

# JESUS IN ALL | LEVITICUS – Jesus, Our Great High Priest

Sunday, February 2, 2025

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## WELCOME & PRAY

### MAIN TEXT

**\*2** Leviticus 16:15 CSB – *Then he will slaughter the goat for the people’s sin offering, bring its blood inside the curtain, and do the same with its blood as he did with the bull’s blood: He is to sprinkle it against the mercy seat and in front of it.*

Leviticus 16 describes the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)—the holiest day in Israel’s calendar—when the high priest would enter the Most Holy Place to make atonement for the sins of the people. This Old Testament ritual foreshadowed Jesus Christ, our **Great High Priest**, who fulfilled the ultimate atonement through His sacrifice on the cross. Today, we are going to explore why Jesus is the Great (Superior) High Priest

### **\*3 1. THE HIGH PRIEST AS THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN**

• Leviticus 16 outlines how the high priest, on behalf of Israel, would bring a sin offering into the Holy of Holies to atone for the people’s sins. This role was **exclusive to the high priest**, showing the necessity of mediation between sinful humanity and a holy God.

- Hebrews 5:1 – *For every high priest taken from among men is appointed in matters pertaining to God for the people, to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.*
- **\*4** 1 Timothy 2:5 – *For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus.*
- Exodus 28:1 – God appoints Aaron and his descendants as high priests to intercede for Israel.
- The Hebrew word for **\*5** “atonement” (כַּפָּרִים, *kippurim*) means “covering.” The blood of the sacrifice covered the people’s sins temporarily.
- Just as the Israelites needed a priest to mediate for them, we cannot approach God on our own. We must come through Jesus, our Great High Priest, who intercedes for us (**Turn & read** Hebrews 7:24-25).

### **\*6 2. THE BLOOD OF THE ATONEMENT – JESUS’ PERFECT SACRIFICE**

• Leviticus 16:15 describes the **blood of the sin offering** being brought into the Most Holy Place. The high priest sprinkled the blood before the **\*7** mercy seat (כַּפֹּרֶת, *kapporet*), symbolizing God’s presence and the need for atonement. This foreshadowed Jesus’ own blood, which grants eternal redemption.

- Hebrews 9:12 – *He entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.*
- Matthew 26:28 – *This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*
- John 1:29 – *Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*
- The term *kapporet* (mercy seat) comes from the root *kaphar* (כָּפַר), meaning “to cover, purge, or make reconciliation.” **\*8** Jesus’ blood does not just cover sin; it **completely removes it** (**Turn&read** Heb 10:4, 14).
- Have you placed your faith in Jesus’ sacrifice? Unlike the temporary atonement in the Old Testament, Jesus’ blood **permanently and fully redeems** us from sin. Trust in Him for forgiveness and salvation.

### **\*9 3. JESUS ENTERS THE HEAVENLY HOLY OF HOLIES**

• The high priest entered the **earthly** Holy of Holies once a year (Leviticus 16:34). Jesus, however, entered the **heavenly sanctuary** once for all, securing eternal redemption.

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- **\*10** Hebrews 9:24 – *For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with hands (only a model of the true one) but into heaven itself, so that he might now appear in the presence of God for us.*
- Hebrews 4:14-16 – Jesus is our great High Priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses and invites us to approach the throne of grace with confidence.
- Colossians 2:14-15 – Jesus disarmed the powers of darkness and triumphed over them by His cross.
- The word for “curtain” (פָּרוֹכֶת, *parokhet*) refers to the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. When Jesus died, the **\*11** veil was torn (Mat 27:51), signifying **direct access to God through Christ**.
- Since Jesus has entered heaven as our High Priest, we have **direct access to God**. We should boldly approach Him in prayer, knowing that He intercedes for us. (**\*12** “Bold humility” – Heb 4:14-16).

## Why is Jesus our Great (Superior) High Priest?

- Jesus is superior because of His permanence.
- Jesus is superior because He is of divine lineage.
- Jesus is superior because He is the perfect one.
- Jesus’ sacrifice was superior to animal sacrifices.
- Jesus is superior because He offers a perfect pardon.
- Jesus is superior because He is the perfect intercessor.
- Jesus is superior because He offers a superior covenant.

**CONCLUSION: Jesus, Our Eternal High Priest** – What makes Jesus our *Great* High Priest is that He is our *eternal* High Priest

Leviticus 16:15 finds its **ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ**, who is:

1. **The Mediator** – He stands between us and God.
2. **The Sacrifice** – His blood grants eternal redemption.
3. **The Heavenly High Priest** – He intercedes for us before the Father.

## PRAY/ ALTAR INVITATION

- **\*13 WORSHIP Jesus, your Great (superior) High Priest.** He has secured your salvation.
- **REST in His finished work.** You don’t have to earn forgiveness—it has been paid for.
- **DRAW NEAR to God daily.** Because of Jesus, you have **direct access to the Father** (Hebrews 4:16). Because of Christ, we no longer need an earthly priest—He is our eternal High Priest who reigns forever!

## BENEDICTION