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Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement is the only day that the High Priest enters the Holy of Holies of the temple to call on the name of the Almighty God, our Father in heaven to offer a blood sacrifice for the sins of the whole nation of the people of Israel. This is the time in God's grand plan for mankind that points to a future national cleansing of the 21st century nations of Israel.

Christ's death, His sacrifice is a 'life for a life' principle—the foundation of the Israelite sacrificial system. He is the unblemished sacrifice that triggered God's redemption plan for mankind.

“But when Christ came as **high priest** of the good things that are now already here, he went through **the greater and more perfect tabernacle** that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is **not a part of this creation**. He did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but **He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood**, thus securing eternal redemption” (Hebrews 9:11-12).

The sacrificial system required the High Priest to follow exactly and carefully the instructions given by God. On this day, the Day of Atonement, when the sins of the people were being atoned for, special instructions were given.

- Aaron [the High Priest] is to offer **the bull for his own sin offering** to make atonement **for himself and his household**.
- Then he is to take the **two goats** and present them before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of meeting.
- He is to cast lots for the **two goats**:
 - One lot for the LORD
 - Other for the scapegoat.
- Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the LORD and **sacrifice it for a sin offering**.
- The goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for **making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat**.
- He shall bring forward the live goat, **lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head**. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task. The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place; and the man shall **release it in the desert** (Leviticus 16:6-10, 20-22).

21st century Christians often pass over the scriptures detailing the sacrificial system. They have difficulty understanding the purpose and meaning behind them.

The 'life for a life' principle emphasizes the suffering and loss that comes from sin. Sin is the breaking of God's law of love. Hurting self and others is not acceptable to God. Sin must be atoned for and the penalty is the taking of the life of a perfect, innocent animal to pay for your sins; this is a painful and truly humbling practice. Sin must be taken seriously; suffering needs to end.

The ceremony on the Day of Atonement was for the High Priest to dress in linen garments as linen is representative of righteousness. The High Priest could not enter the Holy of Holies until he had made a sacrifice for himself and his family, so that he is washed clean of his sins. This was the reason for sacrificing the bull.

The High Priest then took two goats without defect. By casting lots, God chose which goat would be the sacrifice for the sins of the nation, so that they would be cleansed and purified and which goat would carry those sins of Israel into the wilderness. In a sacrifice, the offering is burned up; it images the complete removal of sins. All of those sins on this day were then placed on the second goat.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they were brought near to Satan. They formed a relationship with him and the people of Israel even with God's direct guidance, kept wandering into sin re-establishing the same relationship with Satan. The second goat mirrored the complete deliverance of Israel's sins by taking all of them and severing the relationship with the author of sin by leading the sin-laden goat back to the home of wickedness.

The second goat was led away into the wilderness—that place void of righteousness—that harsh and dying place. The second goat carried all of the sins of Israel into Satan's wilderness home to show Satan, Azazel—the father of all sin, that his evil influences will not prevail. It also showed the Israelites that if they chose to continue in sin, that they would not enter God's kingdom, rather they too, would be led into the wilderness where they will surely die. In addition, Keil and Delitzsch point out, "This last point, it is true, is not expressly mentioned in the text; but it is evident from the fate which necessarily awaited the goat, when driven into the wilderness in the "land cut off." It would be sure to perish out there in the desert, that is to say, to suffer just what a winner would have to endure if his sins remained upon him." <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/kdo/leviticus-16.html>

When Christ returns on the Day of Trumpets, ten days later 21st century Israel who are not part of the first resurrection, will be atoned for on the Day of Atonement. All of their sins will be forgiven by the shedding of the blood of the first goat and a second goat will be led into Satan's place of wickedness carrying all of those sins. Before the nations of 21st century Israel re-enter the land of their forefathers, God will have them walk under His staff. "I will take note of you as you pass under my staff, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. **I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me**" (Ezekiel 20:37-38). The purged rebels will join the second goat into the wilderness, where they will surely die.

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures the Millennium and begins four days later. The wonderful 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ will begin with all the nations of 21st century Israel cleansed, purified and with a willing heart to obey God commandments carefully.

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