

The Scapegoat

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- Like many other Bible students, I am very much a fan of looking at the OT and discovering all the ways that it translates into the NT
- It is no coincidence whatsoever that one of the last things we are told in the Old Testament is the following
 - Malachi 4:4 – *“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.”*
 - To the Jew living at this time: remember the old law, go back and re-read it – because all of it is about to happen again
 - This time in its spiritual form vs its physical form
 - To us today: remember the old law, re-read it – because you’re about to read of its fulfillment (Matthew 5:17)
- Let’s look at Leviticus 16 please
- In Leviticus 16, God is giving instructions to Moses to ultimately give to Aaron concerning the Day of Atonement
 - This was to be on the 10th day of the 7th month
 - As the name suggests, atonement was to be made for their sins (vs 29-30)
- Let’s read a little bit of the detail of the role of Aaron (the priesthood) on this day
- **Leviticus 16:5-10**
 - As part of Aaron’s role for this day, he is to take 2 male goats from amongst the people
 - He is to present them before the Lord in front of the tabernacle
 - And he is to cast lots to determine the fate of the 2 goats
 - 1 goat is to become the Lord’s in the form of a sin offering
 - Let’s read more detail of this goat please (**Leviticus 16:15-16**)
 - This goat is for the people
 - It is intended to make atonement for the Holy Place because of the transgressions of the children of Israel which ultimately result in uncleanness
 - Does this sound familiar?
 - The NT spiritual form of this particular example is Jesus
 - This was to be Israel’s atoning sacrifice – Jesus is our perfect sacrifice
 - Revelation 5:6 - *“And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”*
 - 1 Peter 1:18-19 – *“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

- Jesus is the Lamb that was slain and Jesus is the lamb without spot or blemish
 - He is clearly the true spiritual form of this goat
 - But here's the thing – not only is Jesus our perfect sacrifice, but He is these people's perfect sacrifice as well
 - Hebrews 10:4 – *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”*
 - This goat was just God's instructions on how Israel's sins could be atoned for
 - The true forgiveness of sins even for these Israelites, is sourced only in the precious blood of Christ
 - That's the first goat
- The second goat is to remain alive. Why? It is to become Israel's scapegoat
 - Let's read more detail of the purpose of this goat (**Leviticus 16:20-22**)
 - Aaron is to lay his hands on this goat's head and confess all of the transgressions, all the iniquities, all the sins of Israel
 - This goat is to bear all Israel's iniquities and then be led into the wilderness and left there, never to be seen again
 - I ask again, does this sound familiar?
 - The beautiful thing about this particular set of instructions is that this goat is also Jesus
 - So on the Day of Atonement , we have a painting of Jesus in the form of 2 goats – not 1, but 2. Why?
 - Because Jesus is the key to the forgiveness of our sins
 - Think about it
 - The entire Bible points to Him
 - The entire OT tells of His coming
 - There are 4 gospel accounts concerning His earthly life – consider the importance of Jesus that 1, 2, or even 3 accounts were not deemed to be enough by the Holy Spirit
 - The entirety of the rest of the NT describes the gospel of Christ and how it trumps the old law
 - Our salvation was dependent upon Jesus' execution of God's perfect plan
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 – *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*
 - It was our sins that Christ nailed to the cross
 - Jesus is our scapegoat
 - But there's 1 major difference between this scapegoat described in Leviticus 16 and Jesus
 - The Leviticus 16 scapegoat was never to be seen again

- Not only did Christ nail our sins to the cross, but He arose triumphantly over death
 - 1 Corinthians 15:17 – “*And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!*”
 - But Christ is risen and He didn’t forget about us – through God’s perfect plan and the Holy Spirit ensuring that it was documented for us very clearly – we are provided the way to rise up with Christ
 - Romans 6:1-11 describes how we put our old man of sin to death through the watery grave of baptism
 - And as we arise out of the watery grave of baptism, so we will rise with Christ and live to God
- Before you are baptized though, you must do the following
 - **Step 1: Hearing the gospel** – *Romans 10:13-17*
 - Gospel = Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, arose, and appeared to many – *1 Corinthians 15:1-8*
 - **Step 2: Believing the gospel** – *Mark 16:16*
 - **Step 3: Confession that Jesus is Lord** – *Romans 10:8-10*
 - **Step 4: Repentance of sins** – *Luke 13:3*
 - Repentance: a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. Change of mind that produces a change in action.
 - **Step 5: Baptism into Christ for the remission of sins** – *Galatians 3:27, Acts 2:38*
 - Baptism: immerse or submerge
 - **Step 6: Live faithfully** – *Revelation 2:10*