

## The Lost Goat & Found Sheep

From BAEDM ....to Leviticus.

Levit. in 1 word... **HOLINESS**. It's the **way to God**, then the **way with God**. The tabernacle was the primary place of meeting then, today our hearts.

**Sin is painful**, gross, and brings about a lot of death! Maybe God wants us to deal with our sin, and it over to Him, before launching us into the next phase of missions.

The book of Hebrews is only partially understood without reading the book of Leviticus.

1-7 **Sacrifices**, sin needs shedding of blood Lev 17

8-10 Ordination, consecration, dedication & fall of the **priests**

11-15 Clean and Unclean foods, **Laws of purity**, Law of leprosy, a picture of sin.... Are we opening every room of our heart, Christ's home?

In Chapters 16&17, focusing on **the Day of Atonement**. Yom Kippur. The one day a year the high priest alone goes into the Holy of Holy places to ask God to cover over the sins of himself, his house, & the people of Israel.

1. Preparation of the Priest 1-6,
2. Preparation of the Place 7-19,
3. Preparation for the People 20-34,
4. Ch 17 deals with the Propensity for idol worship

And so we begin our time in Leviticus 16&17

**In a sentence**, You can't go to God just any ole' way, there is a specific way to God. Through the death of His own Son JC. & the shedding of His blood, through the forgiveness of sins we are brought near to Him & so we continue in Him by keeping Christ 1st in all we do!

In the **opening lines** to Ch16 we are going to see that it was hard work getting close to God. In fact we will be reminded of 2 characters, sons of Aaron who approached God in a strange way, selfish way. They got burnt out & burnt up. God plainly tells Moses, you can not come plainly, casually into My presence. There is a **prescribed manner**...

In fact the entire chapter tells us about the strange and detailed ways that the high priest was to come into the Holy of Holies to be close to God's presence. Keep your eyes peeled as we read through ch16, see if you can pick up the many levels, efforts,

You'll see at least 5 animals killed, washing of the body several times, blood being sprinkled all over the place, but in exact places and in an exact sequence. Why? read...

1 Now the **Lord spoke** to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered profane fire before the Lord, and died; 2 and the Lord said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother **not to come at just any time**

into the Holy Place inside the **veil**, before the **mercy seat** which is on the ark, **lest he die; for I will appear** in the cloud above the **mercy seat**..

Speaks of the worship in the tabernacle, courtyard, fence, altar, HOH...

Remember “Be holy for I am... Holy”. God would appear in the tabernacle in the HOHs. A holy perfect God, can not be in the presence of an imperfect person. Sin has to be dealt with in order to come into God’s presence.

Now all these orders and sequences may seem overkill mundane... Remember it was out of love that God was giving all these rules. **What was the outcome? Being in God’s presence!**

Yom Kippur, was the only day someone could enter into the HOHs. God’s glory would be upon the **mercy seat**, bema seat, the **judgment seat** would turn into a mercy seat **when the life blood** was sprinkled upon it. For the sins of the nation would be covered over here. Not eliminated.

But not just **anyone, at any time** could enter and sit with God. You need the right genes, Levi genes.

Imagine you were an Amorite on the hill watching, asking an Israelite, what’s all the fuss in that tent down there? I want to go in there. “**Have to be an Israelite**”.... Levite, eldest son of Aaron, High priest, only on one day of the year, with blood, if not clean you’ll die, pulled out on a rope...

“Put it that way”.... really think about it... see the picture illustration of how **difficult it is to get close to God**, how exacting God is with the way to Him.

**Matthew 7:13** “Enter by the **narrow gate**; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that **leads to destruction**, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which **leads to life**, and there are few who find it.

The Way to closeness to God is through the **narrow** door, in case you didn’t know already... **John 10: 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved**, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Notice **who will be saved**...*anyone* who enters. NOT the rich, poor or popular of young, old, black, white, Chinese Hindu, catholic... but **anyone** who comes through Jesus will be saved.

Romans 10 tells us that anyone who confesses with their mouth and believes with their heart will be saved. ANYONE. No matter your history, hang up, or socio economic background, God’s love for you is so great, His love for you is so real and true, and **He made a way back for you**.

