

OT Feasts: Part 7 of 8; Lev. 23:26-32; 16:2-28; Heb. 9:23-28 ESV

## How Does the Day of Atonement Point Ahead to Jesus' *Second Coming*?

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2014

Sunday, Sept. 28 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, Sept. 29 at 7 PM

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today we focus on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur, 10-4-14), the 6<sup>th</sup> annual appointment God made with His people: **“A day of national fasting and sacrifice during which the high priest entered the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle.”** (TLSB, 200) That special day *pointed ahead* to Jesus' sacrifice for all sins and *continues to point ahead* to the day of Jesus' return – when all people will enter into ☺eternal life or ☹eternal condemnation. Atonement is ultimately God's work *through Jesus and His shed blood* to cover our sins; some have received the benefits, but many have not! This is a connection to the Feast of Trumpets: **“You shall... sound a ram's horn abroad on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall sound a horn all through your land.”** (Lev. 25:9 NAS)

Leviticus 23 has this summary of the Day of Atonement: **<sup>26</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>27</sup> “Now on the tenth day of this seventh month [Tishri] is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves [by not eating] and present a food offering to the LORD. <sup>28</sup> And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. <sup>29</sup> For whoever is not afflicted on that very day shall be cut off from his people [thus separated from them and God's blessings]. <sup>30</sup> And whoever does any work on that very day, that person I will destroy from among his people [as He did in the death of Aaron's two sons; Lev. 10:1-2]. <sup>31</sup> You shall not do any work. It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwelling places [“...unto the coming of the Messiah, who, by the**

atonement sacrifice of himself, would answer to this law, and put an end to it.” (John Gill Commentary)].<sup>32</sup> It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. On the ninth day of the month beginning at evening, from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath.” // So the LORD strongly emphasized: **Do not eat** and **do not work** on the Day of Atonement! Now, to get into the details of the Day of Atonement, **Leviticus chapter 16:**

### The High Priest's Preparation and Sacrifice for Himself:

1. <sup>2</sup> ...the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil...  
<sup>3</sup> But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.” // It also tells about Aaron bathing and wearing special white garments or vestments. “The white color indicated that no unclean person, no sinner, should step into the presence of the holy God.” (Kretzmann, 213)
2. <sup>5</sup> “And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. <sup>6</sup> Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house [*probably meaning the whole order of priests*]. <sup>7</sup> Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. <sup>8</sup> And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel [*which means the scapegoat*]. <sup>9</sup> And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, <sup>10</sup> but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel [*the scapegoat*] shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel [or “to hell,” which is exactly what the Israelite community wanted to happen to their sins.” (TLSB, 188)].” // Dr. Kretzmann wrote: “Both he-goats bore the

sins of the people, the one through the act of sacrifice, the other by complete removal into the wilderness.” (213)

3. <sup>11</sup> **“Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself.”**  
 // Then the high priest went inside *the Holy Place*, with special incense and the blood of the bull to sprinkle it on the east side and in front of the mercy seat – *the location of the LORD*, which was on top of the ark of the covenant.

### **The High Priest’s Sacrifice for the People:**

1. <sup>15</sup> **“Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull...”** // Also, *due to the sins of the people*, he was to use the blood to make atonement for ♦the Holy Place, ♦the tent of meeting, and ♦the altar. As the high priest acted alone on behalf of the people, *so Jesus did the same in the greatest way!* Aaron, while wearing white vestments, killed a bull and a goat; can you image the blood on his clothes? It must have been shocking, but the Bible says: **“...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”** (Heb. 9:22 ESV)
2. <sup>20</sup> **“And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. <sup>21</sup> And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities [lawlessness] of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions [unrighteousness], all their sins [falling short of God’s will]. And he shall put them on the head of the goat [“...the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.” (Isa 53:6 NAS)] and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness.”** // Try to imagine the situation: About 3 million people were camped around the tabernacle, so leading the goat to the wilderness –

*outside of the camp* – took some time. As a man was ready to lead the goat, *so a Roman Centurion was ready to lead Jesus outside of Jerusalem to be crucified!*

3. **23 “Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and shall take off the linen garments... 24 And... bathe his body in water... and put on his garments and come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people.”** // So much cleansing with blood was done prior to offering the burnt offerings! Since sin makes us so dirty, *we are so blessed to be clean thru Jesus’ precious blood!*

**The Ultimate High Priest:** <sup>ESV</sup> **Hebrews 9:23** “...it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites [*as noted above*], but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these [*the blood of Jesus*]. 24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf... 26 **...he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself...** 28 so Christ... will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” // Now, *as believers*, we are righteous in God’s sight BUT we are not actually righteous – *we still fall into sin*. So, think about these steps:

1. The Day of Atonement pointed ahead to Jesus’ saving work, *by which our relationship with God has been restored!*
2. Now we await Jesus’ second coming *when we will be in His glorious presence forevermore!*

**Conclusion:** Through Jesus we are blessed; when He comes again, *we will be even more blessed!* And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

**Application:** The joy of God’s forgiveness should move us to learn and live the Bible!

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