

“THE SCAPEGOAT BLESSING”

Text: Leviticus 16:1-10, 21, 22, 30

Subject: “The Day Sin Died To Accuse You Any Longer”

Introduction

- ◆ The book of Leviticus is a manual of worship.
- ◆ It is a book that tells us how to live, so that our worship will be acceptable to God.
- ◆ It is a book that impresses upon the heart four basic principles;
 1. There can be no fellowship with God except on the basis of atonement for sin.
 2. Man is unable to atone for (or cover) his own sin.
 3. The covering of sin must be according to a divine plan with a mediator.
 4. Those who walk with God must be holy because God is holy.
- ◆ The word “**Holy**” is used 91 times in Leviticus.
- ◆ The words connected with “**cleansing**” and “**uncleanness**” are found 199 times.
- ◆ It is inescapable as to the purpose of why Leviticus was given!

Question: Why does God put emphasis on the clean and unclean, pure and impure, holy and unholy?

Answer: Because God has destined you to become Holy like Jesus. (Repeat)

Fact: The word “**Holy**” comes from the old English word (HALIG) which means:

◆ “**To be whole**” (and) ◆ “**To be healthy**”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ What health is to your physical man, holiness is to your spiritual man!

Fact: The Latin word (SANCTUS) gives us our English word “**Sanctify**” which means three things”

◆ “**Consecrated**” ◆ “**Blameless**” ◆ “**Sacred**”

- ◆ It describes the process of growing to become more like Jesus.

Question: How many of you want to be more like Jesus?

(Here’s the dilemma)

- ◆ The pursuit of most people is happiness (not holiness)
- ◆ Therefore, the wrong pursuit produces unhealthy people. **(In other words)**
- ◆ If I want Jesus to fix all my problems, give me what I want and carry all my burdens...
- ◆ But I don’t want Jesus to change me inwardly, form my character and control my decisions...
 - I miss the whole purpose of my existence.
 - I miss the whole purpose of God’s grace,
 - I miss the whole purpose of sins forgiven,
 - I miss the whole purpose of redemption!!!

The Setting of our Text is Awesome:

1. Chapter 16 is the high point in the book of Leviticus.
2. It holds the greatest spiritual lesson for us.
3. It describes the most important day of the year for an Old Testament Jew.
4. It was Israel's most high and holy day:

“The Great Day of Atonement” (Yom Kippur)

Question: What was the Day of Atonement?

Answer: It was the day when God atoned for (or covered) all the sins of all the people and gave the nation a brand new beginning.

- ◆ The Day of Atonement took place on the tenth day of the seventh month.
- ◆ On the first day of the seventh month, the trumpets were blown to announce the beginning of a new year (Rosh Hashanah) (Leviticus 23:23-25)
- ◆ The tenth day was the Day of Atonement. (Leviticus 23:26-32)
- ◆ The fifteenth day began the Feast of Tabernacles (or booths) and lasted for one week. (Lev. 23:33-44)

Question: What's the big deal of Leviticus 16?

Fact: The trumpets blowing could announce the New Year

Fact: But only the shedding of blood could forgive and give the people a brand new beginning.

Question: How many of you believe that God (through the blood of Jesus) can forgive everyone of every sin?

Question: How many of you believe that God is the God of new beginnings?

- ◆ It is in this chapter where forgiveness is revealed.
- ◆ It is in this chapter where sin is covered.
- ◆ It is in this chapter that grace is revealed in forgiving Israel of all uncleanness, all iniquities, all transgressions, all guilt, all sin and all past errors.

(Leviticus 16 Reveals)

- ◆ How the Lord comes to us in the closest way possible under the old covenant.
- ◆ And how Jesus does for us now, what the Old Testament Priest did for Israel then.

“Communion Secrets from the Great Day of Atonement”

I. The Problem of the Great Day

Question: When did the Lord give the instructions for the Great Day of Atonement?

Answer: (V. 1) “And the Lord spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the Lord and died.”

- ◆ The Great Day of Atonement instructions came after the death of Nadab and Abihu.
- ◆ These two men offered “profane” fire before the presence of the Lord.
- ◆ The word “profane” means “to show disrespect for sacred things”.

- ◆ It means Nadab and Abihu were careless and loose in approaching a Holy God (and),
- ◆ They were slain by direct judgment from God because of their sin.

Question: What does this have to do with the institution of the Day of Atonement?

Answer: It reveals to all of us a dilemma:

1. God is Holy and cannot overlook sin (and),
2. Man is sinful and cannot approach God in sin. **(In other words)**

Question: How many of you would agree that God is Holy and without sin?

Question: How many of you would agree that man is sinful and needs a Savior?

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The utter Holiness of God and the utter sinfulness of man create a problem:

Question: How can we ever approach a Holy God since all of us are born in sin?

II. The Purpose of the Great Day (V. 30)

“For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you (why?) to cleanse you that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.”

Question: What is the purpose?

