

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

BIBLE TEXT : Leviticus 16 :1-34; 23:26-32

LESSON 86 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Leviticus 16:1-34 (KJV)

¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the LORD, and died;

² And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy *place* within the vail before the mercy seat, which *is* upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

³ Thus shall Aaron come into the holy *place*: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering.

⁴ He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these *are* holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and *so* put them on.

⁵ And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

⁶ And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which *is* for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

⁷ And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

⁸ And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

⁹ And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him *for* a sin offering.

¹⁰ But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, *and* to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

¹¹ And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which *is* for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which *is* for himself:

¹² And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

Saved Through the Blood

There is only one way that man can be saved from his sins: through the Blood of Jesus. Jesus said: "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28).

When our Lord was on earth He lived a beautiful life and taught the people how they should live if they wanted to go to Heaven. But no one can obey His teachings unless he has had his sins forgiven and taken away through the Blood of the Savior And we will have to obey those teachings or we will never get into Heaven. "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17).

Before Jesus went into Heaven He told His disciples, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). Just imagine some of the beautiful places you have seen here on earth, and then remember that Jesus has said that Heaven is more beautiful than we can even picture it in our minds. We all want to go to Heaven to live in that glorious place forever.

Holy People for a Holy Place

But if Heaven is so wonderful, God will not let sinful people live there. Everyone who goes to Heaven will have to be holy, cleansed through the Blood of Jesus. When John the Beloved was on the Isle of Patmos, sent away from his home because wicked men did not like it that he preached about Jesus, he saw a vision. He saw many people in white robes, with palms in their hands, singing around the Throne of God. John wondered who they were. One of the holy men of Heaven told John, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14). They had been saved through the Blood of Jesus; that was why their robes were white and they could sing praises to God in Heaven.

Spiritual Freedom

Jesus' shedding His Blood for the sins of the people is called the Atonement. Through the Atonement our sins are forgiven and taken away forever. When we have to stand before God to give account for the way we lived on earth, we shall not have to answer for the sins we have committed in the past if we have asked Jesus to forgive them and take them away.

Some people do not seem to realize that Jesus had to die to atone for our sins. They think that His work here was a failure because He did not set up His kingdom on earth, as the people of that time thought He would do, The Israelites (or Jews) were in bondage to the Romans when Jesus lived on earth, and they were looking for a Messiah who would come and be their King and would overthrow the Roman government. But that was not what Jesus came for. He came to shed His Blood to wash away man's sins. To be free from sin and be ready to go to Heaven is much more important than to live in a land of freedom on earth.

Great Cost of Redemption

Think of the price that Jesus paid to redeem us from our sins! He had never done anything wrong; He was with God when the

sweet incense beaten small, and bring *it* within the vail:

¹³ And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that *is* upon the testimony, that he die not:

¹⁴ And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle *it* with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.

¹⁵ Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that *is* for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

¹⁶ And he shall make an atonement for the holy *place*, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

¹⁷ And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy *place*, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.

¹⁸ And he shall go out unto the altar that *is* before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put *it* upon the horns of the altar round about.

¹⁹ And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

²⁰ And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy *place*, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat:

²¹ And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send *him* away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:

²² And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

²³ And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and

worlds were made, "and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3). And yet He was willing to leave His beautiful home in Heaven and come to earth in the form of a man, and live and suffer as we do (only without sin), and pay the price of our redemption by giving His life in the cruel death on the cross. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). We see from that verse that we also have the promise of healing in the Atonement. Peter repeated that promise when he said: "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24).

The Israelites' Day of Atonement

God wanted to show the Children of Israel how much the Atonement would mean, so He appointed a day in each year upon which offerings were made which pictured the work that Jesus would do by giving His life as a living sacrifice. The people were shedding the blood of animals in their daily sacrifices, all a type in one way or another of what Jesus would do through His shed Blood. But on the Day of Atonement there were special offerings that showed in a greater way the effect Jesus' Blood would have. These offerings were for the entire nation, showing that "whosoever will" may be saved. But for their individual sins, the people still had to bring their trespass offerings. Even so, we cannot be saved through Christ's promise that all the world may be saved, unless we each come in repentance and ask Jesus to forgive our sins. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

The Day of Atonement was a solemn day in which the Children of Israel were to remember their sins. They were to realize that there was no true happiness until their sins were taken away. We cannot be truly happy until our sins are washed away through the Blood of Jesus.

High Priest Alone

We learned that Aaron and his sons were all priests, but Aaron was the high priest. He alone served on the Day of Atonement, just as Jesus, our High Priest, alone made our Atonement. He, "when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3). Aaron was very careful to do everything exactly as God had commanded. He wore special clothes on this day, and he washed himself often to be sure that he was clean, a type of purity.

