

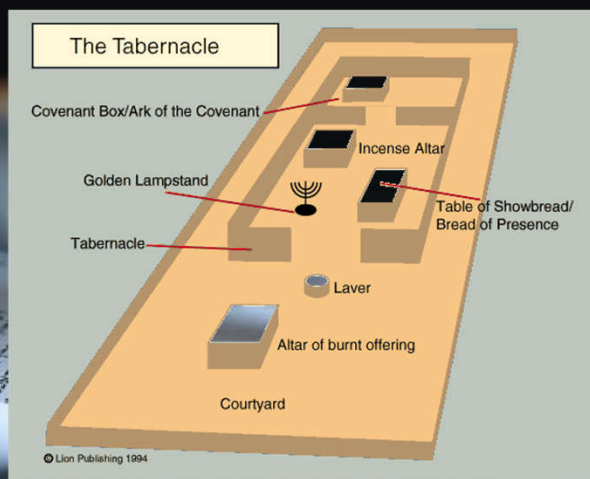
The Day of Atonement. Focus on the first half of Chapter 16.

Tent of Meeting



Most Holy Place + Tent of Meeting + Courtyard = tabernacle?

Tent of Meeting



It seems the tabernacle can refer to either the most holy place or the whole courtyard also. It's usage seems to change.

Perhaps synecdoche, part for the whole. E.g., this "cup" is the new testament in my blood.

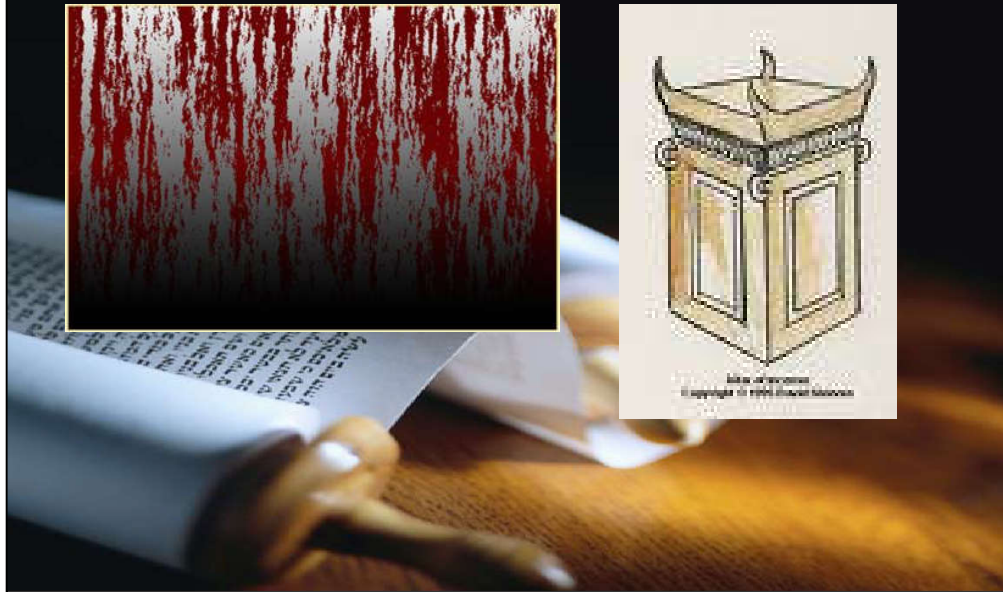
Sin Offering



The sin offering dealt specifically and primarily with atonement. It was also the only offering that involved the blood rite. (Guilt/trespass offering makes atonement too, but doesn't specify the sacrifice).

1. Purpose: vv 4:20b, 26b, 31b, 35b; 5:10b, 13b = "Thus the priest shall make atonement for him/them . . . so that they may be **forgiven.**"

THE BLOOD RITE



What does the priest do with the blood? Sprinkle, smear.

Why blood? Read Hebrews 9:22

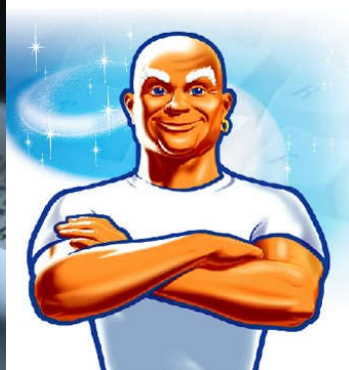
For purification.

Blood was the life-essence of the creature. Uncleanliness is associated with death.