Answer: “Atonement”

- ◆ The word atonement comes from the Hebrew word “KAPAR” which means: “To ransom and to remove by paying a price.”
 - ◆ Atonement means that divine favor is secured through the price (blood) of another.
 - ◆ The word “blood” is used 22 times in Leviticus 16 & 17.
 - ◆ It was blood that brought cleansing on the Day of Atonement:
1. Cleansing to the high priest and his family. (Leviticus 16:16, 17)
 2. Cleansing to the tabernacle itself. (Leviticus 16: 16)
 3. Cleansing to the people of Israel. (Leviticus 16: 17)

Question: But I don’t deserve to be forgiven, cleansed and white as snow.

Answer: God knows exactly how we feel: (V. 14) “Blood was sprinkled upon the mercy seat.”

Question: Why blood on top of the golden lid (mercy seat) upon the Ark of the Covenant?

Answer: Because the Ark (the 4’ wooden box in the tabernacle) contained three things:

(Hebrews 9:4)

1. There was the jar of manna (Exodus 16)
 - ◆ A reminder of Israel’s grumbling and desire to go back to Egypt.
 - ◆ Broken fellowship with God.
2. There was Aaron’s rod that budded. (Numbers 16)
 - ◆ A reminder of Korah’s rebellion.
 - ◆ Failure in service to God.

3. There were the broken tablets of law (Exodus 32)

- ◆ A reminder of Israel's failure when they danced a jig to the golden calf.
- ◆ Failure in relationship with God.

Question: How do we overcome the accuser of the brethren (when we've all failed in some way)?

Answer: Blood on the mercy seat!

- ◆ When God looks at the box, He sees the blood! (V. 14) Sprinkled seven times is symbolic of completion.
- ◆ When God looks at the believers, He sees blood!
- ◆ When God looks at the mercy seat (the lid) on the box, He answers every accusation against you!

Question: How can we be sure?

III. The Person of the Great Day

(V. 7) Two goats were chosen for the one sin offering.

(V. 8) The priest cast lots over the goats, and one was chosen to die.

- ◆ One goat was slain and its blood sprinkled on the mercy seat and in the holy place of the tabernacle.
- ◆ The other live goat was called (in V. 8) "The scapegoat" and had another purpose:

(V. 10) "Let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness."

(V. 20) "Bring the live goat."

(V. 21) "Aaron places his bloody hands on the head of the live goat and confesses the sins of Israel."

(V. 22) "The live goat is then sent away to disappear into the wilderness for good."

- ◆ In (V. 8) the word "scapegoat" is the Hebrew word (AZAZEL) which means:
"To remove" (and) "To banish"
- ◆ Aaron's hands laid upon the scapegoat denotes that the goat is identified as the sin carrier of Israel.
- ◆ It's a picture, a type, a shadow of Jesus to you and me!"

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The releasing of the live goat symbolizes the sins of the people being carried away, never to be held against them again!!!

Question: Why two goats involved, one dead and one alive?

Answer: ◆ The slain goat symbolized payment for sin by blood.
◆ The live (scapegoat) symbolized removal of sin forever.

This is the Calvary of the Old Testament
(As the scapegoat is lead away in the desert)

1. The scapegoat carries all of Israel's sin and guilt.
2. The scapegoat is sent beyond the camp, out of sight, out of view from everyone.
3. The scapegoat is ushered out, never to return again!!!

(It is a picture of Jesus)

In The Old Testament

In The New Testament

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Nadab and Abihu sinned..... | All of us have sinned |
| 2. The high priest bathed..... | Jesus washed with His own blood |
| 3. The priest was robed in white..... | Jesus is clothed in righteousness |
| 4. The priest offered sin offerings..... | Jesus offered Himself on the cross |
| 5. The priest entered the Holy of Holies..... | Jesus entered into Heaven |
| 6. The priest sprinkled blood on the Ark..... | Jesus sprinkled blood on our heart |
| 7. The scapegoat carried all of Israel's sin..... | Jesus carried all of our sins as well |

◆ Isaiah 53 "The Lord had laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

IV. The Prize of the Great Day

(Listen to what the High Priest said as he laid both hands of the head of the scapegoat.)

"O Lord, the house of Israel thy people have trespassed, rebelled and sinned before Thee. I beseech The, O Lord, forgive now their trespasses and sins which Thy people have committed, as it is written in the Law of Moses, thy servant, saying that in that day there shall be an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord."

1. The slain goat – blood for the payment of sin (a picture of Jesus).
2. The live goat – carried sin far away, removed forever (a picture of Jesus).

(Psalm 103:12) "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us."

(Isaiah 38:17) "For thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back."

(Jeremiah 31:34) "I will remember their sin no more."

(I John 1:7) "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son cleanses us from all sin."

(Romans 8:1) "There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus."

(Hebrews 10:14, 17) "For by one offering Jesus has perfected forever them that are sanctified."

"And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."

AMEN!
Bill Kirk