

Commentary on Hebrews

Review

THE 13 STAGES OF THE RITUAL

- I. **Stage 1 – Reception of the Pre-selected Animals**
 - A. Leviticus 16:3-5
 - B. They must be physically perfect – as they symbolize the spiritual perfection of Christ whom they represent in shadow form.
- II. **Stage 2 – Presentation of the Animals to God**
 - A. “. . .and present them before the Lord at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting” (Lev. 16:7).
- III. **Stage 3 – Aaron Casts Lots over the Two Goats of the People’s Sin Offering**
 - A. Verse 8 – *He is to cast lots for the two goats--one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat.*
 1. One for Jehovah – scarlet ribbon tied around its neck.
 2. One for Azazel – scarlet ribbon tied around its horn.
- IV. **Stage 4 – Aaron Kills the Bull of the Priests’ Sin Offering**
 - A. There is no laying on of hands as in all the other Sin Offerings.
- V. **Stage 5 – The Incense Is Offered**
 - A. Aaron enters the Holy of Holies for the first time.
 - B. He takes two handfuls of incense to place on coals from Burnt Offering altar “so that he will not die.” – Leviticus 16:12-13.
- VI. **Stage 6 – Sprinkling Blood of the Bull**
 - A. The second action to do within the veil is he sprinkles the blood of the bull in several places and ways (Leviticus 16:14, 18).
 1. First, with his finger on the “mercy seat on the east” = toward God who grants forgiveness.
 2. Second, “before the mercy seat seven times.”
- VII. **Stage 7 – Kills Goat “For Jehovah” and sprinkles the blood on the altar of burnt offerings**
 - A. The third action Aaron does within the veil is to “slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people” (Leviticus 16:15-16, 18).
 - B. He is to do with the blood of the goat the same actions he did with the blood of the bull.
 1. He first applies the blood on the horns of the altar of burnt offering
 2. Then with his finger he sprinkles blood upon the altar seven times
- VIII. **Stage 8 – The Azazel Ceremony**
 - A. Verse 20 begins the ceremony with the goat for Azazel.
 - B. Aaron lays both hands – one for priest, one for people, on the head of the goat.
 1. In all other sacrifices, only one hand was laid on the victim’s head.
 - C. Aaron confesses “over him” (the goat) all of Israel’s sins.
- IX. **Stage 9 – Removal of Goat for Azazel**
 - A. He shall send the goat into the desert and “*The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.*” – Lev 16:22

- X. **Stage 10 – Aaron’s Robes Changed Again**
 - A. Aaron re-enters the Holy Place, removes the white, humble garments and leaves them in the holy place – Lev 16:23
 - B. “He shall bathe himself with water in the sanctuary area and put on his regular garments.” – Lev 16:24.
- XI. **Stage 11 – Sacrificing The Burnt Offering**
 - A. Now the high priest offers the Burnt Offering for the priestly family and congregation.
 - B. One ram for the priestly family and one ram for the whole congregation.
 - C. The ritual follows the stages of the regular burnt offering
 - D. The blood is sprinkled as described.
- XII. **Stage 12 – Burning the Fat of the Bull and Goat With the Burnt Offerings**
 - A. [Leviticus 16:25 NIV](#) He shall also burn the fat of the sin offering on the altar.
- XIII. **Stage 13 – Disposal of the Sin Offering Bodies**
 - A. [Leviticus 16:27 NIV](#) The bull and the goat for the sin offerings, whose blood was brought into the Most Holy Place to make atonement, must be taken outside the camp; their hides, flesh and intestines are to be burned up.

MEANING AND APPLICATIONS OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

- I. **Azazel – Compound Word in Hebrew: Means – Strong Removal**
 - A. *Azazel* is a proper name – we normally refer to it as the *Scape Goat*.
 - B. The etymology of the compound word
 1. Entire removal
 2. To make strong; to strengthen
 3. Both words make the idea of a *strong triumph over and removal of sin*.
- II. **The Two Goats are ONLY ONE Sin Offering**

Therefore they are a unit, accomplishing two sides of the same redemption. [Leviticus 16:5 NIV](#) *From the Israelite community he is to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.*

 - A. The singular form indicates a unit
 - B. Each goat represents a different aspect of atonement
 1. The goat “for Jehovah” was the CAUSE of forgiveness.
 - a. By dying, this goat would symbolize the MEANS of reconciliation between God and man.
 2. The goat “for Azazel” was the EFFECT of forgiveness.
 - a. This goat, surviving the ritual, would symbolize the EFFECT of the sacrificial unit
- III. **Possibly Clear Suggestions of Jesus in That**
 - A. The Goat that died – foresees Jesus dying.
 - B. The Goat that went to desert – foresees Jesus’ resurrection as He survived the sacrifice.

Continuation

MEANING AND APPLICATIONS OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

IV. Far out explanations concerning Azazel

- A. Some suppose Azazel is some evil spirit that inhabits the wastelands and the wilderness, or desert.
 1. [Matthew 12:43 NIV](#) When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.
 2. [Luke 11:24 NIV](#) When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.'
- B. Others think Azazel is Satan himself
 1. He caused these sins so they should be sent back to him
 2. Supposedly, Satan is to bear the sins of the people forever
- C. Others suggest, on the basis of [Leviticus 17:7ff](#), that it is some kind of demon worship where the goat was sacrificed in the wilderness
 1. [Leviticus 17:7 NIV](#) They must no longer offer any of their sacrifices to the goat idols to whom they prostitute themselves. This is to be a lasting ordinance for them and for the generations to come.
 2. This sin of idolatry was still in practice by Jeroboam in [2 Chronicles 11:15ff](#)
 3. This may have been as a result of the idolatrous practices of the Egyptians who worshipped their sacred bull and male goat.
 4. However, such an explanation is rejected for these reasons:
 - a. It was condemned in [Leviticus 17:7ff](#)
 - b. Verse 9 says they would be “cut off from the people”.
 - c. Therefore, this could not have to do with the meaning of Azazel
- D. Another variation of the Satan idea seems to have a little more reason behind it, even if for the most part it is pure conjecture – but even so, some of it is true.
 1. Scriptures teach Satan has power over man ONLY because of his sins
 - a. [1 John 5:19 NIV](#) We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.
 - b. [Hebrews 2:14 NIV](#) Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might **break the power of him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil...**
 - c. Satan is the accuser of God’s people
 - i. In Job his name means “the accuser” – [Job 1:6-11](#). He accused Job of receiving God’s favor.
 - ii. [Zechariah 3:1 NIV](#) Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. – *Joshua, the high priest, was accused.*
 - iii. [Revelation 12:7-9 NIV](#) Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and

his angels fought back. (8) But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. (9) The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. – *The accuser is cast down to the Earth.*

2. According to this theory, the goat is sent to this accuser
 - a. The goat bears the sin of Israel on his head, but he bears them as forgiven
 - b. Since the first goat was slain its blood was offered and accepted in the sanctuary
 - c. God accepted this sacrifice and granted atonement in full to Israel
3. So the second goat announces to Satan that his claim and power over forgiven Israel is gone.
 - a. His accusations are now out of place
 - b. This predicts the future atonement effected by Jesus Christ
 - c. It also predicts the total overthrow of all Satan's claims against God's elect
 - i. [Romans 8:32-34 NIV](#) He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (33) **Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.** (34) Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God **and is also interceding for us.**
 - ii. [Revelation 12:10-11 NIV](#) Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. (11) **They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;** they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.