

**in the
priests office
in his
fathers stead**

16:5 – 34 Leviticus

~ There is a striking similarity between leprosy, which we have been examining carefully in our Spiritual Safari, and the human immunodeficiency acquired virus infection, as well as other unspeakable diseases known to plague man today. I find it extremely interesting to consider the liberty that is being demanded by and afforded to those people who have these diseases today. Lepers were confined away from society - as in Molokai - where Damon established the leper colony. I believe all leper colonies have disappeared - but I'm not sure. Either way, there are certain diseases that mankind should take steps to prevent the spreading of and that man should take all preventive measures to stamp out entirely; and we have epidemic diseases permeating the world today that are simply out of control.

I'm sure more people have died from other diseases than have died from leprosy, but one reason for that is because leprosy was contained. Containment was a simple operation, too. They segregated lepers away from everyone else. We have diseases that are a danger to the entire world today. If we continue to assume this liberal viewpoint that the world currently holds, the entire human race is at risk of being infected and, quite possibly, decimated; that is certainly a possibility in the hour in which we live.

This world and its technological capabilities will move into the twenty-second century way before the calendar arrives. It may be time we wake up because time, as we know it, has literally moved on without us. I am surprised man has not tried to improve the calendar with a method of peeling off many days every hour! I mean, if we all have such liberty to do whatever we want to do - why don't I just do whatever I want to do? Well, of course, none of that will work in a functional society; and neither does

passing along communicable diseases. Friends, YOUR sins are just such a disease in the spiritual realm to your spiritual family!

Unfortunately, this sick and dying society - known as global something or another – it's not a village – has become completely infected with this disease of sin. Every neighborhood and every home is now entirely engaged by the plague of sin. God help us today as liberalism and ignorance in religion have its way with the carcass of a dead world. Let's ask God to open our eyes to the wonders of His Word and really act like we mean it when we say we study the Bible. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to lead the way on this safari as we continue to search for our Blessed Hope, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His glorious appearing, on every page of Scripture.

In the last leg of our Spiritual Safari, we were observing the Great Day of Atonement; which is about as spectacular of a picture of Christ as we can find in the Old Testament. As we concluded our last report, the priests all withdrew, and Aaron was left to make the atonement all by himself. No one helped the high priest with his work. We also saw Aaron remove his high priestly garments and put on the same ordinary clothes that any priest would have worn in that day. That's when we also discovered this is a picture of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us, and we examined several Scriptural references from Hebrews to clarify our spiritual position. Christ is our Great High Priest; and in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Then, the Word was made flesh and the flesh dwelled among us. We behold His glory full of grace and truth! Of course, no man hath seen God at any time; but the only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father hath been brought out into the open where man can see Him in Holy Writ. Christ laid aside His glory, but not His deity, when He came to this earth as a man. Philippians chapter two tells us that Jesus existed in the form of God and when He came to this earth, He made Himself of no reputation. That's the account we have of Him coming to this earth from Heaven's glory! All of that is mirrored right here in this chapter....

5 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.

6 And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

~ There is no corollary or parallel in Scripture that would relate verse five and six to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus made no offering for Himself at any time. When Jesus was born, He was circumcised on the eighth day and then, thirty-three days later, He was taken into the temple. The offering of turtle doves that was made was NOT made for Him – that offering was made for His mother. Christ had no sins nor could He have sinned. Jesus could only have done the things that are within the character of and consistent with the True and Living God. There is no record in the Word of God about Jesus making an offering for Himself. When we say the high priest only entered the Holy of Holies once each year, that is specific to an offering. Aaron went in once for himself but then, he went in again for the sins of the nation....

7 And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for 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 an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

11 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:

12 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:

13 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:

14 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.

~ So, Aaron has received complete instructions concerning how to make the atonement and the place for it has been designated by God. Two goats have been presented and one goat was a sin offering. The other was sent off into the wilderness. Of course, the main consideration is the destination of the goat. The Septuagint, Martin Luther and most brilliant minds of fundamental conservative scholarship, such as Dr. Kellogg and Dr. Andrew Bonard, all agree that the goat being sent into the wilderness is the most satisfactory picture of the total removal of our sins. We see something wholly and completely going away; and taking all of its essence with it. This is also a part of the sin offering.

However, we know there are many people, probably most, who disagree with our Spiritual Safari outlook. So, we have many aspects and differing views to consider regarding what this is; and I include this only because it may be helpful in comprehending this completely, properly and correctly. One viewpoint is an emphasis on the name of the place to which the goat was sent. That seems totally inconsistent with the purpose of this offering. Some refer to this as a demon or even Satan himself in the wilderness. That has all the sounds of a heathen interpretation, and it just doesn't meet the demands of the offering – so we totally reject those two. Others think this means the current state of Jewish apostasy. That is just plain far-fetched! Some want to assign to it the resurrection of Christ as a meaning. It seems natural but creates a huge problem in your theology to take that position because these are BOTH sin offerings. These only set forth the death of Christ in reference to their relation to sin! So, it will be helpful to examine very closely the "scapegoat" theological position.

