

**The Inscrutable Question: *Yom Kippur*: The Annual Day of Atonement: Bulls, Goats, & Scapegoats; Cherubs are Witnesses**

- 31) On this day sacrificial rituals that expiated all the sins and wrongdoing that had been committed over the course of the previous year were performed.
- 32) Again “atonement” means “to cover.” In the Levitical sacrifices, animal blood covered the sins of the people in anticipation of the true sacrifice of the promised Messiah. The atonement of Christ means that He made the decision to become the substitutionary sacrifice for the entire human race.
- 33) The rituals performed on *Yom Kippur* were numerous and complex but we shall note three of them that are pertinent.
  1. The sacrifice for the priesthood. The high priest slew a bullock on the brazen altar where some of its blood was collected. He then took that blood into the holy of holies where he sprinkled it upon the mercy seat. (Leviticus 16:14)
  2. The sacrifice for the people. The high priest then slew a goat on the brazen altar where some of its blood was collected. He then took that blood into the holy of holies where he sprinkled it upon the mercy seat. (Leviticus 16:15)
  3. The release of the scapegoat. The high priest would then go out into the outer court, lay his hands on the scapegoat, symbolic of the transfer of the peoples’ sins to it, and then have the scapegoat released into the *Jornada*. This goat was known as the Azazel / ah-ZA-zul / , which means “entire removal,” or “complete sending away.” When the scapegoat was set free it signified the “carrying away” of Israel’s sins which were now atoned.
- 34) The release of the scapegoat was a visual aid assurance to the people that a successful atonement had occurred in the holy of holies by means of the animal blood being sprinkled on the mercy seat.
- 35) The Lord had prescribed a certain sequence of sacrifices and rituals to be performed every 10th of Tishri.
- 36) The three items inside the ark signified divine integrity.
  1. The urn of manna: represents the sin of rejecting God's logistical grace provision.
  2. Aaron's rod that budded: speaks of the sin of rebellion against the authority of God and rejection of God's system for communication of doctrine.
  3. The tablets of the Law: denotes the sin of transgressing divine law, since the Law defined freedom in the client nation.
- 37) The ark is a type of Christ, our impeccable substitute, whose perfect integrity proclaimed and defended these three divine standards during the Incarnation.
- 38) He received punishment on the cross for the sins of the human race that violated those standards.
- 39) The Law’s requirement of sacrifices was a message to the people that over the course of a year they had sinned often against all three of these.
- 40) On top of the ark was the solid gold mercy seat. The two cherubs of gold represent the righteousness and justice of the integrity of God.
- 41) Their job is to proclaim and defend divine righteousness and to worship the One who sits on the throne between the cherubs. We can observe these functions around the throne in the third heaven in:

**Revelation 5:11 - [NIV] “Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels [ rank and file elect angels ], numbering thousands upon thousands and then thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne along with the living creatures [ the four seraph-rank heralds ] and the twenty-four elders [ the angelic general staff ].**

**v 12** - "In a loud voice they sang, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.'

**v 13** - "Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea and all that is in them, singing: 'To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever!'

**v 14** - "And the four angelic heralds said, 'Amen,' and the twenty-four angelic staff officers fell down and worshiped."

- 42) The Day of Atonement portrayed the whole picture of salvation from the standpoint of propitiation. The sprinkling of animal blood represented the spiritual death of Christ bearing our sins and the acceptance by the integrity of God of this work.
- 43) But another factor is involved in the atonement. The formal trial of Satan's appeal is under way. The period of the Old Testament between the fall of man in the garden and the First Advent of Jesus Christ is the time during which Satan presents arguments in defense of himself and his demons.
- 44) Divine policy, established under the eternal Logos of divine righteousness, requires that evidence be presented by the testimony of two witnesses.

**Deuteronomy 19:15** - "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed. On the evidence of two or three witnesses [ i.e., **two cherubs plus the Shekinah Glory** ] a matter shall be confirmed."

**2 Corinthians 13:1b** - Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

- 45) Prior to the fall of Lucifer there was no angelic conflict. Prior to the intrusion of sin there was no need for witnesses to confirm facts in a court case seeking evidence against fallen angels. Therefore, Lucifer was the only angel assigned to guard the throne of God in the *ante-bellum* third heaven.