

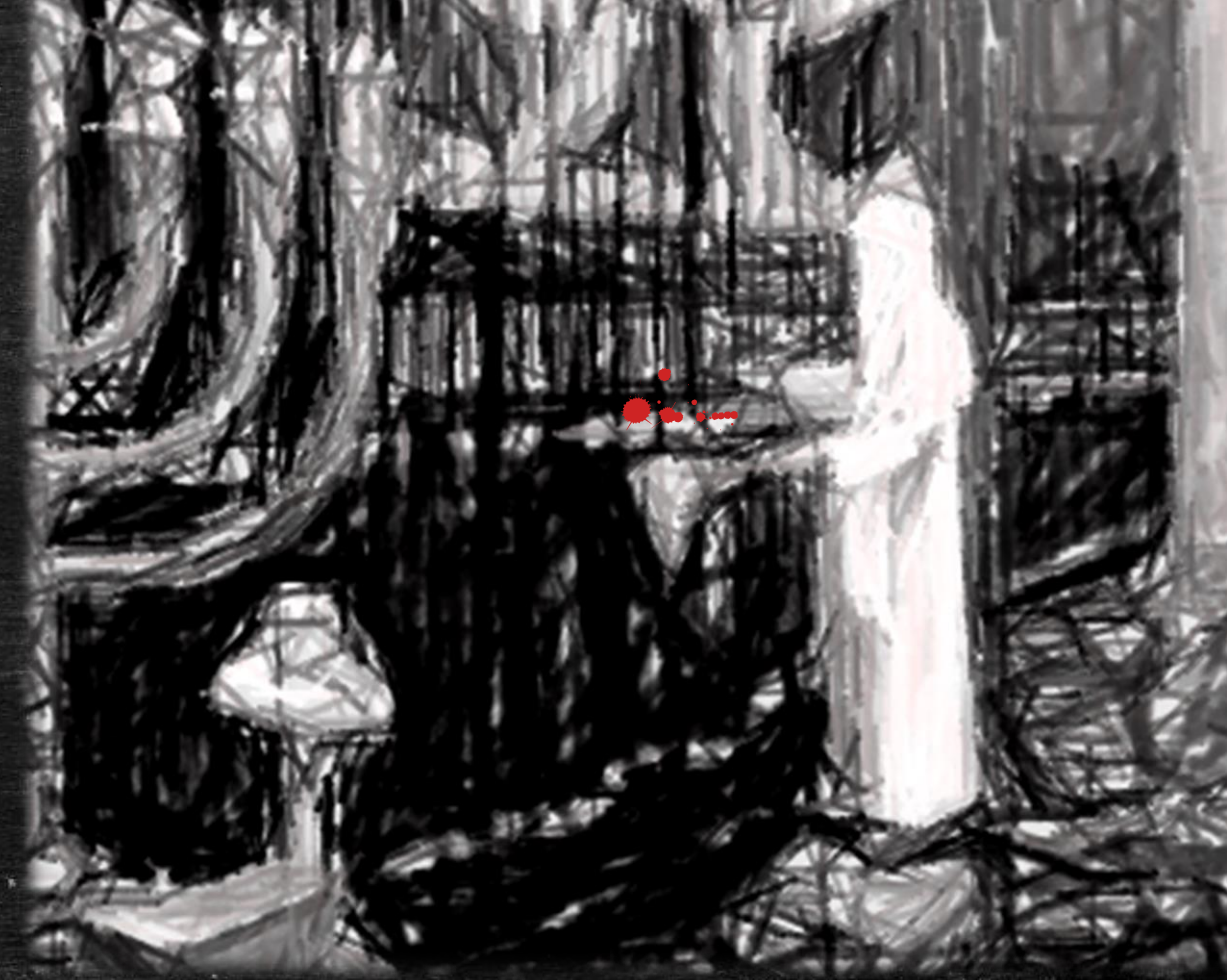
BLOOD MANIPULATION IN ANCIENT ISRAEL



Wisdom in Torah

Talmidim Teachers

RYAN WHITE



SIN & SACRIFICE IN

ANCIENT ISRAEL

Part 4

RESOURCES

- Jacob Milgrom
- Mary Douglas
- Gary A. Anderson *Sin: A History*
- Henry P. Smith *The Hebrew View of Sin*
- Baruch Schwartz *The Bearing of Sin in Priestly Literature*
- Jeremiah Unterman *For the Image of God as Redeemer of Israel*
- Margaret Barker *Atonement: The Rite of Healing*
- Jonathan Klawans *Purity, Sacrifice, and the Temple*

