

The Day of Atonement
Leviticus 16

The book of Leviticus has many key words which reveal two basic principles, the Holiness of God and the sinfulness of man.

- Holy is found 83 times, with it's cognates 131 times.
- Clean and unclean with cognates and contrasts 186 times.
- Atonement 52 times.
- Sacrifices and offerings appear 91 times.
- Blood 93 times.

They all have their climax in the Day of Atonement!

- Ch.17 focus on to know how to worship God.
- Ch.18-27 focus on to know how to walk with God.
- Ch.1-7 has taught Israel about the need of sacrifice.
- Ch.8-10 has taught Israel about the need of a mediator.
- Ch.11-15 has taught Israel about the need of sanctification.
- Ch.16 was to teach them about the need of national repentance from sin!

We want to look at some of the characteristics of the Day of Atonement in order to be one with God.

I. A day of special privilege.

- A. The High Priest entered with the veil and God met him above the mercy seat 16:1-2.
1. He could not come any way vs.1.
 2. He could not come at any time vs.2.
 3. He came in once a year 16:34, 29a-c.

- B. The nation would be forgiven for all their sins 16:30.
1. Israel was a theocracy, ruled by God.
 2. Israel was to live by God's standards.
 3. Israel called it "The Day".

II. A day of humiliation.

- A. The priest was to humble himself 16:4.
1. He put aside his robes of beauty and glory and came in simple white linen as a servant Ex.28:40-42.
 - a. symbolic of purity and humility.
 - b. reminding him of his own need.
 2. He washed himself in water to insure ceremonial cleanness.
- B. The people were to humble themselves 16:29d-f.
1. They were to fast pray, put on sackcloth and mourn as part of the Holy month Neh.8:1-9:1.
 2. They were to do no work, a time of reflection and meditation on God.

III. A day of special sacrifice

- A. The congregation would provide two kids of the goats for sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering 16:5.
1. Sin offering for the failures
 2. Burnt offering for their dedication to the Lord.
- B. The High Priest would cast lots on the goats 16:8-9.
1. The one with the lot was offered for sin.
 2. The other was offered before the Lord alive.
- C. The High Priest alone officiated it vs.17a.

IV. A day of imputation of sin

- A. The High Priest offered a sin offering 16:6.
 - 1. For himself.
 - 2. For his house.
- B. The High Priest offered a sin offering for the people 16:15a-b.
- C. The High Priest laid his hands on the 2nd goat transferring them to be removed from them 16:21a-d.

V. A day of covering

- A. The word atonement means to cover, it didn't forgive but only pointed to a future payment.
 - 14 times the word is found in Ch.16, vs.6, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 20, 24, 27, 30, 32, 33.
- B. The atonement was multiple.
 - 1. For the Holy place vs.16.
 - 2. For the alter of brass vs.18.
 - 3. For the Priest vs.6.
 - 4. For the congregation vs.21-22.
 - 5. For tabernacle of meeting vs.33.
- C. The atoning element was blood Lev.17:11.
 - * Blood
 - 5 quarts in normal body.
 - 23 seconds pumps completely.
 - Only fluid that reaches every part.
 - blood = plasma

- Red cells carry fuel to cells, contain hemoglobin, iron compound mixed with oxygen and waste removed in the same manner.
 - Red cells are 5,000,000 per cubic millimeter.
 - White cells combat disease and infection.
 - Antibodies or antitoxins are produced to be immune to certain infectious diseases for life or temporary.
 - 4,000 - 7,000 per cubic millimeter can be multiplied up to 2-3 times when needed. Platelets - clotting and other?
 - Blood in new baby is not derived from e mother but is produced within the body of the fetus.
 - After the sperm has entered the ovum and is formed in the embryo.
 - Blood from mother never interchanges with child.
 - Parthenogenesis - (virgin origin) Stimulation by chemical or mechanical means to cause development of unfertilized egg.
- Isaiah 7:14 - Genesis 3:15.

- D. The atonement was real 16:21-27.
 - 1. The goat removed their sins vs.21-22.
 - 2. The High Priest changed into his glorious garments vs.23.
 - 3. Fellowship resumed vs.24-25.

VI. A day that pointed to Christ.

- A. He alone acted as God's mediating Priest Heb.7:21-28.
- B. He humbled Himself and took on the form of a servant Phil.2:5-11.
- C. He alone atoned for our sins once and for all entering within the veil in heaven Heb.9.

D. He alone is seated at the right hand of God to atone for sin by His blood before the mercy-seat of God Heb.10.

He will atone for Israel in His second coming Zach.12-14.

CONCLUSION

The Day of Atonement was:

- a day of special privilege
- a day of humiliation
- a day of special sacrifice
- a day of imputation of sin
- a day of covering
- a day of that pointed to Christ