



**Today we look at Leviticus 16 and the Day of Atonement...**

- We have a lot to cover so we're going to jump into it
- There are four things we will observe concerning the Day of Atonement
  - The Service
  - The Sacrifice
  - The Scapegoat
  - The Statute

**The Service**

- Yom Kippur also known as the Day of Atonement was actually part of a larger season called the Ten Days of Awe
- The Ten Days of Awe began with Rosh Hashanah or the Feast of Trumpets and ended with Yom Kippur

**For you Bible scholars, every Festival Day in Israel's calendar corresponds with a major prophetic event in scripture.**

- At Passover Jesus was crucified
- During the Feast of Unleavened Bread (which begins the day after Passover) Jesus was buried
- During the Feast of Firstfruits (which begins three days after Passover) Jesus rose from the dead
- During Pentecost (which occurred 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits) the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church
- The Day of Atonement was satisfied once and for all by Jesus' substitutionary death on the cross
- During the Feast of Tabernacles it is believed that Jesus was born (not on December 25<sup>th</sup> as we traditionally celebrate)
- There is only one Feast left accounted for – the Feast of Trumpets

**Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians**

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.



- The Ten Days of Awe were marked by intense times of prayer, fasting and repentance
- It's the only Holy Day where God requires the people to fast.
- If you didn't fast, you were cut off from the people. Why?

***Isaiah tells us why...***

Isaiah 58:6–9 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> *“Is this not the fast that I have chosen:*

To loose the bonds of wickedness,

To undo the heavy burdens,

To let the oppressed go free,

And that you break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> *Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,*

And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;

When you see the naked, that you cover him,

And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the morning,

Your healing shall spring forth speedily,

And your righteousness shall go before you;

The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I *am*.’

***We don't fast to become more sensitive to God as many teach***

- Their reasoning is... if you fast, you deny the flesh and the flesh becomes weakened and therefore you're more sensitive to the Holy Spirit
- That's not why we fast - we fast for the purpose of repentance
- To turn our attention, our affection, our focus back on God
- If we've become entangled by wickedness, if we are under heavy burdens, if we are oppressed... or if we see it in others...
- God says... this is the kind of fast I have chosen... share your bread with the hungry, bring the poor to your house, cover the naked, stop hiding in your sin
- In other words, stop going in the direction you're going, turn around and return to the Lord – that's all repentance is
- We think repentance is emotional – I have to feel really sorry for my sins, cry a lot, feel bad, feel guilty, do penance – THAT'S LEGALISM



- Repentance simply means to turn around and get back to God
- One preacher said it's easy to repent. You make one right turn and you keep going straight
- When you do, your light will break forth like the morning, your righteousness will go before you, the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard, you will call and the Lord will answer, you will live in His Presence

***Jewish tradition tells us during the afternoon services, the entire book of Jonah was read***

- I find this interesting because Jonah is the story of the gospel being preached to the Gentiles
- It's also a prophecy concerning the True Messiah – that Messiah would die, be in the grave for three days, rise again and bring Good News to all people – including the Gentiles
- The people heard the story of Jonah every year for centuries
- They knew exactly what Jesus was saying when He said I will give no other sign but the sign of Jonah

***The Sacrifice - The Day of Atonement was a Day of Sacrifice***

- It is considered the holiest and most solemn day of the year for the Jews
- There were two offerings made – the sin offering and the burnt offering
- He would begin by making a sin offering for Himself and his household – why? Because he is a sinner like everyone else
- The sin offering for the High Priest was a bull and he would begin by making atonement for Himself and his household

***Q: What is Atonement?***

- The word Atonement means to reconcile, purge away, to cover over, to make reconciliation and to pardon
- The point of atonement was forgiveness
- It implied two things
  - The removal of guilt from a wrongdoing
  - The restoration of relationship through reconciliation
- One of the biggest sources of anxiety, depression and breakdown in relationships centers around forgiveness
- If we do not believe we are forgiven, we will live with guilt and shame
- If we live with guilt and shame, then the environment of our homes becomes shame based and not grace based



***He would then enter into the Holy Place***

- You may remember that the Tabernacle was divided into two rooms – the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant with the Mercy Seat was located
- He would then take a censer full of burning coals from the altar of incense that was in the Holy Place and go into the Holy of Holies
- The smoke of the incense would cover the mercy seat, representing Jesus our High Priest who makes intercession for us at the right hand of the Father
- Then Aaron would take the blood of the bulls and sprinkle it on the mercy seat – seven times... the number of completion
- I think of Jesus on the cross, when He said – it is finished or completed
- The blood of Jesus has been applied on the mercy seat of God

***NOTE: Aaron not only atoned for his sins, but the sins of his household.***

- Why? Because as the spiritual leader of his house, He carries the weight of spiritual authority
- Does that mean he is responsible? No, everyone is responsible for their own actions
- But he does have authority in his family to release forgiveness of sins
- Men, did you know that you have spiritual authority to release God's love and forgiveness in your homes?
- Even if your kids are not walking with the Lord, you have the authority to cry out to God on behalf of your family

EX: A friend of mine had a son that was on heroin. One day he realized that as the spiritual leader of his home he wasn't exercising his authority to release God's love and forgiveness over his son. He began to pray every day that God would forgive him, release him and show His love to Him. He said God, my son has a heart for you, he will respond to you – speak to Him. His son overdosed on drugs at a friend's house and went code blue and God spared his life. That moment changed his son's life. He gave his life to Christ and today not only is he free from heroin, but he is serving the Lord in full time ministry telling kids His story. Dad, it's time to take your place as priest in your home and release God's love and forgiveness over your kids.



### ***The Scapegoat***

- After Aaron atoned for his sins, his families sins and the people's sin... then they did something very interesting
- He took a live goat, placed both his hands on the live goat and confessed over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel – every bad thing they did, every law they broke
- I believe that God supernaturally inspired Aaron as he confessed the sins of the people over the people

### ***Peter says concerning Jesus***

1 Peter 2:24–25 (NKJV)

<sup>24</sup> who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- Then they took a scarlet ribbon and tied it around the goats neck, led the goat out into the wilderness and released the goat in an area that was completely barren, completely uninhabited.

### ***The Bible tells us...***

Psalms 103:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west,  
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

- Jewish tradition tells us that if the sacrifice was accepted by God, the ribbon around the goats neck would turn white

### ***I think of what Isaiah prophesied when he said...***

Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> “Come now, and let us reason together,”

Says the LORD,

“Though your sins are like scarlet,

They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be as wool.



- The scapegoat representing that God remembers our sin no more.

### ***The Statute***

Leviticus 16:29–34 (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup> “*This* shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth *day* of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, *whether* a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. <sup>34</sup> This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year.” And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

- It was mandated by law that the Day of Atonement be observed annually
- It’s an everlasting statute – which means it will never end
- Yet today, we don’t celebrate it... why?

### ***Paul tells us why in Hebrews 9***

Hebrews 9:11–15 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. <sup>12</sup> Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? <sup>15</sup> And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

### ***And because of the work of Christ, this annual celebration becomes a continual remembrance...***

- Every time I take communion, I’m reminded that Jesus paid the price for my sins,
- that Jesus took my sins as far as the East is from the West,
- that Jesus has eternally atoned for my sins with His own blood