RESOURCES

- Marcel Mauss *The Gift*
- Henri Hubert and Marcel Mauss *Sacrifice*
- Gordon Wenham *The Book of Leviticus*
- Yitzhaq Feder *Blood Expiation in Hittite and Biblical Ritual*
- Allen Ross *Holiness to the LORD*
- Dennis Pardee *Divinatory and Sacrificial Rites*
- William Gilders *Sacrifice in Ancient Israel*

What is the function of Blood in Biblical rituals of Ancient Israel?



THE LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD

GENESIS 9:4-5

"But do not eat flesh with its life, its blood."

LEVITICUS 17:10-14

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your lives, for it is the blood that makes atonement for the life."

JOHN 6:53-54

"Eat my flesh and drink my blood..."

RING STRUCTURE OF LEVITICUS 17:10-14

A — (10) 'And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that **person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people.**

B - (11) For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood,

C - and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.'

D - (12) Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.'

C - (13) "Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust;

B - (14) for *it is* the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life.

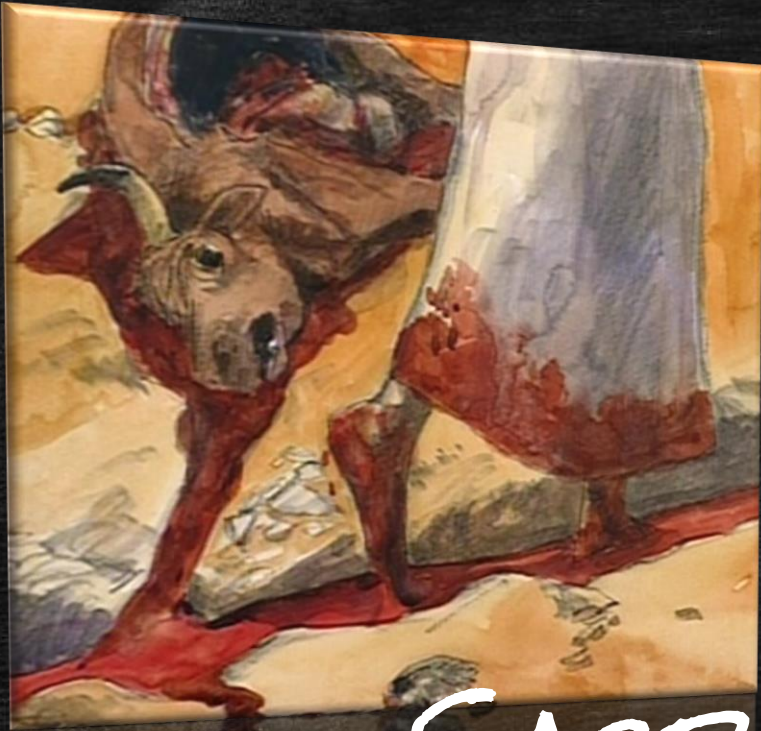
A — Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. **Whoever eats it shall be cut off.'**

THE LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD



Modern medicine

- Labs
 - Electrolytes
 - Blood Components
 - Blood Cultures
 - Miscellaneous
- Heart Rate
- Blood Pressure
- SpO₂
- Blood Gases
- Drugs into the bloodstream
- Blood transfusion
- **Transport system**



THE LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD



SACRIFICE = ELEVATION OF LIFE

Sacrifice isn't about offering death, but about offering up life.
-H. Clay Trumbull

THE BLOOD CRIES OUT

Gen 4:10-12

- Blood cries out, the land is offended

Rev 6:9-10

- Avenging the saint's blood

Numbers 35:33

- Blood defiles the land, only the life-blood of the murderer can 'atone'

Ezek 24:7-8

- uncovered blood rouses vengeance

Job 16:18



THE BLOOD CRIES OUT

Deuteronomy 21:1-9

- Bloodstains are thought to bring infertility to the land (2 Sam 21:1-9)
- This rite transfers the "bloodstain" to an uncultivated area
- The murder is reenacted on the cow, but in a bloodless manner (as if to say that the guilt lies elsewhere)
- Any blood is carried away by the stream immediately
- The leaders wash their hands over the cow, declaring innocence



