



## *Life More Abundant Bible Study*

# Bible Prophecy: The Sanctuary, the Sacrificial System, & the Day of Atonement

The message of the sanctuary tells the story of God's great plan for redeeming mankind and finally eradicating sin from the universe. The articles within the earthly sanctuary and the various services all serve as a shadow (type) of the actual heavenly sanctuary (anti-type) and they come together to form a detailed view of God's mercy for mankind and His hatred for sin.

As we have studied in our prior lessons, the earthly sanctuary and its use were symbolic of many purposes, including the following:

- **A Place of Atonement**
- A Place of Intercession
- A Place of Judgment

The study of the Day of Atonement encapsulates aspects of each of the above themes and describes Jesus' work in the true sanctuary, the heavenly sanctuary, as a Mediator, an Intercessor, and a Judge on behalf of each individual, especially those who have surrendered their lives to Him in faith.

### **Background to the Day of Atonement: - the Sacrificial System**

The act of performing sacrifices to symbolically make payment (atone) for sin began in the Garden of Eden when God made tunics of animal skin for the hapless couple (Gen 3:21). From that time until Christ dying on the cross, the sacred ceremony of performing sacrifices was designed to accomplish the following:

- Serve as a daily reminder of the heinousness of sin, requiring death
- Remind men of God's *mercy* and *grace* in providing a substitute on their behalf
- Draw man's attention to God's *Plan of Redemption* that harmonizes two opposites, mercy and justice (Psalm 85:10)
- Provide an illustration of God's works of bearing the sin problem upon Himself and ultimately eradicating sin.

### **Background to the Day of Atonement: - the Sanctuary**

God had enjoyed close communion with all of his creation, including Adam and Eve prior to their fall to sin (Genesis 3:8-9). When sin entered the human race, the holiness and purity of God in close proximity to the sinfulness of man would immediately result in the destruction of mankind (Mal 3:2, 3; Heb 12:29). Therefore, God commanded that a sanctuary be made, providing a consecrated, holy place that would veil His glory so that He may dwell among His people (Exodus 25:8, 40:34, 35). Made in the similitude of the heavenly sanctuary (Exodus 25:9, Hebrews 8:5), this initially mobile structure (Exodus 33:12-17; 2 Samuel 7:1-17), later made permanent with the erection of the temple in Jerusalem by Solomon, served as:

- A visible reminder of God's presence, closeness, and guidance
- A school for instructing reverence towards God and sanctification of life for the people
- A school for understanding the *Great Controversy*, the battle between good and evil

- A school for understanding God’s *Plan of Redemption* through symbols and types
- A place of refuge and reconciliation to God for sin
- A place of intercession and atonement

Please read through the entire chapter of Leviticus 16 before answering the questions below.

**A Case Study On The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16):**

1. Name the person who ministered in the sanctuary during the Day of Atonement:  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. According to the bible what compartment did the High Priest enter once a year? (Hebrews 9:6, 7)
3. Who would the High Priest meet in the second compartment of the tabernacle? (Leviticus 16:2, 3; Exodus 25:20-22)
4. The High Priest was to offer a \_\_\_\_\_ as a sin \_\_\_\_\_ for himself and his household.
5. Review the manner in which sacrifices were performed in Leviticus 1:4, 5. What was significant in this process?
6. What did the High Priest do with the blood of the bull collected?
7. What do you believe the blood symbolized? (Leviticus 17:11; Col 1:14; Heb 9:22; Matthew 26:28).
8. Who or what does the shedding of blood appease? (Colossians 1:19, 20; 1 Timothy 2:5, 6; Romans 8:1, 2; Galatians 3:13; Mark 10:45)
9. Along with a ram for a burnt offering, the High Priest drew straws over two goats. Name those goats: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Based on the fate of the goats, which do you believe represented Jesus Christ?
11. For whom and what is the goat slain?
12. What did the High Priest do with the blood of the slain goat?
13. What did the High Priest do with the goat which remained alive?
14. Where is the scapegoat led? What do you think is its fate?
15. Who do you believe the scapegoat represents? Discuss the attributes of the Lord’s goat and the scapegoat in comparison to Jesus and Satan in light of the *Plan of Redemption*.

