

# GOD'S PROVISION FOR REDEMPTION

CORE PASSAGES: LEVITICUS 16:1-6,15-22

## CONTEXT

The book of Leviticus serves as a detailed guidebook for the priests and Levites as they served God. In Leviticus 1–15, God gave five types of ritual sacrifices for Israel, along with rules for the priests and purity of the community. Chapter 16 outlined the Day of Atonement, when the high priest entered the tabernacle each year to offer sacrifices to take away the sins of all the people. This ceremony illustrated God's grace and justice in forgiving the people while pointing toward His ultimate plan for permanent salvation through Jesus Christ.

## KEY CONCEPT

**God provided the sacrificial system for His people's sins to be forgiven and atoned for.**

As you examine Leviticus 16:1-6,15-22:

- Identify that the sacrificial system God prescribed repaired fellowship between sinners and a holy God
- Consider that Jesus is our High Priest and all believers are part of the priesthood with free access to the Father (Hebrews 10:19-22).



## TIMELINE

Rules Concerning Burnt, Grain, Fellowship, and Sin Offerings (Leviticus 1-7)

Aaron and His Sons Ordained  
(Leviticus 8-10)

**SESSION STUDY: The Day of  
Atonement (Leviticus 16)**

Holiness of the Priesthood  
(Leviticus 21-22)

Distinctions Between Clean and  
Unclean (Leviticus 11-15)

Forbidden Sacrifices and Pagan  
Practices (Leviticus 17-20)

Rules Concerning Faithful Worship (Leviticus 23-27)

## Daily Readings

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 1:</b> Leviticus 1:1-7:38   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 4:</b> Leviticus 16:1-22:33 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 2:</b> Leviticus 8:1-10:20  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 5:</b> Leviticus 23:1-27:34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 3:</b> Leviticus 11:1-15:33 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 6:</b> Psalm 32             |



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LEVITICUS 16:1-6

### APPROACHING GOD IS A HOLY ENDEAVOR.

*Underline each requirement that must be followed to enter God's presence.*

**1** The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of two of Aaron's sons when they approached the presence of the LORD and died. **2** The LORD said to Moses, "Tell your brother Aaron that he may not come whenever he wants into the holy place behind the curtain in front of the mercy seat on the ark or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud above the mercy seat. **3** Aaron is to enter the most holy place in this way: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. **4** He is to wear a holy linen tunic, and linen undergarments are to be on his body. He is to tie a linen sash around him and wrap his head with a linen turban. These are holy garments; he must bathe his body with water before he wears them. **5** He is to take from the Israelite community two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering. **6** Aaron will present the bull for his sin offering and make atonement for himself and his household."

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**ASPECTS OF THE ATONEMENT:** Christ's substitutionary death on our behalf stands at the center of His atoning work. Without this work, there is no gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3). While this substitutionary aspect is central to the atonement, His death also supremely demonstrates God's love for sinners (John 15:13; 1 John 4:10). It shows us how seriously God takes sin. It satisfies every requirement for God to be able to forgive the failures of humanity. And it puts Christ's cosmic victory over sin, Satan, and death on display through His resurrection (Colossians 2:15). Every aspect of the atonement should inspire gratitude, praise, and a desire for obedience, because it is only through Christ that we are reconciled.

**Key Concept:** God provided the sacrificial system for His people's sins to be forgiven and atoned for.



The actions that Aaron, the high priest, had to take in order to enter the holy place of the tabernacle were strictly defined by the Lord. As a means of protecting Aaron from the repercussions of disobedience (see Leviticus 10:1-7), God appointed the time—one day—and preparations required to approach His holy place, where His holy presence dwelled. The weight of these instructions emphasizes the holiness of God's presence. Therefore, it was necessary for Aaron to approach God with a sense of holiness, reverence, and awe to fulfill his function as a mediator between a holy God and His people.

This passage should prompt us to consider our own attitude toward God and our worship of Him. God is still holy, and we are still sinners, so we shouldn't treat our encounters with Him with casualness or irreverence.

**How can we approach God with reverence and awe?**

Aaron, serving as the high priest, was tasked with adhering to precise procedures on the Day of Atonement to enter the tabernacle's holy place, symbolizing the necessary mediation required for God to forgive the people's sin. Hebrews 10:19-22 shows that through Christ's sacrifice, all believers now enjoy direct access to the Father, transcending the limitations of the Levitical priesthood and enabling unrestricted communion with God. Christ's priesthood has accomplished a complete reconciliation and unity between our holy God and His people.