GO'EL HA'DAM THE REDEEMER OF BLOOD

- The act of Blood-Avenger isn't (just) about rights of retribution of the victim's kin, it is about the obligation of the community to ensure balance in the land by "atoning" the bloodguilt
- Deut 32:42 - God is the Blood-Avenger
- Gen 9:5 - murderers are to be brought to justice by man's hand



ATONEMENT

כפר

Literal meaning vs. Metaphorical/functional meaning

To wipe

To Ransom

To Cover

To Purge

To Re-Cover

ATONEMENT

כפר

TO COVER?

Leviticus 17:4
Proverbs 28:13

LID OF ATONEMENT

Septuagint 'hilasterion'

NOACH'S ARK

Genesis 6:14
'cover' or 'wipe'?

ATONEMENT

כפר

Who or is the object of 'Atonement'?

LEV 8:14-15

את

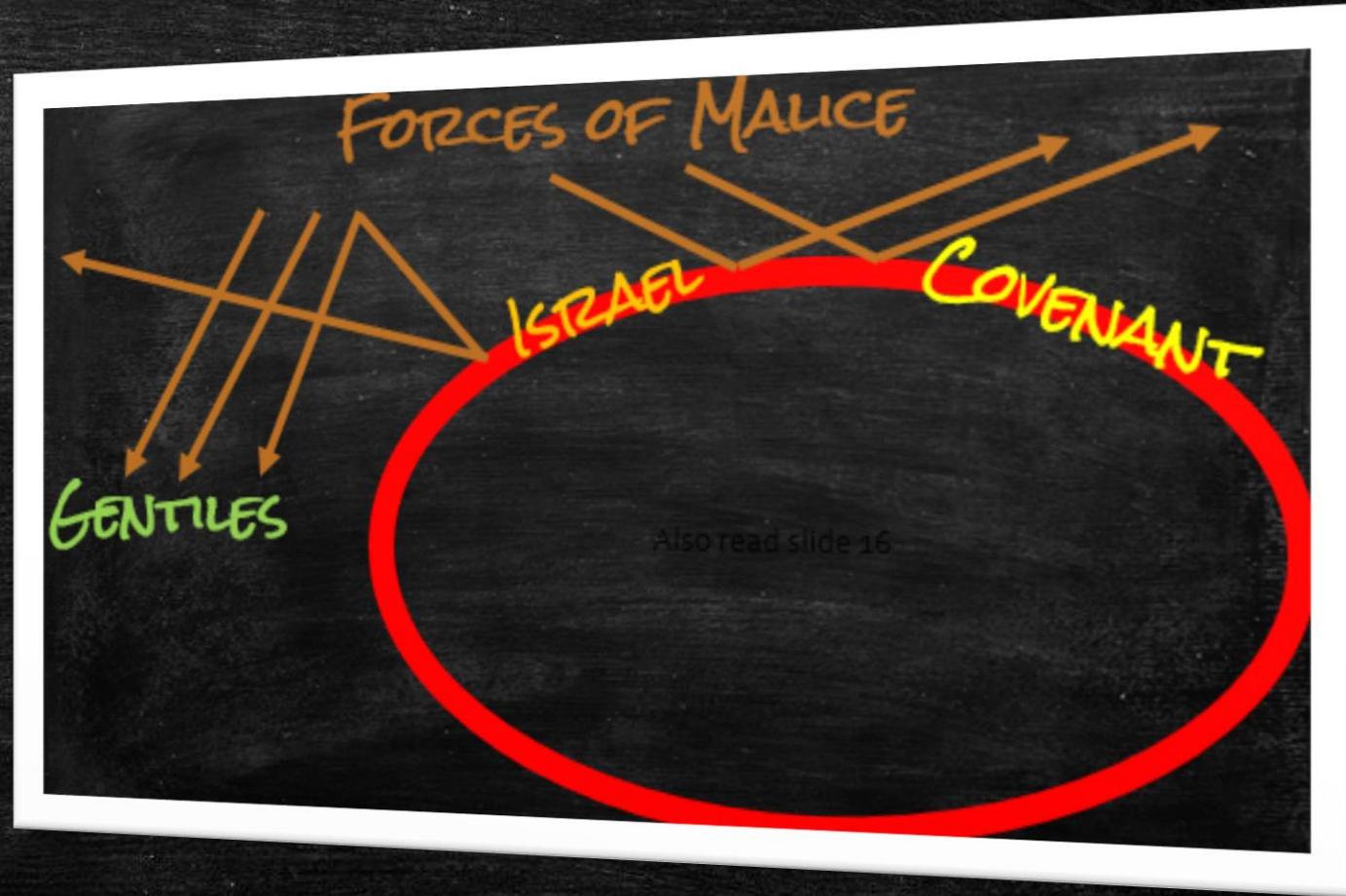
METAPHORICAL FUNCTIONAL MEANING

Numbers 8:19

Atonement protects against
outbreak of divine wrath or
outbreak of destruction

ATONEMENT

כפר



ATONEMENT WITHOUT BLOOD

- Lev 2 - *minchah*
- Exod 30:11-16, Num 31:48-54 - 1/2 Shekel
- Exod 32:9-14, 30-33 - Mediation/righteousness (Mosheh)
- 2 Chron 30:17-20 - Prayer/preparation of heart
- Num 16:44-48 - Through incense
- Lev 16:22 - Goat escaping to the wilderness
- Num 25 - Death of the guilty leadership
- Prov 16:6 - Mercy and truth
- Isaiah 27:9-11 - Physical punishment

METAPHORICAL FUNCTIONAL MEANING

BLOOD MONEY

כפר

Kofer(H3724) - bribe, ransom, compensatory payment

- Used in a legal sense

Numbers 25:11-13

Numbers 35:31-33 - murder can only be paid for with the blood of the murderer

- Also see 1 Sam 3:14

Exod 21:29-30 - Talion laws

Isaiah 27:9 vs. Prov 16:6 - Payment by punishment, payment by righteousness

METAPHOTICAL
FUNCTIONAL
MEANING

"Soothing Aroma"

Deuteronomy 21:1-9

Psalms 72:14, 116:15

Acts 20:28

BLOOD MONEY

כפר

Psalms 49:8-10

Abstraction of Commodity

דמים דמי

Matthew 20:28

דמי - Blood as Currency

<m.Kethuboth 12.1>