\*Are you communicating this kind of Savior to your POP? Should be!

The question isn’t why is it that God made the way so narrow? The real question is **How is it that God made a way back to Him at all for such unholy sinners like us?** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God!

But now through Christ we have peace with God! **Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**, 2 through whom also we have **access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. This peace with God allows us to enter into the presence of God, only came from the death of God!

Now, here in the wilderness at Mt Sinai's mountain base God made a way to come close to him for one person, on one particular day. **What did that approach to the Lord look like? How could this high priest enter in ... ?** With blood and sacrifice. This high priest, unlike JC our great HP, had sin in his own life that had to be dealt with before he could offer sacrifice for the people's sin. Take notice to what he is wearing also!

3 **"Thus Aaron shall come** into the Holy Place: **with the blood** of a young bull as a **sin offering**, and of a **ram** as a burnt offering. (deal with your own sin before approaching someone about theirs!)

4 He shall **put the holy linen tunic** and the **linen trousers** on his body; he shall be girded with a **linen sash**, **and with the linen turban** he shall be attired. These are holy garments. Therefore he shall wash his body in water, and put them on.

With white linen the priest was arrayed. **Remember what the HP was dressed in in Exodus 28, Leviticus 8?** Beautiful blue robe, breastplate, ephod, tassels of pomegranates...not so on Yom Kippur. The high priest was to be dressed in the humble attire of a servant, when he approached God's presence on The Day.

Doesn't this level out the playing field, reminiscent of **Acts 10:34** Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God **shows no partiality**. You are desperately loved whoever you are!

Reminds us of how the Lord Jesus cast off His holy garments, dropping in on us from his heavenly home, casting away His royal robes, to come and be swaddled in rags.

**Philippians 2:7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and became **obedient** to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

5 And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering. 6 "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which is **for himself**, and make atonement for **himself and for his house**.

Our Great HP JC had to make no sin offering like the son of Aaron did. Jesus is sinless, always was! So Aaron or HP made atonement for their sin before they did so for the ppl.

7 He shall take the **two goats and present them before the Lord** at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 8 Then Aaron shall **cast lots for the two goats**: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering. 10 But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be **presented alive** before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, and **to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness**.

Two Goats were taken to be offered to the Lord, interesting one was for the Lord to be killed and one kept alive (Pharisees wanted to kill but could not JC) would be set free to run off into the wilderness. For now, these goats were just **being presented to God**. One a sin offering, the other atonement was made, a covering, transfer of sin would be made.

11 “And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which is for himself. 12 Then he shall take **a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar** before the Lord, with his hands full of **sweet incense** beaten fine, and **bring it inside the veil**.

Here we go, the HP would **enter into the HOH**. Can you imagine the anticipation of the priest? Of the people? The priest had to be **excited to see God’s glory** and also **frightened to stand before God** for the people, hoping he confessed all his own sin, that he will make it out alive. Oh the reverence they must have had for God.

Said that **the people** would wait outside the tabernacle courts in great anticipation. To see, is our sin going to be forgiven when this scapegoat is released? **Or will we be mourning until next year in?**

**How did they know?** Said the scapegoat was released into the wilderness with a scarlet cord tied upon its head. If it turned white their sin forgiven, if not, mourning!

The priest would take this incense & **coals from the altar** and burn them together, a beautiful picture of intercessory prayer. What happened, God showed up. That’s just what He does when we pray, He shows up and fills the space, the mercy seat...

13 And he shall put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the Testimony, lest he die. 14 He shall take **some of the blood** of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the **mercy seat on the east side**; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

Blood on the mercy seat also known as judgment seat. Above the ark, between the cherubim, a place of judgment without the sacrificial blood. A place of mercy with the atoning blood.

\* On the Day of Atonement the high priest could **pronounce the name of God**, the sacred Tetragrammaton YHWH. When he entered the Holy Place he would utter the name. He was the only one, and only time, when the name could be uttered.