**How should our understanding of Jesus as our ultimate High Priest reshape our perception of access to God?**

#### BIBLICAL CONCEPT

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**PRIEST:** The priesthood serves as a picture pointing ahead to the role of the Messiah being made a high priest superior to ones of old (Hebrews 7:11-28). Jesus is better in that His own sacrifice is perfect, without sin. He relates to His people perfectly, having been tempted as we are, yet without sin (4:14-16).

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LEVITICUS 16:15-22

### THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR SINS TO BE ATONED FOR.

*Circle some commonly repeated words with different colors.*

**15** “When he slaughters the male goat for the people’s sin offering and brings its blood inside the curtain, he will do the same with its blood as he did with the bull’s blood: He is to sprinkle it against the mercy seat and in front of it. **16** He will make atonement for the most holy place in this way for all their sins because of the Israelites’ impurities and rebellious acts. He will do the same for the tent of meeting that remains among them, because it is surrounded by their impurities. **17** No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the most holy place until he leaves after he has made atonement for himself, his household, and the whole assembly of Israel. **18** Then he will go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it. He is to take some of the bull’s blood and some of the goat’s blood and put it on the horns on all sides of the altar. **19** He is to sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to cleanse and set it apart from the Israelites’ impurities. **20** When he has finished making atonement for the most holy place, the tent of meeting, and the altar, he is to present the live male goat. **21** Aaron will lay both his hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the Israelites’ iniquities and rebellious acts—all their sins. He is to put them on the goat’s head and send it away into the wilderness by the man appointed for the task. **22** The goat will carry all their iniquities into a desolate land, and the man will release it there.

**Key Concept:** God provided the sacrificial system for His people's sins to be forgiven and atoned for.

Leviticus 16 outlined the necessary steps for observing the Day of Atonement, a significant event in Israel's religious calendar. Through this annual ritual, God provided a means for the people to seek forgiveness and restore their relationship with Him. Central to the process was the role of the high priest, who represented the entire community and offered sacrifices to cleanse the sanctuary and atone for Israel's sins.

The climax of the day came when the high priest made atonement for the sins of the people by sacrificing one goat and presenting its blood in the holy place. The priest would then lay his hands on the head of a live goat, confessing over it all the sins of the people. This symbolic act transferred the sins of the people onto the scapegoat, which was then led away into the wilderness, bearing the burden of their transgressions. This ritual illustrated the removal of sin from the community and symbolized God's forgiveness and cleansing, facilitating a renewed fellowship between the Lord and Israel.

**How does understanding the sacrificial system deepen our gratitude for God's grace and provision for forgiveness?**

The Day of Atonement foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ in that the high priest, representing the people,

made atonement for their sins by offering a blood sacrifice for the sins of the people and releasing the scapegoat, symbolizing the cleansing of sin and the removal of guilt from the community.

These annual sacrifices served as a temporary solution, offering a glimpse of the forgiveness and reconciliation that would ultimately be fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Jesus not only cleanses us from sin but also removes it completely, offering eternal redemption and reconciliation with God. The Old Testament sacrifices, therefore, serve as a prophetic precursor to the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ, emphasizing His role as the fulfillment of the law and the ultimate means of restoring humanity's relationship with God.

**In what ways does Jesus's sacrificial death on the cross fulfill and surpass the temporary atonement provided by the Old Testament sacrificial system?**

#### CHRIST CONNECTION

The Lord graciously prescribed animal sacrifices as a part of His law so His people could be temporarily forgiven and their sins atoned for. Jesus came to pay the price through His death to atone for our sins once and for all (Hebrews 10:10).

**GROUP EXPERIENCE**



**HOLIEST DAY**

*Read the text and write the instructions for receiving atonement.  
How did Jesus fulfill the requirements of atonement?*

**LEVITICUS 16**

**JESUS**

**VV. 1-6**

**VV. 15-22**

How does the fact that Jesus removed the necessity for the Day of Atonement reveal His fulfillment of all the Law?



**Key Concept:** God provided the sacrificial system for His people's sins to be forgiven and atoned for.



## HEAD

In what ways does considering the details of the Day of Atonement impact your perception of God's grace and mercy?

**PRAYING SCRIPTURE**

Read Psalm 32, reflecting on God's grace in forgiving your sins. Let the joy of forgiveness prompt you to thank God for His mercy. Then pray through Psalm 32:1-5, expressing your own experience of joy and gratitude in response to God's forgiveness of your guilt.



## HEART

How does considering the great lengths that God has gone through to provide forgiveness for our sin cause us to love Him more?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

How can you align your life to acknowledge God's grace and replace sinful habits and actions?

