

Message #31

Leviticus 16:21-34

I do not care how sinful, vile, depraved, corrupt, blasphemous, immoral or evil a person has ever been, if he or she will humble him or herself to totally trust in the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ, he/she will be saved and set free from all the terrible things he/she has ever done. Faith will transfer the sin to Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ will remove the sin from the sinner. God will forget the sin forever.

EVERY PERSON IS SINFUL AND GOD HAS PROVIDED A NECESSARY SACRIFICE TO ATONE FOR THE SIN AND IF ONE WILL HUMBLE HIMSELF AND TRUST IN THE SACRIFICE GOD PROVIDES, ONE'S SINS WILL BE REMOVED FOREVER !

In the sight of God, we are all bad. None of us has even come close to measuring up to the righteous standards of God and that is why God, in His amazing grace, provided a sacrifice.

OBSERVATION #1 – The priest must confess sins while relying on the sacrifice. **16:21-22**

(Hebrew Word #1) - Iniquity—which refers to perverse depraved things which people have done against God, specifically of a sexual nature (Gesenius, pp. 613-614).

(Hebrew Word #2) - Transgression—which refers to sins of rebellion which breaks God's Word (Gesenius, p. 695).

(Hebrew Word #3) - Sin – which refers to missing the mark by not hitting the target of God's righteous standards, which makes one liable to penalty (Gesenius, p. 271).

Now look carefully at the first part of **verse 21**—the sons of Israel had done these things. They were guilty of these kinds of sins and yet there was hope. Aaron was to lay his hands on the goat and send it away into the wilderness and **verse 22** says the goat shall bear on itself the iniquities. By releasing this goat into the wilderness, he was symbolizing that this goat took the sins of the people away, never to return. He removed those sins as far as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:12). The word “bear on itself” is the same concept the prophet Isaiah uses in Isaiah 53. Isaiah writes; “Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried... All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him” (Is. 53:4, 6). It was John who would later follow up on this when he saw Jesus Christ and he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

OBSERVATION #2 – The priests connected to this atonement offering must wash themselves. **16:23-24, 26, 28**

Jesus Christ is the only Person who was perfectly clean in offering up Himself.

God is showing Israel and us that no matter who we are, no matter how sacred our responsibility, we are not perfect.

OBSERVATION #3 – After the priest is bathed, he shall offer up a burnt offering. **16:24-25**

I want you to notice here the truth of God—when you show people their sins are gone, it has just the opposite effect; it makes them want to dedicate themselves to God.

OBSERVATION #4 – The priest shall take the hides of the sin offering outside the camp and burn them. **16:27**

Now the reason for this is carefully seen in this verse—sin is atoned for only by blood, nothing else. It is the blood of the sacrifice that removes sin; not works, not hide, not morality—blood.

OBSERVATION #5 – The Atonement offering is to be perpetually practiced. **16:29-34**

1) It is to be a day of humility, not arrogance. **16:29, 31**

In other words, this was a day when God’s people should be completely humbled by the reality that God would provide a sacrifice for our worst sins. No arrogant person will ever worship God.

2) It is to be a day when all works cease. **16:29, 31**

The day a person is right with God is the day the person realizes his works cannot make him right with God. One is only right with God by resting and trusting in the sacrifice.

3) The focus is on the sacrifice which makes atonement for sins. **16:30**

Notice how many sins are atoned for: “all” your sins, not “part.” The sacrifice of Jesus Christ cleanses you from all your sins; not part, not a few, but all. From the most depraved things you have ever done, to attempts to be good that just fell short, God’s sacrifice cleans you forever.

4) The priest must make the atoning sacrifice for the place, the priests and the people. **16:32-33**

Ladies and gentlemen, see this point—in order for us to worship God, the place of worship must be clean, the priests of worship must be clean and the people of worship must be clean.

Now the contextual point is that there is nothing the people can do in and of themselves to be clean. The priest must do it all for them. That is precisely what Jesus Christ did for us. He did it all. He was the sacrifice. He took our sins on Himself. He shed His blood to cleanse us and with His stripes we are healed.

It is just as **verse 34** says—we are to remember this forever.