

The Day of Atonement
Leviticus 16:1-34 (also 23:26-32)
Tenth day of the Seventh month

The Day of Atonement was perhaps the most important day of the year for Israel. It was the day of their annual cleansing from sin and the only day in the year in which the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies.

Warning

- 1 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.
- 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 high priest s offering

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

The high priest s attire

- 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.

The congregation s offering

- 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.

The presentation of the offerings before the Lord

- 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.
- 7 "He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting.
- 8 "Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat.
- 9 "Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for the LORD fell, and make it a sin offering.
- 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.

The slaying of the bull

- 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.

First entrance into the Holy of Holies incense

- 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.
- 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.

Second entrance into the Holy of Holies the blood of the bull

- 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.

The slaying of the goat***Third entrance into the Holy of Holies the blood of the goat***

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.

Atonement for the holy place***Atonement for the altar***

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.

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.

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.

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.

The scape-goat

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

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.

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 priest s attire***The burnt offering the rams******The fat of the sin offering***

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

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.

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

The one who released the scapegoat

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.

The bull and goat of the sin offerings outside the camp

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.

The one who burns the sin offering

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.

A permanent statutes. A sabbath of solemn rest

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;

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.

31 "It is to be a sabbath of solemn rest for you, that you may humble your souls; it is a permanent statute.

32 "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,

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.

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.

The burnt offering (ram) and the sin offering (bull / goat)

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

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.

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.

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

It is important to understand the importance of the burnt offering

The burnt offering was the basis of acceptance before the Lord Leviticus 1:2-4

The burnt offering appears to have been the offering ***upon which*** all the other offerings were offered

Exodus 40:29 grain offering

Leviticus 3:5 peace offering

Leviticus 6:12 peace offering

Leviticus 4:35 sin offering

Leviticus 5:12 sin offering

Leviticus 7:7 guilt offering

Note (*offerings by fire*) The burnt offering was called *an offering by fire* (Leviticus 1:9, 13, 17). The grain offering (Leviticus 2:2, 9, 16) and the peace offering (Leviticus 3:3, 5, 9, 11, 14, 16) were also called *offerings by fire*. It is interesting to note that the sin offering was ***not*** called an offering by fire even though it was offered by fire. The guilt offering is referred to only once as *an offering by fire* (Leviticus 7:5).

The acceptability of the burnt offering formed the basis of all the other offerings. In order for the other offerings to be accepted, the burnt offering had to be accepted.

The Lord Jesus Christ as the burnt offering ***is*** the propitiation (satisfaction) (1 John 2:2).

The Lord Jesus Christ as the sin offering ***made*** propitiation (satisfaction) (Hebrews 2:17).

The frequency and futility of the Day of Atonement

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.

Hebrews 10:1-18

Psalms 32:1

John 1:29

Hebrews 7:23-28

Note (*a body You have prepared for Me*) Hebrews 10:5

Psalms 40:6

Exodus 21:5-6

John 1:1

John 1:14

Philippians 2:5-8

The entrance into the Holy of Holies

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.

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.

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.

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.

Hebrews 9:1-14

Hebrews 9:24-28

Hebrews 10:19-20

The scape goat bore on itself all their iniquities

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.

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

Isaiah 53:4-6

Isaiah 53:11-12

2 Corinthians 5:21

1 Peter 2:24

Outside the camp

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.

Recall (1) the sin offering for the priest Leviticus 4:1-12

Recall (2) the sin offering for the congregation Leviticus 4:13-21

Hebrews 13:11-13

Acts 6:7

The Day of Atonement has relevance not only as a picture of contrast with the once for all sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, but also with respect to Israel in the future when Israel finally recognizes its Messiah, mourns its sin, and finds final and ultimate cleansing.

Zechariah 12:9-14

Zechariah 13:1-2

Ezekiel 36:22-28

Romans 11:25-27