If a man married a wife and she made an arrangement with him that he should maintain her daughter for five years, he must maintain her for five years. If she was [subsequently] married to another man and arranged with him also that he should maintain her daughter for five years, He, too, must maintain her for five years. The first husband is not entitled to plead, 'if she will. Come to me I will maintain her', but he must forward her maintenance to her at the place where her mother [lives]. Similarly, the two husbands cannot plead, 'we will maintain her jointly' but one must maintain her and the other allow her the cost of her maintenance.

(Purchase a printed Mishnah)

m.Ketubbot 12.1

מ כתובות 12.1

הנושא את האישה, ופסקה עימו שיהא זן את בתה חמש שנים, נישאת לאחר, ופסקה עימו שיהא זן את בתה חמש שנים-- חייב לזונה חמש שנים: לא יאמר הראשון, לכשתבוא לביתי אזונה, אלא מוליך את מזונותיה למקום שהיא אימה; וכן לא יאמרו שניהם, דרי' אנו זנין אותה כאחת, אלא אחד זנה, ואחד נותן לה דמי מזונות.

(Hebrew text at Kodesh)

Screen Capture from: <http://instonebrewer.com/RabbinicTraditions/>
Mishnah Ketubot 12.1

Propitiation - An action directed at the injured party to appease anger by making up for the breach in relationship.

Expiation - An action directed towards that which caused the breakdown in relationship, thus nullifying the offensive act

SUMMARY OF כפר

Physical

- To 'wipe' or 'rub'
- Purges the meta-physical stain of sin/impurity from God's house or the universe
- Provides restitutionary payment for one's misdeeds
- Repairs a breach in covering

Spiritual

- Changes the person or object's relational standing with respect to the Deity
- Restores the covering protection of the covenant

BLOOD INDEXING - POWER OF TRANSFERENCE

LEVITICUS 8:6-35

1. Priests must bathe
2. Tabernacle and altar are anointed with oil
3. Priests are anointed with oil
4. Altar is purified and consecrated with blood
5. Altar is dedicated to YHVH
6. Blood from the same animal is placed on the priests and on the consecrated altar





WHY MUST THE ALTAR BE CLEANSED?



