

HEROES OF THE FAITH

MOSES: The Day of Atonement

Chapter 16

16 November 2022



➤ Overview

- ❖ It is not one of the three pilgrimage feasts required for all males to return to Israel & observe. (Exodus 23:14-17; Deuteronomy 16:1-16)
- ❖ It was a day of fasting, a special Sabbath of rest, a solemn day, & observed by all generations.
- ❖ It is kept by Jews today. It is called *Yom Kippur*.
- ❖ It symbolizes the substitutionary atonement God provided for their sins. The total removal of their guilt.

➤ God spoke to Moses after the death of Aaron's two sons. (v. 1)

➤ God said to Moses... (vv. 2-34)

❖ Aaron was not to enter at any time into the Holy of Holies. (v. 2)

- ☐ The place of the mercy seat on the ark.
- ☐ If he failed to obey God, he would die – like his sons (Nadab & Abihu).
- ☐ Today, God cannot be approached by sinful man unless he comes through Christ's atoning blood. (John 14:6; Ephesians 2:18)
- ☐ God would appear in a cloud over the mercy seat.

❖ God described the general guidelines for the atonement day ritual. (vv. 3-34)

- ☐ God outlined how Aaron could come into the Holy Place. (v. 3)
- ☐ A bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

- Atonement for the house of the priests.

☐ Aaron's attire. (v. 4)

- A holy linen coat.
 - Linen undergarment on his body.
 - Linen sash around his waist.
 - Linen turban.
 - He bathed his body in water before he donned the clothing.
 - He would never enter the Holy Place without these garments.

☐ He took two male goats from the congregation. (v. 5)

- Sin offering. + One ram for a burnt offering (Atonement)

☐ Aaron offered the bull as a sin offering for himself, & his house. (v. 6)



- ❑ Aaron took the two goats & set them before the LORD at the tabernacle entrance. (v. 7)
- ❑ Aaron cast lots over the two goats. (v. 8)
 - One lot for the LORD.
 - The other for the scapegoat – *Azazel*.
- ❑ Aaron presented the goat the lot fell on as a sin offering to the LORD. (v. 9)
- ❑ The goat the lot fell on for *Azazel* was presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it. Then, Aaron sent the goat into the wilderness. (v. 10)
- ❑ Aaron presented the bull as a sin offering to make atonement for himself & his house. (v. 11)
- ❑ He then took the following steps. (vv. 12-14)
 - Took a censer full of hot coals from the altar fire. (v. 12)
 - Two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small.
 - He took these items into the Holy Place.
 - He placed the incense on the fire before the LORD. (v. 13)
 - The cloud of the incense covered the mercy seat on top of the ark.
 - He obeyed the LORD so he would not die.
 - He took some of the bull's blood... (v. 14)
 - ...sprinkled it with his finger on the east side of the mercy seat.
 - ...sprinkled it with his finger seven times in front of the mercy seat.
- ❑ Then, he took the following steps with the goat he killed as a sin offering. (vv. 15-19)
 - He brought its blood into the Holy Place... (v. 15)
 - ...sprinkled it with his finger on the east side of the mercy seat.
 - ...sprinkled it with his finger seven times in front of the mercy seat.
 - He made atonement for the Holy Place. (v. 16)
 - He did this for Israel's sins.
 - He also did this for the tent of meeting.
 - The tabernacle dwelled in the midst of Israel's spiritual uncleanness.
 - No one could be in the tabernacle while Aaron was in the Holy Place. (v. 17)
 - Once finished, Aaron went to the altar & made atonement for it. (v. 18)
 - Took some of the bull's and goat's blood & placed it on the altar's four horns.
 - With his finger, he sprinkled blood seven times on it. (v. 19)
 - This cleansed and consecrated the altar from Israel's uncleanness.
- ❑ After all the atoning was complete, Aaron presented the live goat to God. (v. 20)
- ❑ Aaron placed his hands on the goat's head. (v. 21)
 - He confessed all of Israel's sins over the goat.
 - He placed them on the goat's head.
 - The goat was led into the wilderness.



- ❑ The goat bore Israel's sins into the wilderness and was free to roam. (v. 22)
- ❑ Aaron's responsibilities. (vv. 23-28)
 - Went into the tabernacle. Removed his linen garments and left them there. (v. 23)
 - Bathed his entire body in water in a holy place. (v. 24)
 - Placed on his garments. Came out & offered the burnt offerings for himself/people.
 - The fat of the sin offering he burned on the altar. (v. 25)
 - The one who released the scapegoat washed his clothes & bathed his body in water. (v. 26)
 - The sin offering's (bull & goat) blood, used for atonement in the Holy Place, was carried outside the camp. (v. 27)
 - The animal's skin, flesh, & dung were burnt with fire.
 - The one who burned them washed his clothes & bathed his body in water. (v. 28)
 - After completing those tasks, he returned to camp.
- ❑ Day of Atonement (vv. 29-34)
 - The date: seventh month (Tishri – September/October), 10th day (v. 29)
 - Requirements
 - Fast
 - Humble oneself
 - Rest (no work)
 - Both Israelite and sojourner
 - Repent. Cleanse yourself from all sin. Return to a right relationship with God. (v. 30)
 - It is a day of rest. Humility. Reflection. An observance for all generations. (v. 31)
 - The priest made atonement and dressed as God required. (v. 32)
 - He made atonement for... (v. 33)
 - ...the Holy of Holies within the tabernacle.
 - ...the tabernacle.
 - ...the altar.
 - ...the priests.
 - ...Israel.
 - A generational statute. (v. 34)
 - Atonement was made for Israel once a year, because of their sins.
 - Aaron obeyed God. He did as Moses commanded.



Group Questions

- 1) The Day of Atonement was not one of the three annual pilgrimage feasts (Exodus 23:14-17) in which God required males to return to Jerusalem. The ordinary Jew remained at home, fasted, rested, showed special contrition, provided special sin offerings, and atonement. Why?
- 2) Annually, the day of atonement symbolized for Israel the substitutionary atonement God provided for their sins, and the total removal of their guilt. This special day displayed God's love for His people. It also foreshadows the work of Christ. Explain.
- 3) Define sin, atonement, & worship. What are the decisions of salvation? Articulate the components of salvation. Explain what all these items have to do with each other. Discuss what these areas meant to the ancient Jew. And discuss what they mean to the modern Christian.
- 4) Describe one other major takeaway God has given you from this chapter.

