

# Holy to the Lord

You and the book of  
Leviticus



**SCAPEGOAT**  
The Secret To Success Is Knowing Who To Blame

Chapter 16, part 2

## Spring Cleaning



The Day of Atonement is all about annual cleansing. Last time, we talked about how the priest and the sanctuary were cleansed for the purposes of ritual purity. This time, we will talk about how Israel itself will be cleaned. (Let's hope she washes her hair more than annually).

## Lev. 16:7-10

- “Two Goats”



Not “cast lots” but rather, “place tags upon them”—one tag marked for the Lord and one tag marked for “Azazel”.

The goat for the lord was for a sin offering.

The goat for Azazel shall be **stationed alive before the Lord** to make atonement upon it ...”— What does that mean?

--it must stand in the presence of God before it can make atonement

--why wasn't it destroyed by God's almighty presence.

## “Azazel”--?

Four suggested meanings:

1. Combination of “goat” and “to go away”

2. Refers to “a precipice” as the goat’s destination

3. Azazel means “Azael”, the leader of the fallen angels (1 Enoch 8:1; 10:4-8; 13:1)

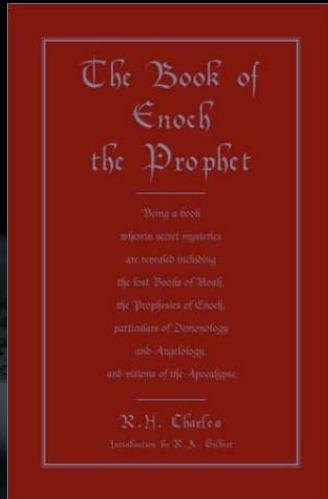
- “And Azazel taught men to make swords, and knives, and shields, and breastplates, and made known to them the metals of the earth and the art of working them, and bracelets, and ornaments, and the use of antimony, and the beautifying of the eyelids, and all kinds of costly stones, and all colouring tinctures. And there arose much godlessness, and they committed fornication, and they were led astray, and became corrupt in all their ways” (1 Enoch 8:1-3)

Ask for any different translations of v.8

4 possible meanings of “Azazel”

At point 3, ask them to turn to 1<sup>st</sup> Enoch, chapter 8 – can’t find it?

# Book of Enoch



- Enoch, the seventh from Adam prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him" (Jude 14-15)

Note on the Book of Enoch:

1. Book purports to be written by Enoch, great-grandfather of Noah, but actually didn't show up until 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC. (Only person other than Elijah that never died.(Gen. 5:24))
2. Generally considered apocryphal today, but well-respected in NT times.
3. The [Book of Enoch](#) is included in the biblical canon only of the Oriental Orthodox churches of Ethiopia and Eritrea. "

Turn to Jude 14.

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4. “Azazel” means either “a fierce god” or, more likely, “divine anger”. Unlikely.

Unlikely because the if the Hebrew Divine “el” was to mean God (e.g., elohim), it would probably not be used to indicate a false god.

## “Azazel”



- John 19:15

All four interpretations could make sense of the same point, that the goat took the sins away from Israel.

Commentator: “The goat for Azazel was sent out to an “inaccessible region” in the desert (16:21-22). That place was the counter location to the Most Holy Place. It was part of the unclean, demonic realm that belonged to Azazel rather than to the Lord.”

## Lev. 16:20-22



Read Lev. 16:20-22 (esp v21)

So what happens here?



## Lev. 8:14



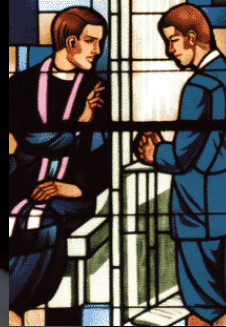
See Lev 8:14 = Aaron and sons lay hands on bull.

Why do the priests place their hands on the head of each of the sacrifice. (To claim it. It takes their place.)

Also read Lev. 10:17. The priest bears the guilt for the sins of the people. (see also Ex. 28:36-38)

NT laying on of hands. – Acts 6:6, 9:17 (Paul conversion, annanias), 28:8 Paul heal sick; Num 8:10 (consecrate Levites), 27:8 (joshua), 1 Tim 4:14 (timothy by elders), Mk 5:23 (jairus' daughter)

## Rite of Confession



Read Lev. 16:16 and 21

There is no distinction here between mortal and venial sins, or intentional and unintentional sins. All sins are covered, as if a general confession, to remove the burden of corporate guilt from the congregation. We have a general confession at the beginning of every divine service. Confession is how we give our sins to Jesus. "If you O Lord kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?" (Psalm 130:3-4)

Ask what people think of private confession.

## Separation from sins

- Scapegoat, “Azazel”
- Psalm 132:12 “as far as the east is from the west, so far has he divided our transgressions from us.”



What is a scapegoat? Somebody who takes the blame for others.

“All their rebellions and all their sins” (16:21). Like what?

Can anyone think of teachings about dividing or severing in the New Testament?

-“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off”

-Is sin “contagious/infectious” today. Jesus eats with sinners and touches lepers, are we still in danger of contracting the sin of others around us?

## The Desert

- Lev. 16:21-22
- Mark 1:12



After the Exodus, the Israelites know full well how desolate and unforgiving the desert is. Talk about how Lent is a recognition of Jesus' 40 days in the desert. That's why we (may but don't have to) fast. Ask people what they think of fasting. (Read Matt. 6:16-18)

## “Lucky Seven”

- Blood is sprinkled seven times (16:14,19)
- “Holy Place” and “Mercy seat” are mentioned seven times.
- Blood manipulated 49 times.  $7 \times 7$



“Seven” is the divine number of **completeness and perfection**. God completed his work of creation in seven days.

Ask if anyone can find mention of the #7 in Ch. 16.

Both the phrases “mercy seat” and “holy place” are each mentioned 7 times. All in all, the blood, on the day of atonement, was manipulated 49 times, that is 7 times seven. This symbolizes the perfection of the comprehensive act of cleansing.

What do you think of all this numerology in the bible? Why doesn't God just say what he means and get on with it?

## “Once A Year”



- Leviticus 16:34b
- Day of Atonement is on the tenth day of the **seventh** month.

Read 16:29-34

Yom Kippur = Day of Atonement

Perpetual rite; annual day of atonement

Sabbath of Sabbaths (7 x 7)

The ritual day of atonement marks the comprehensive (complete and perfect “7” – Final/eschatological) atonement for the sins of Israel, covering all of their sins that the rest of the sacrifices throughout the year missed.



## The Day of the Lord



- Revelation 1:12-20
- Day of completeness and perfection. "The Last Day"

Read Rev. 1:12-20

In revelation, the exalted Christ is depicted with the number seven (Rev 1:12, 16, 20; 2:1; 3:1). The entire church is represented by the seven churches in Revelation 2-3 (cf: 1:4, 11). Cf. Dan 9:25, 27; Zech 3:9; 4:2, 10.

On the Day of the Lord, sin will be separated (cut-off) from mankind permanently!

Next Time:



The Ritual Use and Abuse of BLOOD!