



Leviticus 23:26-28 “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the LORD. And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God.’”

I. The Pressing Need for Atonement

(Leviticus 23:26-27a)

A. The _____ of God Demands It

Isaiah 6:3b “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

Habakkuk 1:13a “You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong”

Leviticus 19:2b “You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.”

B. The _____ of Humanity Requires It

(Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8; Ezekiel 18:20a; Romans 6:23a)

II. The _____ of the Worshiper

(Leviticus 23:27b-28)

A. _____ Together

(Leviticus 23:27b)

Genesis 3:21 “And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.”

Isaiah 61:10b “for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness”

B. _____ Yourself

(Leviticus 23:27b)

Psalms 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

C. Cease From Your _____

(Leviticus 23:28a)

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

III. The _____ God Made

Leviticus 23:28b “for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God.”

A. The Meaning of ‘Atonement’

Leviticus 16:30 “For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the Lord from all your sins.”

B. The Two _____

(Hebrews 9:22b; Psalm 103:12; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:1)

Leviticus 16:21-22 “And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.”

IV. The Partiality of the Old Sacrifice

Hebrews 10:2-3 “Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.”

V. The _____ Atonement

A. Jesus Is the Better _____

(Hebrews 4:15)

Hebrews 9:12 “he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”

B. Jesus Is the Better _____

(John 10:17b-18a)

John 1:29b “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

C. Jesus _____ Our Sin Away

(John 19:15; Isaiah 53:6b)

Hebrews 13:12 “So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.”

D. Jesus _____ the Work

Hebrews 10:12 “But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God”



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BACKGROUND:

Humanity's greatest need is the forgiveness of sin. Jesus atoned for our sins by sacrificing Himself as our substitute. All men are sinners (*Romans 3:9-23*). The penalty for sin is death. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (*Romans 6:23*). Spiritual death is separation from God for all eternity. A person can be rescued from spiritual death and receive the assurance of eternal life by placing their faith in Jesus (*John 3:16*).

DIGGING DEEPER:

The Day of Atonement is referred to by the Jews as Yom Kippur. Leviticus 16 teaches that God instituted this annual observance on the tenth day of the seventh month as a day of repentance, fasting, cleansing, and reconciliation with Him. "For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the Lord from all your sins." (Leviticus 16:30)

1. In what ways does the Day of Atonement foreshadow Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice?
2. Why is a mediator necessary between sinful man and a holy God? How does Jesus fulfill that role as our Great High Priest?
3. The Day of Atonement was a temporary covering of sin. The ceremony had to be performed year after year. How does Jesus' sacrifice provide complete and permanent forgiveness of your sin? (*Hebrews 9:12*)

One of the most significant features of Yom Kippur involved two goats. The first goat was sacrificed, and its blood was taken into the Holy of Holies. The blood was sprinkled on the ark of the covenant (Mercy Seat) to make atonement for Israel's sins. The second goat was used as a scapegoat. The high priest laid his hands on the live goat and confessed over it the sins of Israel. The goat was then led into the wilderness and let go to run far away. "The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area." (Leviticus 16:22)

4. The shedding of blood symbolizes a life given in exchange for another life. How was this illustration of atonement for sin fulfilled in sacrificial death of Jesus?
5. Isaiah prophesied about Jesus, "The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (*Isaiah 53:6*) In what ways was the scapegoat a foreshadowing of Jesus? What does Jesus' bearing God's wrath and removing sin mean to you personally as a believer?

6. Read *Psalms 103:12* and *Hebrews 8:12; 10:17*. What do these verses teach about God's treatment of your transgressions?

Unlike the high priest, who had to ceremonially cleanse himself and offer sacrifices for his own sins in preparation of the day of atonement, Jesus was sinless and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice. Hebrews 9 teaches that Jesus entered a heavenly sanctuary, not an earthly one, securing eternal redemption.

7. How does true cleansing come through your faith in God? Why is human effort not sufficient?
8. Unlike the Levitical priests, Jesus offered his own blood, once and for all. His sacrifice was perfect. How is His sacrifice sufficient and complete in securing and preserving your eternal salvation?
9. There is a saying, "We are never more like Christ than when we forgive others". Forgiveness is God's grace to you. What does forgiveness look like in your life for yourself and how you relate to others? (*Matthew 6:12; Mark 11:25; 1 John 1:9*)

TAKING IT HOME:

God is holy and worthy of reverence. Sin is serious and requires atonement. Through the Day of Atonement, God provided a powerful picture of forgiveness. The high priest, sacrificial blood, and the scapegoat ceremonies pointed forward to Jesus Christ. Through His death and priestly ministry, He accomplished once and for all what the Old Testament sacrifices could only foreshadow.

10. How should the fact that Jesus took our sin upon Himself and clothed us in His righteousness (*2 Corinthians 5:21*) motivate us to forgive others?
11. What are some practical ways you can communicate to others of their need for God's forgiveness through Christ?
12. Who are people in your life that need the sufficient and complete atonement of Jesus? How can the people in your group join you in prayer for them?