Today we can cry out “Jesus Jesus”! Over and over and over again...we can cry out to Jesus Lord of Lords all because of His perfect blood shed for us! Which is poignantly pictured here on the MERCY SEAT.... Which points to another very similar picture... **John 20:11** But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. A perfect picture of mercy made complete by the death burial and resurrection of JC!

So the priest has approached God, made atonement, covering of his own sins, and the people sins, now the priest is to make atonement for the **holy place itself?** vs 16 clues us in

15 “Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. 16 So he shall make **atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel**, and because of **their transgressions**, for **all their sins**; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness. 17 There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel. 18 And he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord, and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. 19 Then he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, cleanse it, and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

The holy place, was a holy place, **so what went wrong that it needed covering for sin?** It’s like the church building we are in. There is something that defiles it, mars it, and masks it with filth. What is it? **A 2 letter word.... Starts with M.** , How many times have you spoken to people who have been let down by the church? Or some people have such poor opinions of themselves, they are unworthy, too sinned up to come? In the spirit of BAEDM, “the only perfect church is an empty one, ‘cause the second I step in..”

Another way to look at vs 15-19 for those involved in ministry, we are to pray before we serve & share with someone, for, we can think... it went great, or we can self analyze the situation and think it went sour, both are pride ...I I I, the middle letter of pride is...? After ministry go to God in prayer to be washed

20 “And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall **bring the live goat**. 21 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; and he shall release the goat in the **wilderness**.

We make our way to what finally happens to this scapegoat. Lay both his hands on the goat confessing thus **transferring the sin of Israel to the head of the scape goat** which was then led away into the wilderness & released.

Many Jewish writings about what took place after the release. In the wilderness tabernacle days the goat was released and watched until he was reported gone gone gone.

It’s said in the days of the **temple in Israel** they would lead this scapegoat to the edge of a precipice, cliff, toss the innocent goat off the edge and his body dashed against the rocks. The picture is that of Jesus Christ the innocent one nailed to a tree.

The picture was that this goat would take their sins, transferred over to its head, and take the sins far **far away never to be seen or heard** of again....

And that is exactly what Jesus did for us when He not only died, but rose again. He took our sins, & the offer was accepted. Our sin didn't **magically dissolve or disappear**. Our every sin was placed upon him, like the priest laying his hands on its head, every sin, for everyone & Jesus was taken outside the camp to be hung on a cross on Calvary's rocks his body would be cast, blood would be spilled. Must never get the impression our sin just went away by itself. It was placed squarely on the head of JC!

Scapegoat running to the wilderness

**Colossians 2:13** You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for **he forgave all our sins**. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and **took it away** by nailing it to the cross.

Like the scapegoat Jesus went to death's door with our all sin,

Says the scapegoat ran off into the wilderness never to be seen again. Beautiful picture of **Psalms 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Glad it's not north from south! Old woman at church upset the priest, always hearing from the Lord.

**Isaiah 38:17b** For You have cast all my sins **behind Your back**. God puts our sin behind Him!

**Isaiah 44:22a** I have **blotted out, like a thick cloud**, your transgressions, picture that cloud of incense as Jesus is always praying for us

**Job 14:16** For now You number my steps, But do **not watch over my sin**. 17 My transgression is **sealed up in a bag**. And You cover my iniquity.

**Micah 7:19** He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will **cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea**. **We can cast our cares on Him while he casts my sin into the sea!**

What was partially pictured 3000 years ago, came to pass when Jesus died for all of humanity. Our sins were dealt with, put far far away and it's amazing. Just think, no don't! But **If you were to think** of all you have been and will be forgiven for! Whoa!

Now, that forgiveness is only extended on **those who accept the free gift of forgiveness**. But all our sins were **dealt with on the cross...** Have you accepted that free gift that came at an astounding cost?

Are we livin' forgiven? Or are we stuck in the bramble with the scape goat still? Do we take the weight of our sins back on ourselves? As if God was suddenly reminded how sinful we really are, and now He is holding us to it!? We are **forgiven forgiven forgiven**, those who are IN Christ. Where sin abounds grace abounds even more, **so do we sin more** and let loose, since we are forgiven?... Paul, absolutely not!

