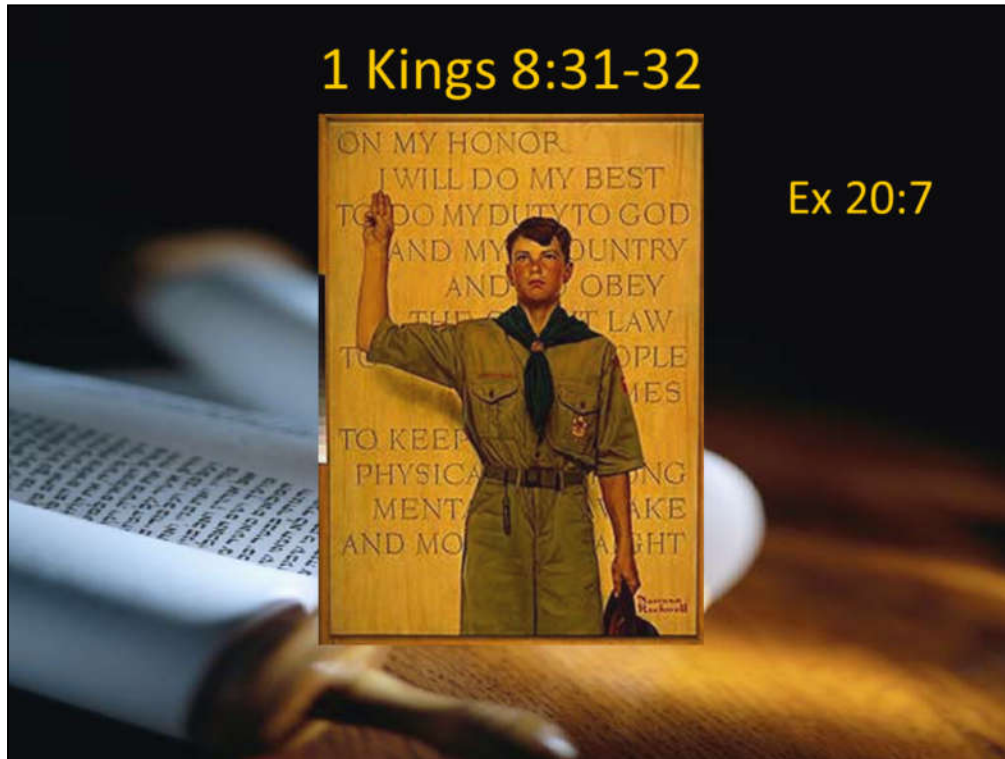
Lev 6:1-7

יְהוָה



This section also protects the holiness of God's name. How so? (swear falsely)

1 Kings 8:31-32



Ex 20:7

The sins mentioned in verses 1-7 of chapter 6 all have the offended denying that the property belonged to someone else and denying that it was gained inappropriately. These issues were hard to prove in a court so often in the ancient world the suspected party was required to take an oath of innocence like the one described in 1 Kings 8:31-32.

By denying his offence under oath, he would be guilty of sacrilege. This is because by denying his offence under oath, the offender made God an accessory to his crime. God would therefore enact the curse contained in the oath and punish the person as he had threatened to do in the second commandment. Read Ex. 20:7

If the offender was later struck with guilt, he could only escape this punishment by admitting his crime and making restitution to both the victim and to God as we see outlined in Lev 5 and 6.

Restitution

- Lev 5:16
- Lev 6:5



What is the restitution that must be made in addition to the burnt offering? (Must restore the item and give an extra fifth, or 20%, to it)

This may be given to God, (through the priest) in 5:16, or to an individual as in 6:5.

Make Smoke



After the restitution is made then the offering is made into smoke. It is through this, not the restitution that atonement is made. Read Lev 6:7.

It is through this atonement that the person is free from the penalties of sacrilege.

New Testament

Act 5:1-11



With the story of Ananias and Sapphira we see a similar sin to what we are dealing with here. They were not obligated to give anything to the Lord, but they let others believe that they were giving to God the entire amount they received from selling some land. In essence they misappropriated money that belonged to God.

The penalty for this act (death) shows that sacrilege is just as dangerous in the New Testament church as it was with Israel.

New Testament

Heb 10:26-31

1 Cor 11:27-30

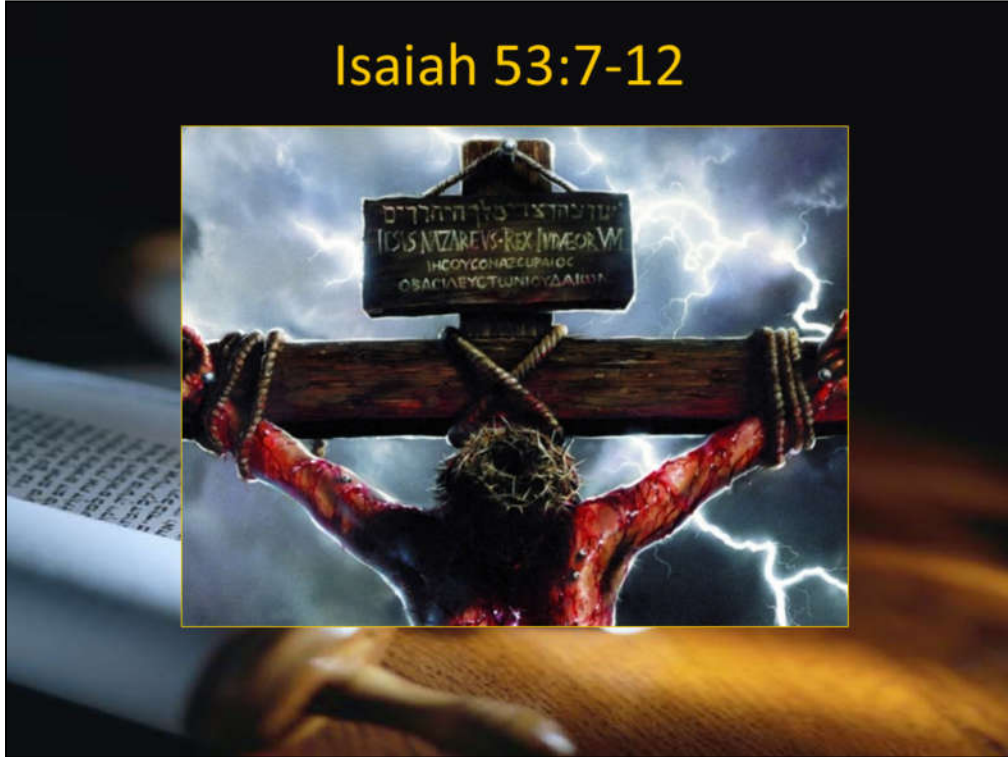


What does Hebrews say is the results of sacrilege? (experiencing God's wrath, and a removal of access to His grace)

St. Paul also warns about the peril of desecrating the body and blood of our Lord.

-Do we take these words seriously enough when we look at it through the eyes of the trespass offering?

Isaiah 53:7-12



While the NT doesn't specifically mention the reparation offering, we do have an allusion to it in the servant song in Isaiah 53. (esp. verse 10)

Most Holy Things Matt 26:26-27



Earlier we said that in Israel the most holy things communicated holiness by physical contact. What about us?

What if someone comes to the altar but does not eat the bread and wine?

In Medieval times they would pocket the bread and take it home to protect their house from evil. Did it work? (This is what they were intended for.)

What does Jesus say? Matt 26:26-27 (Take, eat. Drink of it all of you.)

Next week:

Ashes to Ashes