Attribute	Jesus	Lord’s Goat	Scapegoat	Satan
Is “ <b>sacrificed</b> ” for sin as part of the <i>Plan of Redemption</i>	X Isaiah 53:4-10	X Lev 16:9		
Whose blood <b>makes atonement for sin</b> , cleansing the people of God of their sins and blotting out the record of all <b>confessed sins</b> from the sanctuary	X Psalm 51:1, 9; Rev 3:5	X Lev 16:14, 19		
The one’s body, <b>whose blood is shed for sin</b> , is brought outside the camp to suffer (to be burned)	X Heb 13:9-13	X Lev 16:27		
Is removed from the camp <b>alive</b> , symbolizing the removal/dispossession of sin, <b>after</b> atonement is made			X	X
Is sent to the “wilderness”, a solitary land <b>alive</b> , signifying the permanent removal of sin from the people of God			X Lev 16:21, 22	X Rev 20:1-3
Will perish <b>outside the camp</b> , in the wilderness			X Lev 16:22	X Rev 20:7-10

16. Based on God's *Plan of Redemption*, who too should bear the penalty of sin? (Matthew 25:41, 8:28, 29; Jude 1:6)
17. What were the people corporately to do prior to and while the High Priest ministered on the Day of Atonement? (Leviticus 16:29-31; 23:26-32; Jonah 3:1-10)
18. What is involved in *afflicting one's soul*? Consider the individual's attitude, dress and acts performed during this solemn time (Genesis 35:1-4; Jonah 3:6-10; Joel 2:12-17; Luke 18:13)
19. What is meant by cleansing or making atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, for the tabernacle of meeting, and for the altar? (Leviticus 16:33; Ex 30:9, 10; Lev 4:5-7, 17-18).
20. Considering what we have learned regarding the earthly sanctuary relative to the heavenly sanctuary; what does the yearly act of atoning and cleansing the earthly sanctuary symbolize in your mind?

### Summary:

The Day of Atonement was a solemn day of worship symbolizing and prefiguring Jesus, our High Priest interceding on behalf of the redeemed in **judgment**. Bearing our sins upon Himself and making atonement with His own blood in the heavenly sanctuary, we, Jesus' faithful stewards have nothing to fear in judgment. The cleansing of the earthly sanctuary once a year was a *type*, symbolizing the literal blotting out of sins from the heavenly records for the redeemed and the pronouncement of judgment for the wicked during the *anti-typical* Day of Atonement, or time of judgment. The judgment commences with a thorough examination of the records of each individual's life and an evaluation of those names written in the Book of Life, whether they should remain or be blotted out. The closing work of the judgment is the blotting out of sins from the books of record for the redeemed and the pronouncement of guilt upon the wicked.

Once the sins of the redeemed have been blotted out completely by the blood of the Lord's goat (Jesus), they stand justified before God as if they had never sinned and are sealed by God (Revelation 7:1-4, 14:1-4). In contrast, the record of sin remains for the unrighteous, and judgment is placed upon them and the scapegoat symbolizing Satan and the role he has played in causing men to sin. Those who spurned the cleansing blood of the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world must bear the penalty of sin themselves. The sanctuary provides a wonderful view of God's plan for redeeming the human race and eradicating sin from the universe. Let us accept Jesus Christ into our lives today and the atonement only offered through the true Lamb of God and the true High Priest.



For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, [which are] the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:  
Hebrews 9:24

For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.  
Hebrews 7:28



*The Daily Sacrifice Service*



*The Day of Atonement Service*



And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. Hebrews 9:22



But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us].

Hebrews 9:11, 12