Thus, cleanliness is associated with life. It makes sense, then, that a life giving substance can make something clean.

Manual For Purity

“Ritual Instruction To Distinguish between Clean and Unclean”



Chapters 11-15 deal with ritual instruction so that the priest can distinguish between clean and unclean.

What's So Special?



What is unique about the sacrifices on the Day of Atonement that distinguishes it from the other offerings throughout the year?

- Cleansing of the sanctuary. House cleaning, like cleaning the kitchen
- 15:31 – Israel's uncleanness not only polluted themselves, but polluted the sanctuary.
- "Rite for removal of sin" (16:20-22) is also unique

Commentator: "Thus on this MOST HOLY day, the MOST HOLY person in Israel performed the MOST HOLY rite in the MOST HOLY place with the MOST HOLY blood from the MOST HOLY animals, so that the sinful Israelites could have safe access to their MOST HOLY God."

Sacred Furniture



Two pieces of sacred furniture, found in two separate locations, were the focus of the extraordinary rite of atonement on that day.

1. Mercy Seat: Fixed on top of the ark. Flat, pure gold, cherubim on either side. It formed the seat of God's throne. Performance of the Blood Rite and Incense vv. 14-15. God is in the cloud of incense v.2.
2. Altar for burnt offerings: It was the place where regular rites of atonement were enacted in the daily services. On the Day of Atonement, however, it was not the place of atonement, but benefited from the rite performed in the most holy place. (16:18-19)

Animals



Someone read vv. 3-5

Animals for the sin offering were special because they offered the blood for the rite of atonement.

Bull, = Head of the domesticated animals

ram (burnt offering), = most aggressive and dominant animals of any flock

and two male goats = male goats represent the leaders of Israel, God's flock (Ps 23, 74:1). Used for chieftain sin offering in Lev. 4:22.

High Priest



Only Aaron was allowed in the Holy of Holies, only once a year on the day of atonement. He therefore embodied the whole sinful nation and acted vicariously on its behalf before the Lord.

High Priest Vestments



Moses was to dress the High Priest in a blue woollen robe, an ephod like an apron that went over the robe, a breastplate with 12 precious stones, and a turban with a golden headpiece. Each of these items held meaning and symbolism.

Priests



The regular priests had a fine linen robe tied with an embroidered sash, and a linen skullcap on their head.

The High Priests wore similar plain garments specifically and only for the Day of atonement. (Lev 16:4) Why?

Because he represents the people before God in the Most Holy Place.

