
Day 53 – February 22

The Laws of Moses (1450 – 1400 BCE)
Sin Offerings

Readings: *Leviticus 4:1-35; 5:1-13; 6:24-30; Numbers 15:22-31*

Reflections:

- As mentioned previously, sin offerings were for specific sins rather than simply a general type of atonement. The person offering a sin offering must confess their sin. This confession points toward the future practice we see in James of the importance of confession of sin (James 5:16). Confession is not simply an outward act to do as a ritual but rather a way to partner with God in the transformation of our hearts as we honestly face our true heart condition before God and community. As we openly and honestly acknowledge the truth about our hearts, then we can experientially encounter God's grace to forgive and restore us. As long as we live in denial, God's grace cannot reach our hearts because we have locked our hearts away. This is modeled here in the Law.
- Kidneys were symbolic of human emotions like the heart within western culture. Possibly the requirement to show the kidneys at sin offerings were to tie heartfelt repentance to the sacrifice. It is not just about offering the sacrifice but the person offering a sacrifice was reminded of their heart condition, or in this case their kidney condition. Also, the fat is symbolic of generosity or richness. It should be a fat portion.
- In the case of sin offerings it is like God makes provision even if you are the poorest of the poor. He wants to make sure everyone can participate. We see God's compassion and desire for all to be in relationship with him.