

God's Feast Days: Day of Atonement

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God the Father has a wonderful plan, which offers an incredible future for mankind and is revealed through the Holy Days described in the Scriptures (Lev. 23). God clearly tells us that these Holy Days are to be kept *throughout our generations - forever* (Lev. 23:14, 21, 31, 41 etc)! Each Holy Day carries significant meaning and is a yearly reminder of a phase of the future fulfillment of God's plan.

In this booklet we will discuss and explain the Day of Atonement, which is celebrated on the tenth day of the seventh month (Lev. 16:29; 23:27; Num. 29:7). We will discuss the meaning of the two atonement goats (Lev. 16:5-8) and what they represent, and in so doing will clarify a previous misconception, which many have been mistakenly led to believe. Get ready for some eye-opening Truth, which few understand!

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Chapter 1

Christ our Passover Lamb

Jesus Christ became flesh to fulfill a vital part in the plan of God. Through the meaning and significance of the Passover, we understand that Jesus Christ died so that the sins of mankind could be forgiven (1 Cor. 15:3). Christ was the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us (John 1:29)! He was beaten and wounded as the sins of the world were heaped upon His Body (Isa. 53:5-7). Christ then carried those sins to the cross, which were forgiven by His death (Rom. 6:23; 1 Pet. 3:18). As the Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ was the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. (For a detailed explanation on this most important subject please read the *Faithful Church of God in Laodicea* booklet entitled, “God’s Feast Days: Passover & ULB”).

Physical Sacrifices

In the book of Numbers (chapter 28), we see outlined a list of sacrifices. Notice:

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Command the children of Israel, and say unto them, My offering, and my bread for my sacrifices made by fire, for a sweet savour unto me, shall ye observe to offer unto me in their due season. And thou shalt say unto them, This is the offering made by fire which ye shall offer unto the LORD; two lambs of the first year without spot day by day, for a continual burnt offering. The one lamb shalt thou offer in the morning, and the other lamb shalt thou offer at even; And a tenth part of an ephah of flour for a meat offering, mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil. It is a continual burnt offering, which was ordained in mount Sinai for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD. And the drink offering thereof shall be the fourth part of an hin for the

one lamb: in the holy place shalt thou cause the strong wine to be poured unto the LORD for a drink offering. And the other lamb shalt thou offer at even: as the meat offering of the morning, and as the drink offering thereof, thou shalt offer it, a sacrifice made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD” (Num. 28:1-8).

Listed above are the continual burnt offerings which were conducted twice each day, morning and evening. On every weekly Sabbath, more sacrifices were offered as follows:

“And on the sabbath day two lambs of the first year without spot, and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and the drink offering thereof: This is the burnt offering of every sabbath, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering” (Num. 28:9-10).

There were also sacrifices which were offered on the day of a new moon, or at the “beginning of your months”:

“And in the beginnings of your months ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot; And three tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one bullock; and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one ram; And a several tenth deal of flour mingled with oil for a meat offering unto one lamb; for a burnt offering of a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD. And their drink offerings shall be half an hin of wine unto a bullock, and the third part of an hin unto a ram, and a fourth part of an hin unto a lamb: this is the burnt offering of every month throughout the months of the year” (Num. 28:11-14).

The next verse in Numbers 28 discusses a young goat which was used as a sacrifice for a sin offering in addition to all the other offerings which were required. Notice:

“And **one kid of the goats for a sin offering** unto the LORD shall be offered, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering” (vs. 15).

The subsequent verses in Numbers 28 discuss the offerings which were required during the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread. Verse 22 has an interesting detail, which we must carefully take note of:

“And one goat for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you.”

On each day of the seven days of Unleavened Bread, a *goat* was offered! Scripture indicates that this goat was offered for a sin offering – “*to make an atonement for you*”! The Hebrew word for atonement is “kaphar” and could be translated as “covering”. However, one might ask: if our sins were symbolically forgiven through the spilled blood of the Passover lamb, why would a goat be offered for a sin offering each of the subsequent seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? We will ask the question again: If the Passover lamb was killed symbolizing Christ’s death for the forgiveness of sin, why would a goat be offered each day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread *as an atonement*, or as a covering, *for our sins*? The answer is that the blood of the goat did not forgive sins (Heb. 10:4), but it “covered” sin. A pardon was given until the sin could be forgiven (after repentance) through the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

Notice Hebrews 9:11-15:

“But Christ being come a 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. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance”.

It is through Christ’s shed blood that our sins are forgiven.
Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb!

Chapter 2 The Day of Atonement

Numbers 29:7-11 discuss the fifth Holy Day of the year: the Day of Atonement. Following are these verses which outline the required sacrifices for this Feast day:

“And ye shall have on the tenth day of this seventh month a holy convocation; and ye shall afflict your souls: ye shall not do any work therein: But ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD for a sweet savor; one young bullock, one ram, and seven lambs of the first year; they shall be unto you without blemish: And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil, three tenth deals to a bullock, and two tenth deals to one ram, A several tenth deal for one lamb, throughout the seven lambs. **One kid of the goats for a sin offering; beside the sin offering of atonement,** and the continual burnt offering, and the meat offering of it, and their drink offerings”.

Verse 11 tells us that a *kid of the goats* was offered for a *sin offering* beside the offering to make atonement for us. The events which took place on the Day of Atonement as outlined in the Old Testament are symbolic of a future fulfillment. These events are extremely important anti-types of what will take place immediately after Christ returns, with His Bride, as King of kings and Lord of lords on a future Feast of Trumpets.

Old Testament observance

Passages in the New Testament help us to understand what took place in the Old Testament on the Day of Atonement. It was only on the Day of Atonement that the high priest would enter beyond the veil of the Tabernacle. Notice what is stated in Hebrews 9:6-7:

“Now these things having been thus prepared, the priests go in continually into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the services; but into the second the high priest alone, once in the year, not without blood, which he offereth for himself, and for the errors of the people”.