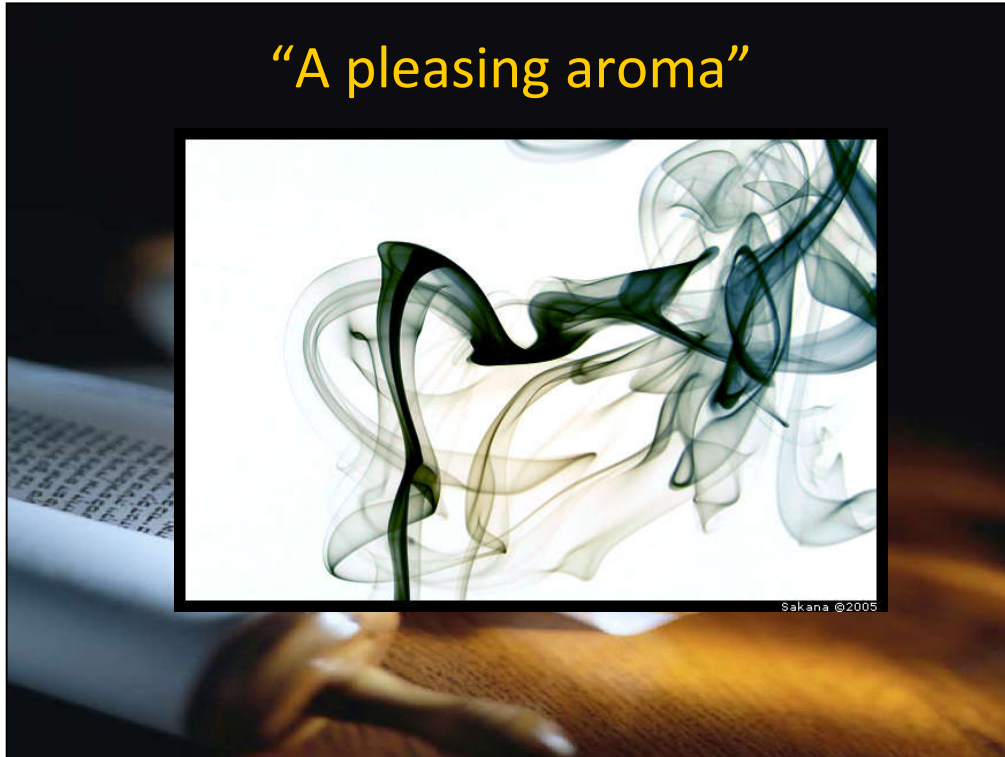
Back to Normal



Once the rite of atonement is over, the High Priest changes into his usual clothing to “make smoke” of the offering on the altar (16:22b-25)

Now the Priest represents God to the people of Israel.

“A pleasing aroma”



After the High Priest puts back on his regular Holy Garments, he burns the sacrifices, the fat and such.

Recall the Whole Burnt Offering: “And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the Lord.” (Leviticus 1:9)

In the process of being turned to smoke, the offering leaves the human domain and rises to the heavenly realm. It ascends to God as a fragrant aroma that is pleasing to Him. When those who brought the offering saw it's ascent into the sky and smelled its sweet aroma, they were assured by the LORD that it was received by Him and accepted.

Remember Aaron's Sons?



Have someone read Lev. 16:1. Recall Chapter 10 of Leviticus.

What did Nadab and Abihu do that was so bad? (Offered an “unauthorized” or “strange” fire before the Lord)

They failed to respect the seriousness of God's presence.

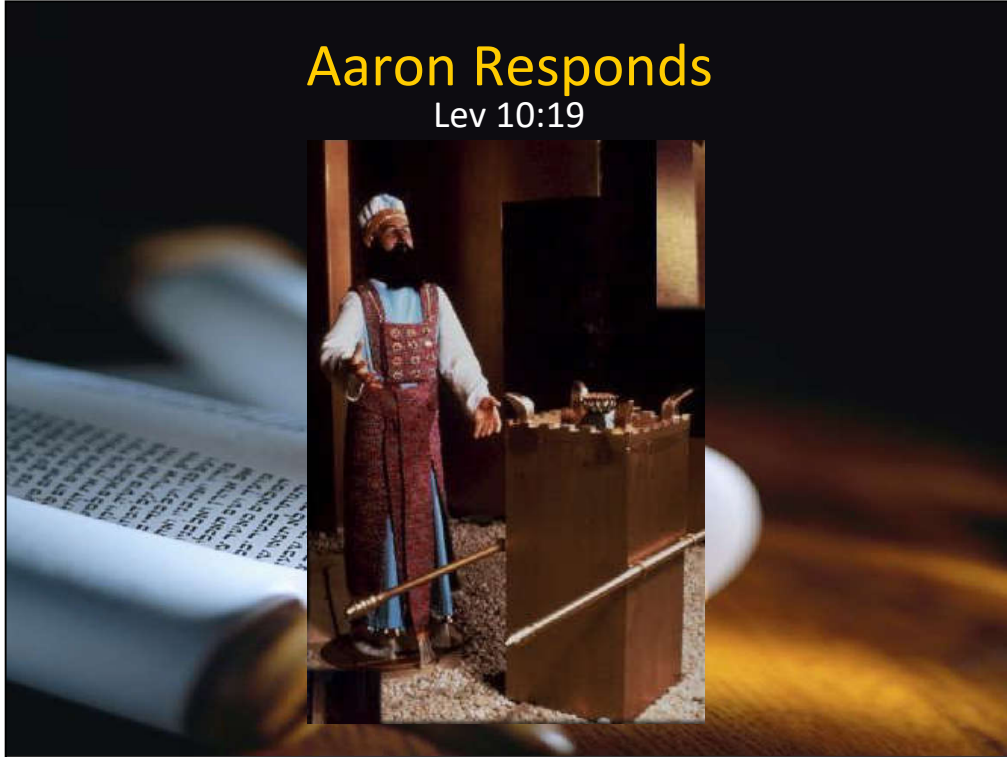
As we heard in chapter 9, the Lord's fire on the altar came from His presence and made smoke of offerings on the altar. It was to always be kept burning as a perpetual fire. Coals lit from it were used for burning incense twice each day on the incense altar in the tent of the tabernacle. So instead of using coals from the holy fire Nadab and Abihu used “unauthorized” or “strange” fire from some other source.

