

Sundown September 20<sup>th</sup> 2026 Day of atonement

Remembering the day of atonement Leviticus 16:2, 11-16 (imagine yourself)

**Leviticus 16:2** ( and the LORD said to Moses: “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at [just] any time into the Holy [Place] inside the veil, before the mercy seat which [is] on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.

**Leviticus 16:11-16** (NKJV) 11 “And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which [is] for himself. 12 “Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring [it] inside the veil. 13 “And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that [is] on the Testimony, lest he die. 14 “He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle [it] with his finger on the mercy seat on the east [side;] and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times. 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. 16 “So he shall make atonement for the Holy [Place,] because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

**Contrast between the old covenant and the new in approaching God.**

**Hebrews 10:19-22** (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.

Ephesians 2:13- But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Near-positional change only possible through the blood of Christ , that enables us to have divine fellowship with God. Nearness to God has always been His longing.

**What only the High priest was enabled to do once a year is now our birthright through the blood of Christ.** This is an essential part of our new covenant priestly calling. **We are the royal priesthood (1Peter 2)**

You will never draw near through His blood because of your attained righteousness. He alone is worthy and Jesus blood is the only way to draw near to God.

**This is the high priestly call**

**Romans 12:1 (NKJV)** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service.

**Romans 12:1 (NIV)** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

**Therefore: by the mercies of God.** We just came out of Romans 9-11 focusing on God's covenant with Israel and His redemptive purposes for all humanity.

- **Romans has a primary emphasis which is the mercy of God. His mercy triumphs over judgment.**
- **Now, because of the mercy of God, we present ourselves, our bodies as a living sacrifice of worship.**
- Under the old covenant there was no such thing as a living sacrifice!
- New covenant worship triumphs and is superior in every way over the old sacrificial system of animal slaughter.

**In the Old Testament, the worshiper brought the sacrifice to God and placed it before Him.** Paul takes this same language and says: "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice."

The New Testament worshiper doesn't simply bring an animal, an offering, or a song. We bring ourselves which is what God has ultimately desired.

**Psalms 51:17 (NKJV)** The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.

**Hebrews 10:5-10 (NKJV)** 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and [sacrifices] for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come-- In the volume of the book it is written of Me-- To do Your will, O God.' " 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and [offerings] for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure [in them]" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all.]

Worship begins with full acceptance and Receiving of the finished work of Jesus Christ in salvation and moves into the place of complete consecration saying

**“God, I present myself fully to You.”** (2 fold work-salvation and sanctification)

**The sacrifice belonged to God** Once the sacrifice was given to God, it was no longer the worshiper’s possession. It was sanctified and set apart for His purpose.

In the same way, Romans 12:1 calls us to recognize that our lives belong to God.

My body, time, abilities relationships, possessions and My future belong to Him.

**The living sacrifice says: “I am no longer my own. I belong to You.”**

### 1. **The sacrifice had to be without blemish**

The Old Testament sacrifice had to be acceptable—without defect or blemish. **Leviticus 22:19-20 (NKJV)** 19 ‘[you shall offer] of your own free will a male without blemish from the cattle, from the sheep, or from the goats. 20 ‘Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf.

But we don’t come to God trying to make ourselves worthy enough to be placed on His altar. Jesus is the spotless sacrifice who makes us acceptable.

**1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)** 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, [like] silver or gold, from your aimless conduct [received] by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Our surrender is therefore not an attempt to earn God’s acceptance. It is a response to the acceptance we have already received through Christ.

**Paul begins Romans 12:1** with: **“By the mercies of God...”** Before Paul asks for our sacrifice, he reminds us of God’s sacrifice and God’s mercy.

### 1. **The sacrifice was consumed by fire**

**“Whole” Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1:3-17)**

While the “Whole” Burnt Offering is the first of the Levitical offerings, it is the oldest and most common of the offerings, found as early as the Book of Genesis. This was an offering with the worshipper voluntarily devoting his whole offering to God through the fire (Exodus 29:18).

- **The Burnt Offering, Olah in Hebrew, literally means “to go up.”** That is, the whole offering “went up in smoke,” providing a sweet-smelling aroma to the Lord, with nothing returned to the worshipper. This made the Burnt Offering distinct from other offerings.

- Fire was associated with God's presence and power. The picture of the sacrifice being consumed speaks powerfully of complete surrender to God.
- Instead of this fire consuming us to kill us it consumes us to burn for Him all the days of our lives and removes all that hinders love and obedience.
- It is incredible that Jesus longs to baptize us not just with a grace that saves but with a fire that consumes and empowers.

### 1. The sacrifice was an act of worship

The sacrifice itself was worship. This is where Romans 12:1 becomes revolutionary. Paul says that presenting ourselves to God is: "your spiritual worship." Spirit, soul and flesh. So true worship that God accepts is 1. Full alignment with Jesus Christ, 2. Our complete surrender to do His will!

The worship service becomes the place where we declare surrender. The rest of our lives become the evidence of that surrender.

**Church father John Chrysostom** "How is the body to become a sacrifice? Let the eye look on no evil thing, and it has already become a sacrifice. Let the tongue say nothing filthy, and it has become an offering. Let your hand do nothing evil, and it has become a whole burnt offering. But even this is not enough, for we must have good works also. The hand must do alms, the mouth must bless those who curse it, and the ears must find time to listen to the reading of Scripture. Sacrifice allows of no unclean thing. It is the first fruits of all other actions."

### 1. The sacrifice was a pleasing aroma to God

The Old Testament describes sacrifices ascending as a pleasing aroma before the Lord.

**Leviticus 1:9** (NKJV) 'but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet(pleasing) aroma to the LORD.

Jesus became the true eternal sacrifice, a sweet aroma and sacrifice to God! **Ephesians 5:2** (NKJV) And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Our lives can likewise become an offering that pleases God.

2

**Corinthians 2:14-15** (NKJV) 14 Now thanks [be] to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

Now, having received His mercy, our lives become an offering of gratitude to Him.