

Authorship, Acceptance, and Atonement

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Hidden in the symbolism associated with the Day of Atonement are important truths related to Christ's work on behalf of every sinner. Some of the key lessons will be examined in this study.

Historically, there has been confusion regarding the sacrificed goat and the goat that is released into the wilderness. Some claim that both goats represent the work of Christ, while others believe only the sacrificed goat represents Christ's work. When comparisons are made between specific aspects of Christ's earthly ministry and symbols associated with the Day of Atonement, any misunderstanding should be resolved.

As scripture does not always follow a strict chronological order of events, the 16th chapter of Leviticus must be viewed for its central themes rather than making it conform to the order in which Jesus Christ's earthly ministry unfolded. As the primary purpose for the Day of Atonement is to explain how sin will finally be dealt with, the key acts of Jesus Christ will be compared to specific ordinances associated with this Holy Day.

As Jesus Christ did not commit any sin, he did not have to offer a sacrifice for himself as the High Priest did.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted (tested) as we are, **yet without sin** (Heb. 4:15; cf. 7:26; 2Cor. 5:21; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which is for himself... (Lev. 16:6a).

Nonetheless, Jesus Christ took responsibility for the sins of all those under his authority, which includes everyone he created under delegation from God the Father (Col. 1:12-18).

Looking unto Jesus, the author (SGD 747; chief leader, prince, one that takes the lead in anything and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer) and finisher (perfecter) of our faith... (Heb. 12:2a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

So Jesus Christ is the chief example of living a life of faith, or trust, in Almighty God. As such, he agreed to give up his life in order to create the path to reconciliation between every repentant sinner and God the Father (Jn. 10:18).

Jesus said to him (Thomas), 'I am the way, the truth, and the life (everlasting). No one comes to the Father except through me (Christ's sacrifice on their behalf) (Jn. 14:6; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Therefore, the goat that was sacrificed represents Christ's death on behalf of every sinner in order for their relationship with Almighty God to be restored. Both the life of this goat and Jesus Christ's were completely extinguished, and their bodies brought outside the camp/gate.

And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell, and offer it as a **sin offering** (Lev. 16:9; emphasis added).

...the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy Place, **shall be carried outside the camp**. And they shall burn in the fire the skin, flesh, and offal (Lev. 16:27b; emphasis added).

For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. ¹² Therefore **Jesus also**, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, **suffered outside the gate** (Heb. 13:11-12; emphasis added).

In contrast, the other goat was released alive into the wilderness (Lev.16:21). Obviously, at some point it would die, but not for the purpose of covering anyone's sins. However, authorship for the sins of the world was symbolically transferred to this goat when the High Priest laid his hands on its head. As Almighty God is **not** the author of confusion, this goat was meant to represent a fallen angel who **is** the author of confusion.

For God is not the author of confusion (disorder) but of peace... (1Cor. 14:33a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The real "author of confusion" created this state of affairs by lying and misrepresenting the Word of God.

He (Satan) was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father (originator) of it (Jn.8:44b; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Therefore, when Christ overcame Satan's best attempts to cause confusion, regarding how God's word should be understood and obeyed, Satan went into the wilderness as did the goat that represented him in the ordinances associated with the Day of Atonement.

Now when the devil had ended every temptation (test; testing), **he departed from him** (Christ) until an opportune time (Lk. 4:13; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall **send it away into the wilderness** by the hand of a suitable man. ²² The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land... (Lev. 16:21-22a; emphasis added).



FOR GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF
CONFUSION (DISORDER) BUT OF PEACE...
I Corinthians 14:33a; Ed. note in parenthesis

Although Jesus Christ never sinned, he was still willing to "accept" all the sins ever committed by giving up his life to make forgiveness possible for all sinners (1Pet. 3:18; Rev. 13:8). However, Christ is not the "author" of these sins. Instead, Satan is. Therefore, the action of the High Priest, when he placed his hands upon the head of the live goat, was meant to identify the "author" of those sins. For Satan to repent, he would first have to "accept" sole responsibility for introducing sin to God's Creation. Until he acknowledges this truth, he will remain in the wilderness because he cannot enter God's camp, or kingdom. This is explained in one of Christ's parables.

The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son (Mt. 22:2).

But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment (cf. Rev. 19:8). ¹² So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into outer darkness (symbolic of the wilderness that the live goat

was sent into)' (Mt. 22:11-13a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Just as the High Priest removed his garments, after he had come into contact with the goat that represented Satan, so Jesus Christ had his garments removed following his interaction with Satan, which eventually led to his execution at the hands of the Adversary (cf. Jn. 13:27).

And he (John; cf. vs. 2), stooping down and looking in (the tomb), saw the linen clothes lying there... (Jn. 20:5a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

And the handkerchief that had been around his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself (Jn. 20:7).

Next, the blood from the goat that was killed as a sacrifice for sin was brought into the Holy Place, just as Christ's shed blood was symbolically presented to Almighty God after his death and resurrection.

...the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement (Heb. *covering*) **in the Holy Place** (Lev. 16:27a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² **Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood he entered the Most Holy Place...** (Heb. 9:11-12a; emphasis added).

The serious consequences of sin and the need to have all sins forgiven, is a hallmark of the symbolism associated with the Day of Atonement. The fact that sinless animals had to give their lives up, and then the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ had to occur, is the reason for "fasting" being commanded on this

Holy Day. It's meant to stress how serious Almighty God views the sinful actions of fallen angels and mankind. Jesus Christ made it clear that his disciples would "fast" following his death and resurrection, and this "fasting" would be above and beyond what was commanded on the Day of Atonement. Christ emphasized that "fasting" is meant as an outward expression of the "mourning" every sinner should feel inwardly for the sins they have committed, as well as mourning because Jesus Christ has not returned yet to remove the god of this present evil age (2Cor. 4:4; Gal. 1:4; cf. Rev. 20:1-4).



AND THE HANDKERCHIEF THAT HAD BEEN AROUND HIS HEAD, NOT LYING WITH THE LINEN CLOTHS, BUT FOLDED TOGETHER IN A PLACE BY ITSELF.
JOHN 20:7

In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall **afflict your souls** (fast), and do no work at all, whether a native of your country or a stranger who sojourns among you (Lev. 16:29b).

Then the disciples of John came to him (Christ), saying, 'Why do we and the Pharisees fast but your disciples do not fast?' ¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, 'Can the friends of the bridegroom **mourn** as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will **fast** (Mt. 9:14-15; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

In conclusion, when the High Priest placed his hands on the goat that was released into the wilderness, he was identifying a spirit-being who is responsible for introducing sin into Almighty God's Creation. In other words, Satan is the "author" of sinful conduct in contrast to Jesus

Christ who is the author of reconciliation between sinners and God the Father. Christ "accepted" the sins of the world by giving up his life to atone, or "cover" them. Satan has yet to "accept" that he is responsible for all the suffering that has occurred in both the spirit and physical realms due to his sinful conduct. Therefore, may Almighty God lead Satan to repentance, along with every individual guilty of sin (Rom. 3:23).

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