

message summary

Many people believe that God is angry with them, but a tale of two goats tells a different story. In this passage we receive the institution instructions for the Day of Atonement. This was a ceremony where the high priest would become an intercessor between God and the people and He would make atonement for their sins. On this day the high priest enters into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle the blood over the mercy seat where the divine dwells, purifying the tabernacle and the people from all their impurities. A tale of two goat reassures the people that their sins have been carried away and they are once again clean before the presence of God. In a world where people are burdened by guilt and fear, it's time to embrace a different narrative. Let's read Leviticus 16 together and see how God is always willing to clean us up when we make a mess of our lives.

observation

- What are the specific instructions given for the Day of Atonement ritual in Leviticus 16?

- How do the two goats used on the Day of Atonement represent the concepts of our sins being covered and removed?

- What was this yearly observance called and why do you think it was to be celebrated every year?

interpretation

- What does the author say in Hebrews 10:1-18 that the animal sacrifices were not able to do that Jesus accomplished?

- How does the author connect Jesus in Hebrews 7:23-28 to the role of high priest in the Old Testament?

- Why do you think many Christian theologies are driven by shame and guilt, and how does fully understanding Jesus' sacrifice change that perspective?

INTERPRETATION · INTERPRETATION · INTERPRETATION

application

- If you could symbolically "reset" or "cleanse" any aspect of your life or a particular situation, what would it be and why?

- How can we apply the concept of a "new beginning" in our daily lives?

- How can the church community support one another in embracing the new life Christ offers?

APPLICATION · APPLICATION · APPLICATION