

## Shadows of Christ: Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:1-22)

*Yom* (day) *Kippur* (atonement)

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray.

**1 Peter 2:25** You were straying like sheep, but have now returned.”

Mankind is prone to stray from God. Man enjoys his sin.

**Isaiah 59:2** our sin separates us from God

The most terrifying thing in the universe is that GOD IS GOOD.

**Hebrews 10:31** It is a fearful thing to fall into God’s hands

**Atonement** = “to cover, to reconcile.”

### 1. Who can make atonement? (16:1-6)

#### **A. God’s chosen man (16:1-3)**

Only God’s chosen man, in God’s chosen way can approach God.

Tabernacle: There are walls around it with one door.

**Hebrews 9:11-12** Jesus is God’s chosen man to make atonement

#### **B. A pure man (16:4-6)**

High priest wears white on this day and offers sacrifice for himself

**Hebrews 4:14-15** Christ, our High Priest, is without sin.

### 2. How is atonement achieved? (16:7-14)

#### **A. Only by God’s chosen sacrifice (16:7-10)**

Two goats are chosen to serve as a single sacrifice.

Through lots, God will choose what sacrifice will atone.

Ex: God chose Abraham’s ram

**Isaiah 53:10-11** it was God’s will that Christ should be the Lamb

To reject God’s Lamb and choose another path is offensive to God.

(e.g.: Buddhism 8-fold path, 5 pillars of Islam etc.)

**Acts 4:12** There is no other name by which we may be saved

#### **B. Only by Blood (16:11-14)**

The high priest could only view God’s glory on the ark through a veil of smoke (from incense), or he would die.

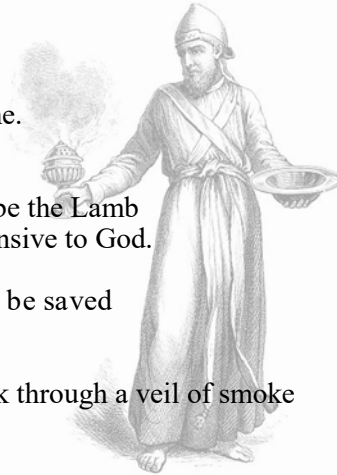
Blood applied on the **east side**, typologically associated with sin.

**Mercy Seat** = Lid on the ark of God. This covered representations of God’s provision and man’s rebellion against God:

**10 Commandments** (God’s law, which they broke)

**Pot of manna** (God’s provision, which they rejected)

**Rod of Aaron** (God’s leaders against whom they rebelled)



The ark was the visible representation of God’s glory on earth. Christ was the better representation of God on earth (**Jn 14:9**).

Blood was necessary to make atonement:

**Leviticus 17:11** Life is in the blood

**Hebrews 9:22** Without blood, there is no remission of sins

### 3. What does atonement do? (16:15-28)

#### **A. It satisfies God’s wrath against sin (16:15-19)**

2 goats (traditionally of similar appearance) were chosen to as a single sacrifice before God (because both represent Christ).

The priest first cleanses the place where atonement is made:

*“The priest who cleanses others is himself unclean, and he and his fellows have tainted the sanctuary by the very services which were meant to atone and to purify.” Alexander Maclaren*

Blood must be shed to satisfy the righteous demands of God’s law.

To ignore the demands of holiness and forgive without blood would make God a compromising God, a judge who does not punish evil.

A debt is owed. A wage must be paid:

**Romans 6:23** The wages of sin is death

We can die for our sins, or Christ can take our place.

This reminds us of a future day when God will judge the world.

#### **B. It forgives the sinner (16:20-22)**

Atonement is made when the priest lays the sins of the people on the head of the scapegoat, sent into the wilderness:

*“The two goats made only one sacrifice, yet only one of them was slain. One animal could not point out both the divine and human nature of Christ, nor show both his death and resurrection, for the goat that was killed could not be made alive.”*

*Adam Clarke*

**Colossians 2:13-14** Our sin was nailed to Christ’s cross.

**Psalms 103:12** God separates us from our sin (East to West)

**Micah 7:19** God treads our sin underfoot and casts it into the sea.

Have your sins been atoned by God through the sacrifice of Christ?

To have atonement (at-one-ment) we must come through Christ.