At this point what really interests us is that after Aaron had gone in and made the offering for himself he took one of the goats and slew it, took

some blood and incense and went inside the Holiest of Holies. Once past the veil he would have faced the east. Then, the blood was sprinkled seven times. Now, Aaron had a chain on his foot that went out into the Holy Place; and if Aaron had bungled the procedure the other priests would have pulled Aaron out of there dead by a chain! As far as the Biblical record is concerned the only ones that ever died in there were Nadab and Abihu. Aaron is certainly going to make sure he did everything correctly and properly. Aaron was told to sprinkle the blood seven times and if he doesn't know how to count to seven yet – he's going to learn real fast - BEFORE he enters the Holiest of Holies. Any deviance from the strict instructions would result in his immediate demise; because he is gone in to represent the people. That's serious business....

15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, 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:

16 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.

17 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.

18 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.

19 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.

~ I wouldn't have you miss the great truths located here for anything in the world, my beloved safari readers. Aaron represents not only himself and his

family of Levi now - but he stands for the entire nation of the children of Israel. This is required because of THEIR uncleanness and THEIR transgressions! Aaron even anoints the altar itself with blood because this very place where the sacrifices are made has become polluted by the sins of ALL the people! The cross is never the important thing; the One Who died on that cross is the subject, point, counterpoint and topical focal point – all in One! I think there may have been as many as three hundred crosses on Golgotha the day Christ was crucified. Only Christ's blood on that cross reminds us we are not redeemed by corruptible things, but by incorruptible. Our vain conversations were received by us from our fathers; now, it is only by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ – the Lamb without spot or blemish – Who, literally, took His own blood into Heaven and sprinkled it there - by which atonement is made for us. I am absolutely and definitely positively sure that in Heaven, the blood of Christ will be on display! Certain denominations will disagree and balk at such a crude interpretation by me; to which I remind everyone that Simon Peter referred to the Blood of Christ as "precious" - not crude! His precious blood is going to remind us throughout the endless ages of eternity that a tremendous price was paid for our redemption and salvation....

20 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:

21 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:

22 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.

23 And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there:

24 And he shall wash his flesh with water in the holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth, and offer his burnt offering, and the burnt

offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself, and for the people.

25 And the fat of the sin offering shall he burn upon the altar.

26 And he that let go the goat for the scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp.

27 And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung.

28 And he that burneth them shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp.

29 And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you:

30 For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

31 It shall be a Sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.

32 And the priest, whom he shall anoint, and whom he shall consecrate to minister in the priest's office in his father's stead, shall make the atonement, and shall put on the linen clothes, even the holy garments:

33 And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation.

34 And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

~ So, we saw Aaron take the goat and slay it and sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat as commanded by God. Then, Aaron proceeded to go down the list and confess all the sins of the children of Israel; and I can only imagine that it must have been one dreadfully long and sordid list of atrocities being recited. The laying on of hands on the scapegoat denotes that this animal is now identified with the sins of the children of Israel. The Lord has laid upon Christ the iniquity of us all. Christ was made sin for us. The thief on the cross knew that the wounds in Christ were not Christ's wounds but his own wounds! Aaron places the scapegoat in the hands of a man that has no personal interest to lead the goat away - and Israelites are stationed at intervals to make sure the job was carried out completely! Ultimately, that goat disappeared into the wilderness never to be seen or found again – and no one sought after it, either. We should be in unison in the realization that only Christ can put away our sins in a perfect and complete manner. This chapter definitively illustrates this, and there are myriad other Scriptures to confirm it:

~ Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us ~

~ Isaiah 38:17 - Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back ~

~ Isaiah 44:22 - I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee ~

~ Jeremiah 50:20 - In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve ~

~ Jeremiah 31:34 - And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know

me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more ~

The Great Day of Atonement is a holy day for us today, too, friends. The high priest, Aaron, with his hands on the head of that bloody goat should remind us of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross! Behold, the Lamb of God that doth take away the sin of the world. If we walk in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have fellowship with God the Father and the blood of Christ cleanses us continually from all unrighteousness. Where are you walking today? How are you walking with the Lord? It's wonderful to have Christ carry us as babies, but grown-up children want to walk. It's better to walk than to be bundled up with little babies. Let's learn to walk through this safari and see the scapegoat off into the wilderness.

The Great Day of Atonement is complete in our expedition. All that remained to do was for Aaron to wash up. We have located no counterpart in Christ here. When Christ completed His work, He sat down at the right hand of God. Aaron didn't even consider entering the Holy of Holies for another year for the people. Christ sat down there, and He hasn't come out – yet! There are no stains of sin upon Him anymore; even though He bore all of our sins on the cross. So many implications we have about sin in the Bible!

The man who handled the scapegoat had to wash up, too; God is impressing on the minds of these people that they are sinners, friends – that's the point of this entire ritual – SIN! I hope by now you have made a note that God is HOLY on this earth and in His Word and in His judgment. You and I are sinners and, honestly, I am not sure – in fact, I DOUBT - that I have made the Word of God clearly correct to anyone! Our sins have separated us from God and the only way back is because of what Christ did for us! Christ is the only One that can remove your sins from you. This is the only day that is not greeted with "Happy Yom Kippur" and certainly not "Happy Great Day of Atonement" because that is not the way this is celebrated. Happy is certainly not the way we end this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God. This is a day to afflict the soul in remembrance and mourning over sin! This also happens to be the only basis for fasting in the Old Testament; but fasting is not a requirement in

this offering. What tremendous pictures we are seeing in Leviticus of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God ~