Entrance into the Holy of Holies

No one could go into the Holy of Holies except the high priest, and he could go in only on the Day of Atonement. Think how much it meant for him to lift the curtain and stand before the Presence of God which rested over the Mercy Seat. Aaron took with him coals of fire in his golden censer, and incense to burn which would make a cloud of smoke between him and God, "that he die not" He must approach God carefully and with reverence. God wants us to come before Him thoughtfully, realizing His holiness. We must respect the House of God, and conduct ourselves as though we are aware every minute that Jesus is watching us. When we pray we must realize that we are talking with our Maker, the One who also made the heavens and the earth and everything that is in them. Just think what it means to be able to pray to such a holy and wonderful God, and have Him answer our prayers!

A special offering of two goats was made on the Day of Atonement. Aaron killed one and took the blood into the Holy of

shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there:

²⁴ And he shall wash his flesh with water in the holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth, and offer his burnt offering, and the burnt offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself, and for the people.

²⁵ And the fat of the sin offering shall he burn upon the altar.

²⁶ And he that let go the goat for the scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp.

²⁷ And the bullock *for* the sin offering, and the goat *for* the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall *one* carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung.

²⁸ And he that burneth them shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp.

²⁹ And *this* shall be a statute for ever unto you: *that* in the seventh month, on the tenth *day* of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, *whether it be* one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you:

³⁰ For on that day shall *the priest* make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, *that* ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

³¹ It *shall be* a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.

³² And the priest, whom he shall anoint, and whom he shall consecrate to minister in the priest's office in his father's stead, shall make the atonement, and shall put on the linen clothes, *even* the holy garments:

³³ And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation.

³⁴ And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 23:26-32 (KJV)

²⁶ And the LORD spake unto Moses,

Holies to sprinkle upon the Mercy Seat for the people. The Israelites could not go in themselves, but Aaron made the offering for them.

How anxiously they awaited Aaron's return! They stood outside and prayed while he was sprinkling the blood in the Holy of Holies. Not even the other priests could come into the Holy Place where the golden altar and the golden candlestick were, while Aaron was in the Holy of Holies. Golden bells around the bottom of Aaron's robes tinkled as he moved about, and assured the people listening outside that he was still alive and was making atonement for them.

Veil Rent

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the Temple was rent, so that everyone could go into the Holy of Holies. That means that we can now all go before the Mercy Seat for ourselves and do not need an earthly priest to talk with God for us. When Jesus finished the work of redemption and went into Heaven to be our High Priest in the Most Holy Place of Heaven, there was no more need for a priest or the tabernacle worship.

Our High Priest

Jesus did not enter Heaven with the blood of bulls and goats, as Aaron went into the Holy of Holies, but He offered His own Blood. His hands and His feet and His side were pierced when He was crucified, and His Blood was shed to atone for our sins. After He paid such a tremendous price for us, do you think we can get to Heaven any other way than by the way He planned?

Jesus will come again for those who look for Him. As the Israelites waited for Aaron to come out of the Tabernacle, so we wait for Jesus to come down from Heaven to take His people back with Him. He said He would come back for those who look for Him.

What does it mean to look for Jesus? We must be justified through the Blood that He shed. We must be sanctified, our inherited sinful nature removed, also through the Blood of Jesus. Then we must have the baptism of the Holy Ghost. When Jesus went into Heaven He promised His disciples that He would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to be our Guide "into all truth." Jesus commanded His disciples to tarry until they were "endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). That command is for us today, also. We must walk in all the light of God's Word that is shed upon our pathway, to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes.

The Scapegoat

There were two goats offered on the Day of Atonement. We read that one was killed and his blood taken into the Holy of Holies. The other one was called the scapegoat. We sometimes call a person a scapegoat when he takes the blame for someone else. That is what the original scapegoat did. He stood very still while Aaron placed his hands on the goat's head and confessed all the sins of Israel upon him. Then he willingly went with a man who took him into the wilderness where he was lost. Nobody ever saw the goat again. That was a picture of Jesus, willingly coming to earth, taking our sins upon Himself, and dying to take sin away for all who will come to Him in repentance, and believe.

So we see that in the Day of Atonement we have an over-all picture of what Jesus did by willingly coming to this earth to shed His Blood that our sins might be forgiven and taken away, to be remembered against us no more.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What did the Day of Atonement picture?
- 2 Who made the sacrifices and served in the Tabernacle this day?
- 3 What could he do that day that he could do at no other time?
- 4 How did he prepare himself to go into the Holy of Holies?
- 5 What was the scapegoat?

saying,

²⁷ Also on the tenth *day* of this seventh month *there shall be* a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

²⁸ And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it *is* a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

²⁹ For whatsoever soul *it be* that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

³⁰ And whatsoever soul *it be* that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

³¹ Ye shall do no manner of work: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

³² It *shall be* unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

6 What happened to the other goat?

7 How did the goats represent Jesus?

8 How can we have our sins forgiven and taken away?