

Day of Atonement

Leviticus Chapter 16

Hebrews 4:14-16 "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all [points] tempted as [we are], [yet] without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Yom Kippor - Yom from Yome "the day" Kippor = atonement

Lev 16:1 1) Atonement of the High Priest vs 1-6

Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of the LORD and died.

- Chapter 10 Aarons 2 sons were destroyed for offering strange fire BEFORE THE LORD.
- Possibly Aaron was a little unnerved about coming before the Lord in the Holy of Holies.

Lev 16:2 The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

- The Lord tells Moses to talk to Aaron. Tell him there is a proper way to come before the Lord. That he doesn't need to be afraid.
- You cannot come into the Holy of Holies ANY TIME he wants.
- God says when. When He (God) appears in a cloud over the mercy seat.
- Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God." - We have access or invitation to come before God through faith.

Lev 16:3 "Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

Lev 16:4 "He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on.

- Exodus 28:2 "You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty."
- These garments in Exodus 28 are for glory and beauty. To be worn among the people to show God's holiness (call to separation is gloriously beautiful).
- As we read here in Leviticus 16, He still wears holy garments but they are not the "gold, blue, purple and scarlet material. On this day the priest would wear linen garments. The stones and gold elements were not worn this day. Simple white linen.
- Jesus Our High Priest didn't wear ornate garments when he just common clothes (human flesh, humble attire)
- Matthew 27:28-31 "And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put [it] upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify [him]."
- Serving before the Lord, the servant doesn't stand out in glory but stands/serves in humility.
- He will offer 15 sacrifices (by himself), wash 5 times and change clothes into priestly clothes and then back to the linen garments.



Lev 16:5 "He shall take from the congregation of the sons of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.

- So far he has a bull a ram 2 goats and another ram.
- This was a "Great Day" and the details of the preparation were carefully observed.

- The mention of the 2 sons at the beginning of the chapter also may demonstrate how important it was to follow God's prescribed rules.

Lev 16:6 "Then Aaron shall offer the bull for the sin offering which is for himself, that he may make **atonement** for himself and for his household.

- An offering FOR HIMSELF first.
- ATONEMENT - 15 times in this chapter Hebrew means to cover. To Cover Sin.
- Romans 5:11 "And not only [so], but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement." (reconciliation)

Lev 16:7 **2) Atonement for the Facility** vs 7-19

"He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

Lev 16:8 "Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat.

- The casting of lots is the method of allowing God to choose.
- Proverbs 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD."
- Scapegoat (Hebrew - *azazel*) is a term argued by scholars that it may mean scapegoat, to tear down, name of the goat, name of Satan himself.

Lev 16:9 "Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for the LORD fell, and make it a sin offering.

Lev 16:10 "But the goat on which the lot for the scapegoat fell shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make **atonement** upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.

Lev 16:11 "Then Aaron shall offer the bull of the sin offering which is for himself and make **atonement** for himself and for his household, and he shall slaughter the bull of the sin offering which is for himself.

- Again, the bull was the sacrifice for HIMSELF.
- A reminder that he is the High Priest not because of any special merit of Aarons. He was simply chosen by God.
- Hebrews 7:26-28 Jesus is a better High Priest because "For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever."

Lev 16:12 "He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring {it} inside the veil.

Lev 16:13 "He shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on {the ark of} the testimony, otherwise he will die.

1st Entrance
Incense

- The coals to burn the incense comes from the altar.
- The smoke from the incense is to mingle with the glory cloud that God will appear in over the mercy seat.

Lev 16:14 "Moreover, he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle {it} with his finger on the mercy seat on the east {side;} also in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

2nd Entrance
Blood (bull)

Lev 16:15 "Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. .

3rd Entrance
Blood (goat)

- The elements in the ark could represent man's sins
 - Manna - the Israelites complained about God's provision
 - The Tablets of the Law - which Israel (an all men) have broke
 - Aarons Budded Rod - produced due to mans rebellion
- God being Above the Ark looking down on the ark which contains representative elements of man's seen seed the blood that was upon the mercy seat.
- This becomes the picture of atonement. To cover sins.

Lev 16:16 "He shall make **atonement** for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities.

Lev 16:17 "When he goes in to make **atonement** in the holy place, no one shall be in the tent of meeting until he comes out, that he may make **atonement** for himself and for his household and for all the assembly of Israel. .

- No Man can be there to help or assist or to give counsel. It is the High Priest alone.
- Jesus Alone made atonement for us.

Lev 16:18 "Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make **atonement** for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the blood of the goat and put it on the horns of the altar on all sides.

Lev 16:19 "With his finger he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it seven times and cleanse it, and from the impurities of the sons of Israel consecrate it.

- So we have seen
 - the High Priest atoned,
 - the tent of meeting atoned,
 - the holy place atoned,
 - the altar atoned.

Lev 16:20 **3) Atonement for the People** vs 20-31

"When he finishes **atonement** for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall offer the live goat.

Lev 16:21 "Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send {it} away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who {stands} in readiness.

Lev 16:22 "The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

- The High Priests lays his hands on the living goat and confess the sins of the nation over it.
- Then a man who stands ready will take the goat and release it in the wilderness. The scripture doesn't give any detail about this person.
- Rabbis teach when the scapegoat is released into the wilderness the Day of Atonement was complete.
- But one could see that sin isn't ever really done away with. It is put away. In later years Israel too could see this problem. What if someone found the goat? What if the goat wandered back into the camp? No one could know for certain.
- Some modifications were made. The goat was killed or the goat was marked to prevent the sins coming back.
- Jesus is our High Priest and our atonement is complete and certain
 - Hebrews 10:10-14 *"By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified."*
 - Psalm 103:12 *"As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us."*
 - 1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Lev 16:23 "Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments which **Change clothes** he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there.

Lev 16:24 "He shall bathe his body with water in a holy place and put on his clothes, and come forth and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make **atonement** for himself and for the people.

Lev 16:25 "Then he shall offer up in smoke the fat of the sin offering on the altar.

- Lev 16:26 "The one who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water; then afterward he shall come into the camp.
- Lev 16:27 "But the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make **atonement** in the holy place, shall be taken outside the camp, and they shall burn their hides, their flesh, and their refuse in the fire.
- Lev 16:28 "Then the one who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water, then afterward he shall come into the camp.
- On the Day of Atonement, the high priest was humble (Leviticus 16:4), he was spotless (Leviticus 16:11), and he was alone (Leviticus 16:11-14), and he emerged victorious - just like Jesus was in accomplishing our work of atonement. (Guzik)
- Lev 16:29 **"{This} shall be a permanent statute for you:** in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you;
- Lev 16:30 for it is on this day that **atonement** shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.
- Lev 16:31 "It is to be a sabbath of solemn rest for you, that you may humble your souls; **it is a permanent statute.**
- Permanent Statute - This Sacrificed would cleanse the Israelites from their sins, but next year the atonement must be made again for the next year's worth of sins.
 - Other festivals are a time of celebration. This is a serious time. A time of humbleness and eventually a time of fasting.
- Lev 16:32 **4) Atonement in Summary** vs 32-34
- "So the priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as priest in his father's place shall make **atonement**: he shall thus put on the linen garments, the holy garments,
- Lev 16:33 and make **atonement** for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make **atonement** for the tent of meeting and for the altar. He shall also make **atonement** for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.
- Lev 16:34 "Now you shall have this as **a permanent statute**, to make **atonement** for the sons of Israel for all their sins once every year." And just as the LORD had commanded Moses, {so} he did.

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