

The Day of Atonement

Leviticus 16

INTRODUCTION

- The Day of Atonement is God's gracious initiative to deal with the sinfulness of men in order to be their God in their presence.
- The sacrifices of this day are focused entirely on atoning for the sin of God's people.
- This is "Yom Kipper" - "Kipper" translated "to make atonement" occurs 16 times in Leviticus 16. It can mean "to forgive" and "to cleanse" but they are essentially prerequisite meanings to the primary meaning of "atonement". For instance, the altar had to be "atoned" (cleansed). "Kipper" can also relate to "ransom" as in Lev. 17:11. Numbers 25 describes "Kipper" as the averting of God's wrath.

Approaching the Only Holy God (vv.1-5)

A) God Appears

- a. **Initiates with His Word / Speech**
 - i. Timing is gracious (after judgment)
 - ii. Character intact (holy)
 - iii. Command / Warning
- b. **Will reveal Himself**
 - i. Over the mercy seat (why called "mercy" seat)
 - ii. Prescribed rules for God's standard

B) With Offerings

- a. **Sin offering**
- b. **Burnt offering**

C) Arrayed in Holiness

- a. **Head to toe**
- b. **Cleansed**

D) As a Representative for the People

- a. **Sin offering**
- b. **Burnt offering**

The Grace of Means (vv.6-28)

A) The Priest's Personal Atonement (vv.6-14)

- a. **Sin Offering (vv.6-11)**
- b. **Censer (care of Aaron's sons) - incense (aroma) (vv.12-14)**

B) The People's Atonement (vv.15-22)

- a. **Sin Offering (vv.15-16)**
- b. **Atoning Work (vv.17-22)**
 - i. Complete work (v.17)
 - ii. Purified access (vv.18-19)
 - iii. Scapegoat (vv.20-22)

C) Purified Worship (vv.23-28)

- a. **Purity in Approach (vv.23-24)**
- b. **Offering (vv.25-28)**

The Means of Grace (vv.29-34)

A) The Spoken Word of God (v.29a)

B) The Annual Day of Atonement (interaction of commandment & grace)

- a. **Day of Atonement commanded (v.29)**
- b. **Day of Atonement clarified (vv.30-34)**
 - i. Atonement for the Priest
 - ii. Atonement for the People
 - iii. Atonement for the Place / Pieces
 - iv. In all of this...

The Atonement and Christ

- **George Whitefield**, *“Here then opens the amazing scene of divine philanthropy; I mean, God’s love to man: for, behold, what man could not do, Jesus Christ, the Son of his Father’s love, undertakes to do for him... he obeyed, and thereby fulfilled the whole moral law in our stead; and also died a painful death upon the cross, and thereby became a curse for, or instead of, those whom the Father had given to him.”*

A) Christ is the fulfillment of God’s Covenant

- a. **Ezekiel 16:62-63**
- b. **Hebrews 2:17**

B) Christ is the Logos (speech) of God

- a. **God with us**
 - i. **John 1:1-2**
 - ii. **Col.1:19-20**
- b. **Tabernacle**
 - i. **John 1:14**
 - ii. **John 2:19-22**

C) Christ is the Priest

- a. **Perfect, needing no personal atonement**
 - i. We’ve spoken of this often
 - ii. **Heb.9:23-28**
- b. **Mediator for His people with His Father**
 - i. **John 10:17-18**
 - ii. **Heb.10:11-14**

D) Christ is the Sacrifice & Scapegoat

- a. **Substitute**
 - i. In my place, condemned He stood
 - ii. There are varying views on the atonement
- b. **Atoning Sacrifice**
 - i. Bearing God’s wrath for Sin
 - ii. Complete

iii. **Romans 3:21-26**

iv. Fulfilling God’s righteous requirements for men

v. **Romans 5:9-11**

Atonement Applied

A) Believer, there’s hope for your lack, ineffectiveness, and sin

- a. **2 Peter 1:9**
- b. **1 John 2:2**
- c. **C. T. Studd** (missionary and cricketer of late 19th / early 20th centuries): "If Jesus Christ be God, and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him."
- d. **Charles Spurgeon**: "It is our duty and our privilege to exhaust our lives for Jesus. We are not to be living specimens of men in fine preservation, but living *sacrifices*, whose lot is to be consumed."

B) Jesus Christ is the only way any of us will be able to stand before Holy God one day and not be condemned

- a. **Eph. 2:13**
- b. **Gal. 3:13-14**