

Atonement Accomplished

Leviticus 16:1-34, Hebrews 9:1-7, Hebrews 9:11-12, Hebrews 10:19-22, Hebrews 13:11-12

The Need for Atonement

- God's holiness is not to be taken lightly.
- God's holiness demands respect, and sinful humanity cannot stand in His presence unprepared.
- Sin separates us from God.
- The sacrifices offered were never truly sufficient to fully atone for sin.
- The limit of the law and the insufficiency of our works, reveals that human effort and ritual can never truly deal with the problem of sin.

The Sacrifice

- God established a way for sinful people to be reconciled to a holy God.
- The heart of that reconciliation centered on two key elements: the sacrifice and the scapegoat.
- The High Priest taking the blood of the sacrificial animal inside the veil and sprinkling it on the Mercy Seat was a vivid declaration that atonement could only be made through the shedding of blood.
- Jesus' sacrifice on the cross accomplished what no amount of animal blood could ever achieve.
- Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

The Scapegoat

- The scapegoat was a symbol that God was removing their sin and sending it far away.
- The High Priest would lay both hands on the scapegoat's head, confessing over it all the sins of the people; then the goat was led away into the wilderness never to return.
- Like a scapegoat, bearing all the sins of the people, Jesus suffered outside the city gate.
- Jesus became the sin-bearer and the outcast, taking upon Himself the full consequence of our rebellion.
- The sacrifice and the scapegoat are the complete picture of how God dealt with sin through the Day of Atonement and ultimately through Christ.

The Result of Atonement

- Because of Christ's atonement, we are invited into a new relationship with God.
- What was once inaccessible to all but one man, once a year, is now open to everyone who believes in Christ.
- We do not approach God on the basis of our worthiness but on the basis of Christ's righteousness.
- We are welcomed into the presence of God, not because of anything we have done but because of what He has done for us through the blood of Jesus.

Conclusion

- In Christ, we are no longer seen as guilty rebels but as forgiven sons and daughters.
- Our salvation does not rest on our performance but on Jesus' perfection.
- Jesus did not just come to cover the stain of sin; He came to remove it.
- Today, rest in Jesus' finished work and let Him make you new.