

# The Prophetic Meaning of the Day of Atonement

A Bible Study of Leviticus 16, Revelation 20, and the Ultimate Removal of Satan

## Introduction

The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), falling on the 10th day of the seventh month of God's sacred calendar, represents the absolute reconciliation between God and humanity. While other holy days focus on the harvest of believers and the return of Christ, this specific day contains a solemn dual-goat ceremony that highlights the final step before the earth can experience true peace: the complete removal and binding of the instigator of sin, Satan the devil.

## Part 1: The Statute of the Tenth Day of the Seventh Month

The scriptures firmly establish this day as a permanent statute for Israel, characterized by a total fast ('afflicting one's soul') and absolute rest from work.

### (Leviticus 16:29-31)

*"This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord. It is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever."*

### (Leviticus 23:27-32)

*"Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord. And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God... It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."*

### (Numbers 29:7)

*"On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall afflict your souls; you shall not do any work."*

### (Leviticus 25:9)

*"Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land."*

### (Acts 27:9)

*"Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them..."*

## Part 2: The Two Goats of Leviticus 16

The core ritual inside the Old Testament tabernacle centered around two male goats, which were handled in completely opposite manners to outline the two aspects of eliminating sin.

**(Leviticus 16:7-10)**

*“He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat [Azazel]. And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord’s lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering. But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness.”*

**(Leviticus 16:20-22)**

*“And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place... Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel... putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall let the goat go in the wilderness.”*

## Part 3: The Fulfillment in Revelation 20

The New Testament Apocalypse reveals the final execution of this shadowy ritual, where an angel mirrors the actions of the 'suitable man' by locking away the author of deception.

**(Revelation 20:1-3)**

*“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and sealed it over him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.”*

## Part 4: Typological Breakdown and Comparison

To clearly trace how the ancient ritual maps directly into the Book of Revelation, we can break down the structural counterparts:

| Old Testament Type (Leviticus 16)   | New Testament Antitype (Revelation 20) | Prophetic Meaning                                                               |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Lord's Goat (Slain)             | The Sacrificial Blood of Christ        | Pays the death penalty for human transgression to cleanse the temple/people.    |
| The Scapegoat / Azazel (Left Alive) | Satan the Devil / Dragon               | The original source, tempter, and instigator of sin bearing the ultimate blame. |

|                                      |                                 |                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The 'Suitable Man' / 'Fit Man'       | The Mighty Angel with the Chain | The executive power designated to carry out the forced removal of the entity.          |
| The Desolate, Uninhabited Wilderness | The Bottomless Pit / The Abyss  | An absolute physical and spiritual isolation where no influence can reach the nations. |

The distinction between the two goats is paramount. While Christ's blood completely covers and pays for human guilt, God requires a final accounting from the architect of evil himself. By placing the sins on the live goat and casting it out, the high priest prefigured the moment when Jesus Christ, following His second coming, sends an angel to chain Satan and shut him up in the Abyss for 1,000 years, removing all negative spiritual influence from the earth during the Millennium.