

Leviticus and the Sacrificial System

Lesson 11 – The Day of Atonement

Text

Leviticus 16; 23:26-32; 25:9; Numbers 29:7-10; Hebrews 9:1-28; 1 Peter 2:24

Introduction

The day of atonement, the 10th day of the 7th month was the most important day of the year for the Israelites. Known today as Yom Kippur, this was the day when the high priest went into the Holy of Holies to offer sacrifice for the sins of the people. Atonement covered three areas that needed to be cleansed from the stain of sin: 1) The high priest, 2) the sanctuary, 3) the people. The day of atonement is typical of the sacrifice Christ would make (Heb 9:1-14).

Important Words

- 1) “Scapegoat” – from the Hebrew word “Azazel.” Used only in Lev 16:8,10,26, it probably means “the goat that goes away, the goat of departure, or the goat of removal.”⁽¹⁾ This word is controversial largely because some think it is the name of a demon, or possibly the devil. Some translations view Lev 16:10 as placing the scapegoat into the possession of Azazel, or a demon.
- 2) “Humble (afflict) your souls (Lev 16:29)” – Used to indicate a fast; See Psa 65:13; Isa 58:3-5. This was the only fast required in the Mosaic Law. “The fast” of Acts 27:9 is generally thought to be the day of atonement.

(1) Blackmore, Evan and Marie; Truth Commentaries: The Book of Leviticus; Guardian of Truth Foundation, Athens AL; 2012; (pages 402-406)

Questions

1. When was the day of atonement?
2. Thought question: in Lev 16:1, why was the death of Nadab and Abihu mentioned?
3. What was Aaron to bring into the holy place (Lev 16:3)?
4. Describe the clothes Aaron wore on the day of atonement.
5. What did the Aaron need to do before getting dressed?
6. From Lev 16:5, who provided the two goats and a ram? What were they for?
 - 1.
 - 2.
7. What was the purpose of the bull in Lev 16:6?
8. What is done with the goats in Lev 16:7?

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9. Describe the process of the two goats in Lev 16:8-10.
10. What bull was offered and why (Lev 16:11)?
11. Why, how, and where was the incense burned (Lev 16:12-13)?
12. What was done with the blood of the bull (Lev 16:14)?
13. From Lev 16:15-16, why did the tent of meeting need to be cleansed?
14. Who was allowed to be in the tent of meeting when Aaron is making atonement for it (Lev 16:17)?
15. What blood was used to sprinkle on the altar (Lev 16:18-19)?
16. From Lev 16:20-22, what happened to the scapegoat from Lev 16:8?
17. What did Aaron have to do after the scapegoat was released?
18. What was done with the burnt offering and the sin offering after Aaron put his high priestly clothes back on?
19. Thought question: the day of atonement is to be a permanent statute (Lev 16:29). How do we know it is not still required?
20. How were the people supposed to treat the day of atonement (Lev 16:31)?
21. What can we learn from Lev 16:32-34?
22. How does the day of atonement foreshadow Christ?