

LESSON OUTLINE

I. The Day of Atonement's Preparation. Leviticus 16:3-12

Hebrews 9:22 says, "...and without shedding of blood is no remission." The Day of Atonement started with presenting animal sacrifices for sin! But not for just anyone's sin, but the sins of the High Priest and his family. This helps us understand that all human beings have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Aaron, who represented the people, needed to be atoned for his sins and his house. Aaron then appeared as all High Priests, with a bullock and a ram for a sin and burnt offering respectively (v. 3), before he could offer for the people. The High Priest had to remove his beautiful priestly garments and dress down to simple linen garments that, when compared to his daily garments, made him look as a slave (v. 4).

The Children's Ministry Resource Bible (CMRB) summarizes the preparation this way: "First, the high priest offered a bull for his sins and the sins of his family. Only then could he offer a goat for the sins of the people. Our sinless High Priest, Jesus Christ, needed no offering for Himself; He never sinned (Heb. 7:26-28). As the perfect Son of God, He came to earth ready to make an offering for His people. The Lord Jesus offered Himself to die for our sins on the cross. I Peter 1:18-19, *'Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.'*"

Beloved, it has been said that the Christian today spends less time to approach God than the high priests of the past. But that is because Jesus our High Priest has paid the ultimate price to open the door to God's presence. Hebrews 4:16, *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

II. The Day of Atonement's Presentation. Leviticus 16:13-15 (Read)

With the preparations made, Aaron comes to present his sacrifice, sacredly and solemnly, according to God's orders for himself and his household (vv. 13-14). "Once the animals had been slain, the high priest took the blood into the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle and sprinkled it on the mercy seat, the lid of the Ark of the Covenant. Beneath this lid were the tablets of stone on which God had written the Ten Commandments. Symbolically, the blood on the mercy seat covered the law, which the people broke when they sinned. It pictured God's seeing the blood instead of the broken law." (CMRB)

III. The Day of Atonement's Purification. Leviticus 16:16-19

According to several Bible scholars, the work of the high priest was not only to purify himself and family, but the people received atonement, and also he purified the whole Tabernacle in order that God's presence might operate throughout because the residue of sin was attached to every part because of the people. All three areas of the Tabernacle needed to be purified that the presence of the Lord would not be offended. MacArthur writes: "The object of this solemn ceremony was to impress the minds of the Israelites with the conviction that the whole tabernacle was stained by the sins of a guilty people. By those sins, they had forfeited the privileges of the presence of God and worship of Him, so that an atonement had to be made for their sins as the condition of God remaining with them."

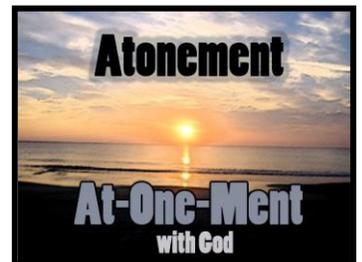
IV. The Day of Atonement's Propitiation. Leviticus 16:20-22, 30-34

When all was completed to purify the Tabernacle and all its compartments, the Israelite should have known that Jehovah is Lord of the House of God, as He should be Lord of our lives. The Christian does not have a divided life, sacred and secular. Christ paid the price and he is Lord of all.

The live goat that was chosen earlier by lot to be called the bearer of Israel's sins or scape goat, stood before the high priest as he pronounces the sins of the nation on his head. Then by the hand of a man chosen earlier, the goat was led away from the camp and into the wilderness. This pictured that God had covered Israel's sins and remained in their presence. Beloved, I'm glad for Christ's *propitiation*, simply meaning, the act that involves appeasing the wrath of God and being reconciled back to Him.

CLOSING

As Christians, Christ is our sacrifice, whose blood was shed one time for us all. Now when we have received Christ, God accepts us eternally through Him. Ephesians 1:6-7, *"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."*



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Looking Ahead:

February 28, 2016

Leviticus 23:33-43

Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!