ALTAR CONTAMINATION

JEREMIAH 17:1

"The sin of Judah *is* written with a pen of iron;
With the point of a diamond *it is* engraved
On the tablet of their heart,
And on the horns of your altars,



LEV 8:14-17
PURIFICATION VS. ATONEMENT

SIN OFFERING
-OR-
PURIFICATION OFFERING

CHATTAT

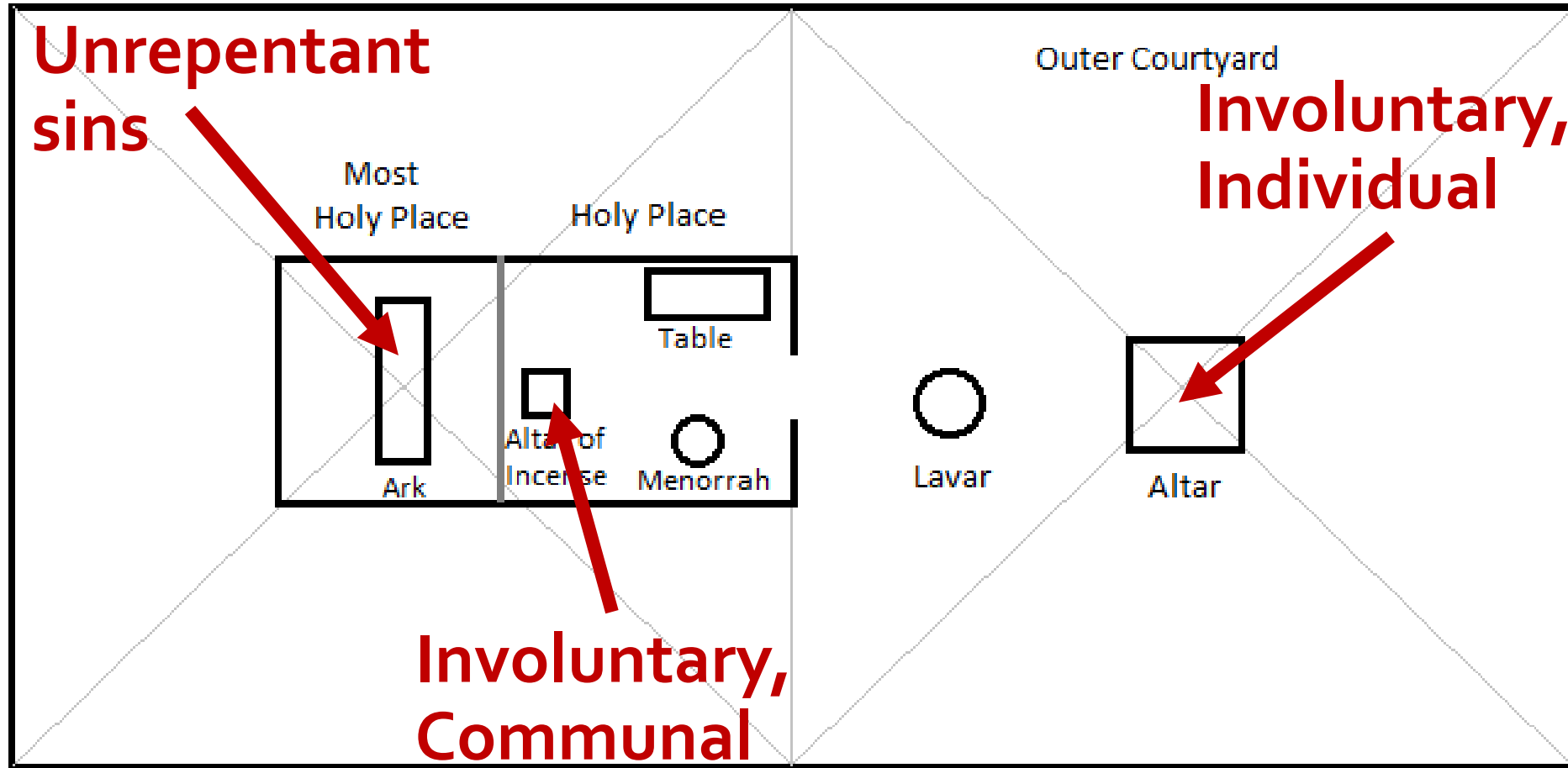
Numbers 8:7

Ezekiel 43:22

Ezekiel 45:18

ALTAR CONTAMINATION

**Brazen &
Unrepentant
sins**



HAND-LEANING GESTURE IN SACRIFICE

Single hand

- Due to the animal's size, and there being multiple animals in the tabernacle, the possibility to make mistake could occur
- Thus "this is mine", not "this is me" – eliminates confusion of ownership
 - This is why the action was not performed with the bird or the grain (Lev 1:14-17, 5:7-11)
 - Judaism teaches *binyan av'* to always use 2 hands based off Lev 16 (but this doesn't follow the actual text).

"The Gesture of Hand Placement in the Hebrew Bible and in Hittite Literature"

Author(s): David P. Wright

HAND-LEANING GESTURE IN SACRIFICE

Two Hands

- Indicates a transfer
 - Transfer of authority from Mosheh to Joshua (Num 27:18-23)
 - Transfer of communal guilt to a blasphemer (Lev 24:14)
 - Transfer of sin culpability to the scapegoat (Lev 16:21-22)
- Both 1 & 2 handed gestures are paralleled in Hittite culture



DAUBING BLOOD ON PERSONS

LEVITICUS 8

EZEKIEL 43:20

LEVITICUS 14:10-18



