

The Atonement Ceremony and Ministry of Jesus

The ritual for the Day of Atonement symbolized both the atonement for sins and the removal of sin from the community, with the High Priest acting as an intercessor between God and the people. The entire day was observed as a solemn Sabbath day, with fasting and abstaining from work for all the people of Israel (Leviticus 16:29-31). Jesus is our High Priest, as well as the perfect sacrifice that removed sin once and for all (Hebrews 4:14-15; Hebrews 7:27).

Ceremony for the Day of Atonement	Life and Ministry of Jesus
<p>Preparation for the High Priest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Priest's Purification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Before beginning the ritual, the High Priest bathed and dressed in simple white linen garments (instead of the usual ornate garments), symbolizing purity and humility (Leviticus 16:4). ○ He also made a sin offering for himself and his household to ensure he was ritually clean. 	<p>Preparation for His Ministry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign of Righteousness (Matthew 3:15): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Jesus is Baptized</u>: Before beginning His ministry, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13-17). ○ <u>Jesus is tempted in the wilderness</u>: After His baptism, Jesus was tempted but remained without sin (Matthew 4:1-11).
<p>Sin Offerings for the High Priest and the Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sin Offering for the High Priest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The High Priest first offered a bull as a sin offering for himself and his household (Leviticus 16:6, 11). ○ The blood of the bull was taken inside the Holy of Holies, and the High Priest sprinkled it on the mercy seat (ark cover) and in front of it (Leviticus 16:14). 	<p>Jesus' Trial in front of the Jewish Leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus is taken to the High Priest (Matthew 26:57-68): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Jesus is accused of having sinned</u>: The Jewish Priests and the Council falsely accused Jesus (Matthew 26:59, 65) ○ <u>The High Priest and Jewish leaders call for Jesus' death</u> (Matthew 26:66).
<p>The Central Atonement Ritual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of the Two Goats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two male goats were presented at the entrance of the Tabernacle. The High Priest cast lots over them: one goat was designated for the Lord as a sin offering, and the other, the "scapegoat," was designated for Azazel (Leviticus 16:7-10). • Sacrifice of the Lord's Goat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The goat chosen for the Lord was sacrificed as a sin offering for the people of Israel (Leviticus 16:15). ○ The blood of this goat was taken into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled on the mercy seat, just as with the blood of the bull (Leviticus 16:15-16). ○ The High Priest then used this blood to purify the sanctuary from the impurities of the Israelites. ○ The blood from the sacrificed goat was also applied to the horns of the altar in the outer court, purifying it from the sins of the people (Leviticus 16:18-19). 	<p>The Central Atonement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus' Trial in front of Pilate - Selection Between Two Prisoners (Matthew 27:11-26): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Jesus and Barabbas</u>: Two prisoners were presented to the Jewish people. The Jewish leaders chose who would be sacrificed and who would be released (Matthew 27:20). • The Lord's Sacrifice (Matthew 27:33-53): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Jesus' death</u>: Jesus was sacrificed as a sin offering for the redemption of humanity (Matthew 27:50; 1 Peter 1:18-19). ○ <u>Unification of both chambers</u>: The veil separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51). ○ <u>Jesus enters the Sanctuary</u>: "not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all time, having obtained eternal redemption." (Hebrews 9:12). Jesus entered the Sanctuary in Heaven as the Lamb who was Slain and took His seat on the throne at the right side of the Father (Revelation 5:6-7; Hebrews 1:3). ○ <u>Second Coming</u>: Jesus returns to Earth to gather those who decided to accept His offer of redemption (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 24:30-31).

<p>The Scapegoat Ritual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confession Over the Scapegoat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The High Priest placed his hands on the head of the live goat (the scapegoat) and confessed over it all the sins and transgressions of the people of Israel (Leviticus 16:21). ○ The goat was then sent away into the wilderness, symbolically carrying away the sins of the people, never to return (Leviticus 16:22). 	<p>Sentence for Sin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of Evil: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>The High Priest (Jesus) binds Satan:</u> And the angel from Heaven who has the keys to the abyss and a great chain takes a hold of “<i>the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan</i>”, and binds him for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-2). ○ <u>Satan is sent away:</u> Satan is locked in the abyss “<i>so that he would not deceive the nations any longer</i>”, until the thousand years were completed (Revelation 20:3).
<p>Final Rituals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the Offerings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After sending the scapegoat into the wilderness, the High Priest returned to the sanctuary, bathed again, and changed back into his regular garments. ○ He then offered the burnt offerings: one ram for himself and one for the people (Leviticus 16:23-24). • Disposal of the Sin Offerings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The remains of the bull and the goat that had been sacrificed were taken outside the camp and burned (Leviticus 16:27). 	<p>Final Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coming of the City of God: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>The High Priest (Jesus) is with His people:</u> The New Jerusalem is coming from Heaven to Earth. “<i>And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.”</i> (Revelation 21:1-3). ○ <u>Everything is made new:</u> “<i>and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”</i> And He who sits on the throne said, “<i>Behold, I am making all things new.”</i>” (Revelation 20:4-5). • Disposal of Sin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Lake of Fire:</u> Satan and those who did not choose to be saved are outside of God’s camp. Fire comes down and consumes the wicked (they are thrown in the lake of fire - explained in verse 15), and Satan is also thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:7-10, 15).
<p>Closing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purification of the Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The person who led the scapegoat into the wilderness and the one who burned the remains of the sacrificial animals both had to bathe and wash their clothes before re-entering the camp (Leviticus 16:26-28). 	<p>Closing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are Pure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Nothing Unclean in God’s Presence:</u> After the wicked received their sentence, and the faithful remained safe inside God’s city, the New Jerusalem is measured and found to be magnificent and complete. (v. 15-21). And “nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” (v.27) God’s presence is felt with His people as never before seen. “I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb.” (Revelation 21:15-23, 27).