

Dear Steve,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked if the lamb was ever used as a sin offering in the Old Testament and, if so, where?

Yes, a female lamb or female goat was used as a sin offering for the common people. See Leviticus 4:28, 32. These sacrifices were for “sins of ignorance” or for sins “somewhat against the commandments of God” (Leviticus 4:2, 13, 22, 27). If the sin offering was for a priest who trespassed, the animal to be sacrificed was a bullock (Leviticus 4:3). The bullock was also slain as a sin offering for the whole congregation (Leviticus 4:14). If a ruler trespassed, a male goat was sacrificed (Leviticus 4:23).

With the establishment of the Tabernacle of God in the wilderness and the coming of Israel under the Law, atonement sacrifices were instituted. These particular atonement sacrifices for the whole congregation, consisting of bullocks and goats, offered on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month, were also known as sin-offerings. It is important to note that no sheep was ever used as a sin offering in the Atonement Day sacrifice. It appears that God had reserved the place of the male sheep, the lamb, to portray the ransom sacrifice of Christ Jesus.

On the Day of Atonement no type of the ransom price is given us, but rather a type of the sin offering, showing particularly how the ransom price would be made applicable. However, the killing of the bullock (representing Jesus’ death) points to the ransom. The bullock had to be killed and the blood applied in the Most Holy before anything could be done with the goat (which we feel represents the Church class and her part in the sin offering, but not in the ransom). The sin offering of the Atonement Day and its sacrifices constitute a picture of the processes by which God accomplishes the world’s blessing, while the Ransom is entirely distinct, and shows the work of Jesus alone and its ultimate effect for mankind. This ransom merit is identified with the sacrifice of Jesus as the Passover lamb—the “lamb of God” that takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

We hope we have answered your question. Please write us again.

Sincerely,  
Christian Questions Radio