FUNCTIONS OF BLOOD

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graph TD; A([FUNCTIONS OF BLOOD]) --> B([Means of Payment]); A --> C([Means of Purification]); A --> D([Means of Indexing]); C <--> |?| D
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Means of
Payment

Means of
Purification

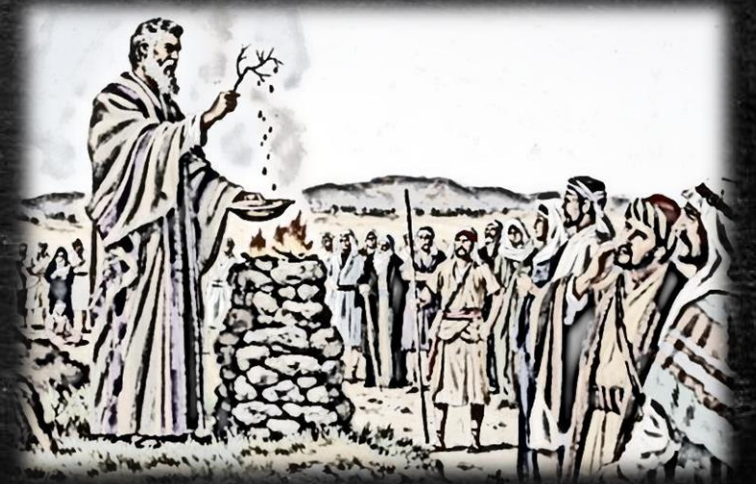
Means of
Indexing

BLOOD INDEXING - POWER OF TRANSFERENCE

"GOD EXISTS OUTSIDE OF TIME"
REVELATION 13:8

LIVE BIRD AND THE LEPER
LEVITICUS 14:2-7

WHATEVER TOUCHES THE ALTAR...
EXODUS 29:37



Moses sprinkled half the
blood on the altar and the
other half on the people

EXODUS 24

EATING OF THE SIN SACRIFICE

Leviticus 10:16-20

- The sacrifice must be eaten for atonement to be affected (for individual sins)
- For communal sins or priestly sins, the sacrifice is burned outside the camp
- For rebellious sins, the sacrifice is burned outside the camp AND the priest is contaminated

Leviticus 6:18-23

- The blood of the sacrifice contaminates the sancta,

THE BLOOD COVENANT

JOHN 6:53-54

"Eat my flesh and drink my blood..."

ROMANS 3:21-26

"whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood"

1 JOHN 1:7

REVELATION 1:5

"The blood of Yeshua cleanses us from sin"

HEBREWS 13:10-13

"Sanctify the people with his own blood"

HEBREWS 9



Wisdom in Torah

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