**What a Day!**

**Leviticus 16: 11-19**

**11 “Aaron shall present the bull as a purification offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house; he shall slaughter the bull as a purification offering for himself. 12He shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord and two handfuls of crushed sweet incense, and he shall bring it inside the curtain 13and put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may shroud the cover that is upon the covenant, or he will die. 14He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the cover, and before the cover he shall sprinkle the blood with his finger seven times. 15“He shall slaughter the goat of the purification offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the curtain and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it upon the cover and before the cover. 16Thus he shall make atonement for the sanctuary, because of the uncleannesses of the Israelites and because of their transgressions, all their sins, and so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which remains with them in the midst of their uncleanness. 17No one shall be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the sanctuary until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. 18Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement on its behalf and shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the blood of the goat and put it on each of the horns of the altar. 19He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times and cleanse it and sanctify it from the uncleannesses of the Israelites.**

**I. Terms to Know**

**purification** - the ritual cleansing of the sanctuary and the people of Israel from sin and uncleanness.

**censer** - a portable vessel used to hold burning coals and incense.

**incense** - material used to produce a fragrant odor when burned; a "sweet-smelling savor" to God, representing the acceptability of the prayers of the people.

**covenant** - the sacred relationship and agreement between God and the Israelites.

**atonement** - the reconciliation of God and humankind; addresses the consequences of sin and restores a broken relationship.

**uncleannesses** - spiritual impurity or defilement (not clean) due to their sins and transgressions.

**transgressions** - breaking a rule or law, especially a rule given by God.

**II. Summary**

**Leviticus 16:11-19, the high priest Aaron, after offering a bull for himself and his family, enters the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the people by offering incense and sprinkling the blood of both the bull and a goat on the mercy seat.**

* **Preparation and Sacrifice:**
* **Aaron, the high priest, first offers a bull as a sin offering for himself and his house, making atonement for his sins.**
* **He then takes two goats and casts lots, one for the Lord (to be sacrificed) and one as the "scapegoat" (to be sent into the wilderness).**
* **Entering the Holy of Holies:**
* **Aaron enters the Holy of Holies, the most sacred part of the tabernacle, where the Ark of the Covenant is kept.**
* **He burns incense on a censer, filling the room with a fragrant cloud, which is believed to have veiled God's presence and allowed Aaron to approach the mercy seat.**
* **Sprinkling the Blood:**
* **Aaron takes the blood of the bull and sprinkles it seven times on the mercy seat, making atonement for himself and his house.**
* **He then kills the goat for the people's sin offering, and with its blood, he repeats the sprinkling ritual on the mercy seat, making atonement for the sins of the people.**
* **Cleansing the Holy Place:**
* **After the blood rituals, Aaron goes out to the altar of burnt offering and makes atonement for it by placing blood from both the bull and the goat on its horns.**
* **He also sprinkles the blood on the altar with his finger seven times, cleansing it and making it free from the uncleanness of the people.**
* **The Scapegoat:**
* **After the atonement rituals are complete, the goat that was designated as the scapegoat is sent into the wilderness, symbolizing the removal of the people's sins.**

**III. Questions**

**1. Who did Aaron bring the bullock of the sin offering for?**

**2. Where was the incense placed?**

**3. Where was he told to sprinkle the blood?**

**4. Who was the goat sin offering for?**

**5. What was he told to do to cleanse it, and sanctify it for their uncleanness?**