Paul was a mega sinner, knew his **forgiveness was a miracle of love**, and he loved God right back with a heart of gratitude and an attitude of holiness. Not legalistic, but utterly **"gratfulistic"**!

In the closing verses of Lev 16..

Aaron comes out of the HOH, washes clean, wearing his priestly robes again, making more sacrifices, along with the fit man who led the goat to the wilderness, (think of Simon the Cyrene!). The bodies of the offerings



carried and consumed totally outside the camp. NO skin for the priests, they have no skin in the game here. This is all about the Lord forgiving sin, on His terms alone.

The work was done, it was finished, for this year anyway. The amount of work for the one HP alone that day was really amazing... **NOthing compared to the work of the cross, what JC did!**

Pick up 34

30 For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord. 31 It is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever. 32 And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments; 33 then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. 34 This **shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year.**" And he did as the Lord commanded Moses.

When Jesus was killed the veil between the HOH and Holy Place was ripped in two from top to bottom. 10 inches, 100 priests. Then in 70ad the temple of worship was destroyed. There has not been a temple sacrifice since then, almost 2000 years.

When Jesus died for our sin, He fulfilled all the law, ceremonies, and sacrifices once for all, there is no need for any killing of animals any more!

BC, Every year, year after year, this atonement had to be made, showing it was never completed. In contrast, Jesus provided a finished work: **Hebrews 9:24-28** For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are **copies of the true**, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; **not** that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another; He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, **He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.** And as it is appointed for men **to die once**, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

**Do we get how incredible this is?** I mean at least God made a way for the Hebrews to have 1 person near to God, 1 person to represent them to God.

We get the same, but our representative, our person near to God...is GOD! Jesus Christ Lord, God, Savior, and friend! All access pass, by the cross, we get Jesus Himself!

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You would think those NT truths pointed to in the past would be all we need? But God knows our tendencies, to stray into idol worship. Placing ultimate importance on anything other than God... we all do it!

Chp17 Speaks so clearly to us that God doesn't just want our **hearts as one and done**. He wants our **hearts, hopes, our devoted time always in every aspect of our lives**. For you see, He is into every aspect of our lives already.

When we don't include Christ in everything, when we hold back from God anything, when we make something **more important than Jesus it is idolatry**, KJV call is whoring, when we betray our LOrd.

There is a slap in the face.... A graphic picture of a spiritual truth. God is the one who saved us from the dead, who let the beast of death tear at His Sons body, all for our lives sake!

17 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to Aaron, to his sons, and to all the children of Israel, and say to them, 'This is the thing which the Lord has commanded, saying: 3 "Whatever man of the house of Israel who kills an ox or lamb or goat in the camp, or who kills it outside the camp, 4 and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting to offer an offering to the Lord before the tabernacle of the Lord, the guilt of bloodshed shall be imputed to that man. He has shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people, 5 to the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices which they offer in the open field, that they may bring them to the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to the priest, and offer them **as peace offerings to the Lord**. 6 And the priest shall sprinkle the blood on the altar of the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and burn the fat for a sweet aroma to the Lord. 7 They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations." "

The Lord simply wants you, your time, your treasure, your heart as His home... always.

Vs 5 says **as a peace offering**, remember that from weeks ago. The peace offering was shared amongst the Lord, the priests, the people and their family... Oh the picture of communion and that God desires to be relationally involved with us.... All the time! He isnt only into service from afar. He is near.

11 For the **life of the flesh is in the blood**, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

The Lord drops a bomb on you me and all of Israel, the life is in the blood. There is life giving power in the blood. More than medical. It's more than physical, it is spiritual... the blood brings forgiveness! A life giving gift to valued greatly!

**Hebrews 9:22** In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

If you have never been forgiven for your sin, there is no life worth living inside of you that dwells. That isn't living, there is so much more than that to life. And Jesus died to give you that forgiveness.

23 That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were copies of things in heaven, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals.



24 For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf. 25 And he did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal. 26 If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice.

27 And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, 28 so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.