The high priest alone would enter into the second tabernacle to offer a sacrifice for himself and also for the errors of the people. Notice closely what these verses are saying. All ordained priests went into the first tabernacle, to accomplish the service of God. The high priest was the only individual who was allowed into the second tabernacle. He went in to offer a sacrifice for his sins *and* for the sins of God’s people (vs. 7). Heb. 9:6-7 indicates that the high priest makes a “sacrifice” for himself *and* for the entire congregation.

Let us now take a look at the Biblical example of Aaron the high priest, when he went into the Holy place on the Day of Atonement:

Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering. He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on. And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel **two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering**. And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house. And **he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat**

upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness” (Lev. 16:3-10).

Scripture mentions that Aaron took two goats into the tabernacle of the congregation on the Day of Atonement. He cast lots upon the two goats – one was for the Lord and the other was for the scapegoat. The goat on which the Lord’s lot fell was killed as a sin offering, while the second goat represented the scapegoat and was presented ALIVE before the Lord for an atonement to be let go as a scapegoat into the wilderness. Notice further:

“And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is *for himself*, and shall make an atonement for himself, AND for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself: And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. Then shall **he kill the goat of the sin offering**, *that is for the people*, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: And *he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins*: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the

midst of their uncleanness. *And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel*” (Lev. 16:11-17).

As we noted above, Leviticus 16:5 does state that there were two kids of the goats for a sin offering. The two goats make up one sin offering. Since the two goats almost look identical, the high priest cast lots to determine which was for the Lord and the people (vs. 8 and 15), and which was for the scapegoat, Azazel (vs. 10). The first goat (for the Lord and the people) was killed and its blood sprinkled upon and around the mercy seat just as was done with the sacrificed bullock. The second goat was brought into the tabernacle alive. Notice:

“And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, **he shall bring the live goat...**” (Lev. 16:18-20)

Although the first goat was sacrificed, the sins of the people had not yet been forgiven. Verse 21 follows:

“And *Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their*

iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness”. (Lev. 16:21-22)

We have historically believed that the second live goat represents Satan the devil; this is correct. However, many mistakenly believed, and still continue to believe, that the first sacrificed goat represents Christ; this is *not* correct! Understand: Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb and not the Atonement goat! God’s plan outlined by the seven Feast days demonstrate a progression of events within His one Master Plan. Christ is represented by the Passover Lamb which was slain at Passover! He will not be slain again on the Day of Atonement after He returns with His Bride on the Feast of Trumpets! It would be illogical to think and believe that the sacrificed atonement goat represents Christ. Christ will not come as King of kings to be slain - again! At Christ’s return as King of kings on a future Feast of Trumpets, He will take over world government and not be slain again on the impending Day of Atonement. We will repeat for sake of clarity: it is impossible for Christ to be represented by the sacrificial atonement goat as so many mistakenly believe. Christ was not resurrected days after His death only to await being killed again on a future Day of Atonement after He returns to the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords!

We understand that the second live goat of Leviticus 16 represents Satan the Devil. This being the case, is it not obvious what is represented by the first slain goat? Both goats were (almost) identical to each other – in fact, the high priest had to cast lots to decide which goat was for the Lord and which represented Azazel. *It should be clearly evident that the first, sacrificed atonement goat is representative of Satan’s evil system of deception!* The second live goat which is released into the wilderness is representative of Satan the devil himself, who will be sent into the wilderness away from human contact immediately after Christ returns! The two goats are representative of Satan and his system. Please request or download from the website of the Faithful Church of God in

Laodicea (www.fcogl.org), our booklet entitled “Isaiah 22 & Revelation 18-19”. This booklet will demonstrate and prove how a change in government is about to take place. When Christ returns to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords He will take over world government once and for all, cutting down Satan’s system of governance in fulfillment of the sacrificial atonement goat. Satan’s evil government will be destroyed forever, while Satan will be sent into the wilderness for a thousand years represented by the live goat, Azazel! Therefore, the sacrificed atonement goat is representative of Satan’s system which will be eradicated when the Day of Atonement is fulfilled, and the live Azazel goat is representative of Satan the Devil who will be sent into the wilderness for a thousand years prior to the commencement of the millennium! As was stated earlier, Jesus Christ was the Passover Lamb and *not* the Atonement goat! We must recognize this vital Truism to deeply understand the meaning of the Day of Atonement.

To help even better understand this subject we will paraphrase a small portion of what is written in the FCGL booklet entitled “Isaiah 22 & Revelation 18-19”, as this ties in with the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement.

Satan is the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). He has deceived this world by a false system whereby the world wittingly or unwittingly worships him. Notice Revelation 18:2, 4-6, 8:

“And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen...And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double... Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and

famine; and **she shall be utterly burned with fire**: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.”

When the first goat was killed, it was burned in the fire which is the fate of Satan’s system at Christ’s return! This false system will come to an end as concluded in Revelation 18:24:

“And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.”

Satan’s system represented by the *first goat* will be completely destroyed and burnt up on the Day of Atonement after Christ’s return. The *second goat*, representing Satan the devil, will at that time be sent into the “wilderness” for a thousand years, with the sins caused by his own lies and deceit placed upon his head. Satan will be unable to influence mankind for the duration of the millennium. The millennium will be a time of peace, joy, happiness, abundance, unity and love under the government of God, administered by Jesus Christ and free from the influence of Satan and his evil system!

We are here to help! Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions. Our address is: Faithful Church of God in Laodicea, P.O. Box 31135, Edmond, Oklahoma 73003, USA. Email: mail@menofsign.org. Our web address is: www.fcogl.org
