

Day of Atonement

Leviticus 16

Leviticus - getting right with God, staying right with God.... Big Theme: ATONEMENT

Atonement - re-writing the story, fixing mistakes, bring people back together
Seven Pounds - Will Smith kills 7 people in a car crash. Gives away organs to help 7 others.

Atonement here is very human. It's making yourself feel better. It's the culprit helping the victims
But... Biblical Atonement is God (the wronged party) taking the initiative to restore relationship with the ones who wrong Him.

An Unapproachable God?

Chapter 10 sets the scene

Nadab and Abihu try to approach God in the Tabernacle

But the way they approach is 'unauthorized'... they're struck down by fire!

God is Holy - 10:3 - *Among those who approach me I will show myself holy*
How is God's holiness showed towards sinful man - fire, judgement

His people are sinful (rebellion against God) - God is perfect and holy - Atonement must be made!

Rules and Rituals for approach - approach is possible!!

Once a year - 7th Month, 10th Day (God's Day)

Just the High Priest (Aaron)

Bull - sin offering, Ram - burnt offering (for himself)

2 Goats - sin offering, Ram - burnt offering (for the Israelite community)

Has a wash, puts on Linen clothing

Order: Bull (for himself), 2 Goats (for people), Ram (for himself), Ram (for people)

Sacrifices are made for specific sins... but the Day of Atonement is a cover all, deal with all sin event

Just like... Phil's mower - clean it every time it gets dirty, and big service once a year

Jesus does this!! Read Hebrews 9 and 10

Curtain torn in two

God is approachable, the curtain that separates is ripped in two, sin is dealt with, relationship restored.

Mark 15: 38 Jesus breathes his last... camera pans over to the temple where the curtain is torn!

Once for all sacrifice

No daily sacrifices, no yearly big sacrifice days, no more rituals. Christ died once, for all.

Hebrews 9: 12 but he entered the Most Holy place once for all by his own blood

High Priest in Heaven

Perfect - didn't need to make sacrifice for his own sins.

He approached once, by his blood. He now sits at the right hand of God, he mediates, he intercedes, eternally.

Hebrews 10: 12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

Death and Life

Death = Life

Leviticus 17:11 *For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*

Hebrews 9:22 *In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

Penal Penalty, the wages of sin is death

Substitution Animal dies instead of you. You live instead of the animal.

It's a Sabbath verse 31

Rest for God's people

Points to God's final rest, heaven, eternal life

Sprinkling on the East v.14

Cherubim on top. Blood on the East

This is the way back into Eden - Cherubim guarding the way on the East -

Symbolic of New Life, New Creation

Linen left on the floor

Verse 4 He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments... sash... turban

Verse 23 Then Aaron is to go...take off the linen garments... and he is to leave them there.

John 19: 40 Wrapped in strips of linen

John 20: 5 He (Peter) bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there

Aaron comes out alive! - Atonement has been made

Jesus is risen! - His sacrifice accepted, atonement made!

The Two Goats (Lev 1-4 without defect) (casting lots - soldiers at the cross?)

Propitiation - Taking God's wrath against sin (1 John 4: 10)

Penal Substitution - the 1st goat takes the punishment of death (in the place of the people)

OBJECTION: STEVE CHALKE

'cosmic child abuse' - God is the substitute

'pre-Christian' - urrr... yeh it's Jewish, it's Biblical

John - Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (the substitute, the sacrifice)

Isaiah 53: 10 It was the Lord's will the crush him

Mark Driscoll - (Bill) Abusive Father becomes a Christian... Jesus propitiated his sin, as well as yours

Expiation - Removal / cleansing of sin (1 John 1: 7)

OBJECTION: CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS

Vicarious Atonement Wrong to cast your sins... guilt... responsibility on another

Only the wronged party can release you from guilt. God is the wronged party ultimately!

Mark Driscoll - (Mary) Rape, abuse, defilement - Jesus makes you clean, he takes your sin and shame

The Scapegoat - Outside the camp

Hebrews 13: 10 Jesus suffered outside the city

Psalm 103 As far as the East is from the West, so far has he removed our sins from us

Verse 30 You will be clean! You can approach God! You can have life!

Hebrews 10: 19-25

Since Jesus did this... draw near, be assured, be cleansed, be unswerving

Keep meeting, encouraging, loving, spurring each other on