

INTRODUCTION: LEVITICUS 16

- The Book of Leviticus can be divided into 2 sections
- The first section deals with communion with God
- The second section deals with living a life of holiness
- In the middle of these 2 sections is Yom Kippur in Chapter 16
- Yom means “Day” and Kippur means “to return”
- It is a national day of repentance, of returning to the LORD
- Before Yom Kippur you’re moving towards the LORD, drawing near to God (represented by the 5 offerings)
- After Yom Kippur you’re declared Holy and righteous (atoned for)
- Yom Kippur is the moment, the day when you cross the line (if you will) from simply drawing near to God to embracing a life set apart for God

The pivotal moment is called repentance and it results in holiness

- Now, religion teaches that repentance is tied to behavior
- If I act holy, then I am holy...
- If I do something wrong... then I must repent which means to confess my sins, ask for forgiveness and promise to never do that sin again
- But the Biblical view of repentance is relational
- I turn to the LORD and the LORD cleanses me and removes anything that separates me from God and declares me holy

Hebrews 13:12 (NKJV)

¹² that He (Jesus) might sanctify the people with His own blood

- Sanctification is the act of cleansing, making you holy with the blood of Jesus... it’s not something you do, it’s something you ARE
- Because you ARE holy, your actions change, your attitudes change, your behaviors change because you’ve changed
- Repentance has to do with a change of mind and a change of direction
- It’s me changing the direction of my life, changing the way I think and aligning my thoughts and my actions in order to draw near to God
- Until you’ve experienced what the scriptures call “teshuva” or “repentance”, you will argue with, disagree with, fight with God

Paul said the carnal mind is hatred against God

Romans 8:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- We live in a world that rejects God, rejects God's Word, God's law
- God says marriage is between a man and a woman, gender is male and female, children are to be protected not aborted
- The culture says... we don't agree
- The Supreme Court has changed the definition of marriage, changed the definition of gender... California has now legalized child molestation
- Paul says... the carnal mind doesn't agree with God... nor is it subject to the law of God... nor can it be
- So, if you're fighting against God, disagreeing with God's Word, insisting it's your way over Yahweh you must ask yourself, have I truly repented?
- Because if I've truly repented, I will change my mind, my actions and my behaviors to become ONE with God on everything
- That is the purpose of Yom Kippur... it's a national day of atonement or at-one-ment... a day when I draw near, become one with God

Yom Kippur also signifies the establishment of a New Covenant

- 49 days after Passover, Moses ascended Mount Sinai to receive the Torah (the 10 commandments)
- This is commemorated by the Feast of Pentecost
- 40 days later, the 2 tablets containing the 10 commandments were broken because the nation of Israel turned to idolatry (golden calf)
- Moses intercedes for Israel for another 40 days and at the end of 40 days He is given a second set of tablets and returns on Yom Kippur
- THUS, Yom Kippur is a celebration of a NEW covenant with God
- The Rabbi's call it a celebration of rebirth and renewal
- Yom Kippur reveals 3 essential truths to us

1ST TRUTH: The shedding of innocent blood is required to be forgiven

Leviticus 16:3 (NKJV)

³ "Thus Aaron shall come into the Holy *Place*: with *the blood* of a young bull as a sin offering, and of a ram as a burnt offering.

The writer of Hebrews says...

Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV)

22 without shedding of blood there is no remission (forgiveness).

- But it could not be any kind of blood... it had to be innocent blood, which is why the blood of a “young” bull was required... it was innocent
- People who are guilty will say... it’s time to pay for my sins... but under the law you couldn’t pay for your sins because you’re guilty, not innocent

After killing the sin offering, the blood was applied to the mercy seat

Leviticus 16:15 (NKJV)

15 “Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which *is* for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.

- **[SLIDE 1]** The word Atonement means to cover but what does it cover?
- The Hebrew letters paint a picture for us... 3 letters... kaf, pey, reysh
- Kaf means to cover, Rey means mouth and Reysh means head
- The picture it paints is a hand covering the mouth of God
- When God’s mouth is open, He has the right to speak judgment
- So, what closes the mouth of God from speaking judgment? The blood!
- **[SLIDE 2]** The Mercy Seat is the lid of the Ark of the Covenant
- God appeared and spoke to Israel from between the two Cherubim
- The Ark (the box itself) contained God’s judgment against man
- **BUT** when God looks down on man, what does He see... the blood
- When God sees the blood His mouth is closed (atonement) and what does He do? He doesn’t speak judgment, He forgives!

2ND TRUTH: I must be clothed in righteousness to be forgiven

Leviticus 16:4 (NKJV)

4 He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These *are* holy garments. Therefore, he shall wash his body in water, and put them on.

- Before Aaron could enter the Presence of God in the Holy of Holies, his body was washed and then he was clothed in white, holy garments
- Washing represents salvation and white represents righteousness
- Righteousness is what allows me to stand before God and live

- NOTE: All Aaron did to become righteous was put on the holy garments

Paul wrote to the Philippian believers...

Philippians 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

- If I believe that I have the ability to please God through self-righteousness, then I will attempt to justify myself before God through some moral argument
- I go to church, I pray, I want to follow God, I'm loving therefore God is obligated to let me go to heaven
- But the only righteousness God recognizes is His own
- Therefore, I must have a righteousness that only comes from God and I can only receive that by faith in Christ (Messiah) who is Jesus
- When I believe in the LORD Jesus, God declares me righteous

3RD TRUTH: An innocent life must bear my sins to be forgiven

This is depicted by the scapegoat

Leviticus 16:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send *it* away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. ²² The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

- The priest would lay both hands on the head of the scapegoat and transfer all their iniquities (separation from God), all their transgressions (rebellion), all their sins (mistakes and shortcomings)
- Then they would send the goat away into the wilderness to die
- The goat would carry the sins far away from the people

Caiaphas, the High Priest, said concerning Jesus

John 11:50 (NKJV)

50 nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.”

- When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, the sins of the world were placed on Him and He sweat great drops of blood
- It was at that moment He became the scapegoat for the sins of the world

Peter declared

1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)

24 (Jesus) 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.

- Jesus is our scapegoat and because He bore our sins in His body on the cross and died in our sins... it was if we died with Him
- When Jesus was resurrected from the dead, it was if we were resurrected from the dead with Him that we might live for righteousness
- And then the famous declaration... for by His stripes you were healed
- What am I healed of? Separation from God... my iniquity is taken away

The writer to the Hebrews declares the end of separation...

Hebrews 10:19–21 (NKJV)

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Yom Kippur celebrates the end of separation
- AND Hebrews tells us Jesus is our Yom Kippur... He is my sin offering, He is my righteousness, He is my scapegoat, He is my atonement
- Because of Jesus, I can draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith that I'm no longer under the curse of sin, my heart sprinkled clean, my body washed, I will not die... but I will live forever

There is one more important revelation about Yom Kippur

- On Yom Kippur, God takes back the adulterous wife

- Remember, while Moses was receiving the first law in Exodus 32 Israel committed adultery against God with the golden calf
- According to the law, if a wife committed adultery the husband could never take her back and yet God took Israel back in Exodus 34
- How could God legally take back an adulterous wife?
- He had to make the Old Covenant obsolete by making a New Covenant
- And that is Yom Kippur... A type of the New Covenant that was to come

Hebrews 8:8–12 (NKJV)

⁸“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. ¹⁰For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹¹None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. ¹²For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

[SLIDE 3] The New Covenant is established on better promises

- The Old Covenant is founded on the law written on tablets of stone
- The New Covenant is founded on the law written on hearts and minds
- The Old Covenant is conditional based on obedience of the people
- The New Covenant is based on the perfect obedience of Jesus and God’s promise to be their God and for us to be His people
- The Old Covenant is based on knowing the LAW accurately
- The New Covenant is based on knowing the LORD personally
- The Old Covenant is founded on judgment... without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins
- The New Covenant is founded on mercy... their sins and lawless deeds I will remember no more
- The Old Covenant was broken (literally), made obsolete by Moses and a new Covenant was established through Jesus and now we are accepted
- AREN'T YOU GLAD THE LORD MADE A NEW COVENANT?