Why do you think that God doesn't go into detail about the source of the wrong fire? (Then we would focus on why that particular source was wrong as opposed to which source is right.)

Did it warrant their death? (In God's eyes it did.)

Aaron Responds

Lev 10:19



Moses tells Aaron to eat the meat of the sacrifice. Aaron didn't and Moses reprimanded him. Aaron responds.

Read Lev 10:19 What is Aaron's response? (He wasn't sure if the Lord would have approved of the eating of the meat, even though this was laid out in the guidelines.)

Why was Aaron unsure? (Because of the death of Nadab and Abihu. It is unclear if their actions desecrated that day's sacrifice. Even the presence of their bodies [a dead body is understood to be unclean] may have desecrated the sacrifice.) Aaron has chosen to play things safe and make smoke out of the entire offering, thus turning it over to God. In doing so, He doesn't really go against the regulations, but goes beyond them, displaying great respect for God's holiness.

Aaron's actions are in complete contrast to those of Nadab and Abihu. That is, Aaron regarded God's presence as serious, and exercised caution in the face of uncertainty about His will.

Coals and Incense



Both God and the High Priest were therefore hidden in a cloud of smoke.

Why does God hide in a cloud of smoke? To protect the priest from the lethal danger of visual intrusion on God's presence.

“The Glory of the Lord”



The glory of the Lord was also apparent on Mt Sinai

Why does god appear in a cloud?

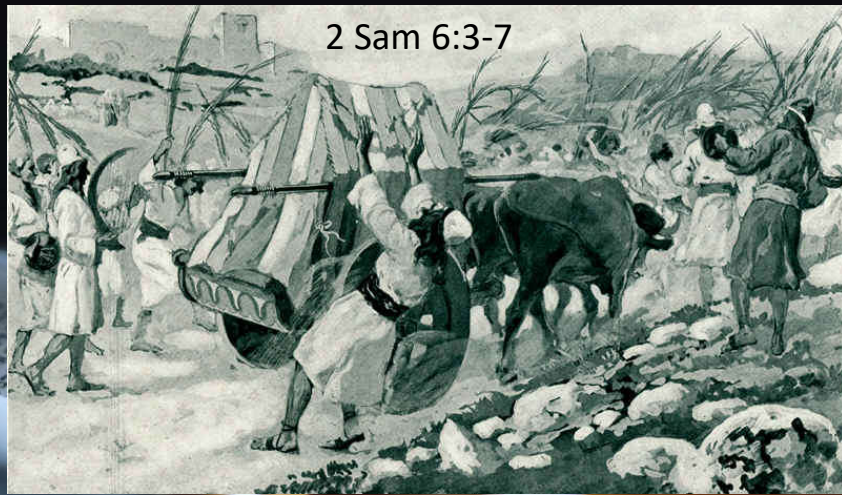
1. So people don't make graven images of him.
2. To shield people from his lethal righteousness.

Read Exodus 24:16-17

The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. [17] Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

See also, pillar of cloud by day, fire by night; etc.

An example



It could be that God is making an example of the two priests so that people will know just how serious He is about His holiness. We see a similar event in 2 Sam 6:3-7 where Uzzah touches the ark and is immediately struck down.

NT, transfiguration. Peter, James, and John fell facedown and were terrified. (Matt. 17:5-8)

Temple Curtain

- Matt. 27:51
- John 1:14
 - Dwelt = “Tabernacled”



Why was there a curtain in the tabernacle? To shade people from God's lethal righteousness. When Jesus died, the temple curtain split from top to bottom. This showed us that the access to the Father's presence lay open to all his disciples. This was accomplished by Jesus' death.

Eastern Orthodox churches still close off the altar with a wall or "curtain" of sorts. Why would they do that?

A New High Priest

- Hebrews 9:7-14
- Hebrews 7:24-26
- Hebrews 10:20



Christ is our High Priest. Hebrews 7:26-28

(Maybe tell the story of Melchizedek)

Through Christ, we are all priests offering spiritual sacrifices. 1 Peter 2:9-10

The Christian Altar



Our altar is a bringing together of the altar of burnt offering, and the mercy seat. Our altar symbolizes the throne of grace. It is the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16). Before Christ, God's people could only approach the altar. Now they can approach the altar, which is the mercy seat, which is the Eucharistic table. The Christian altar represents the totality of God's presence in the tabernacle.

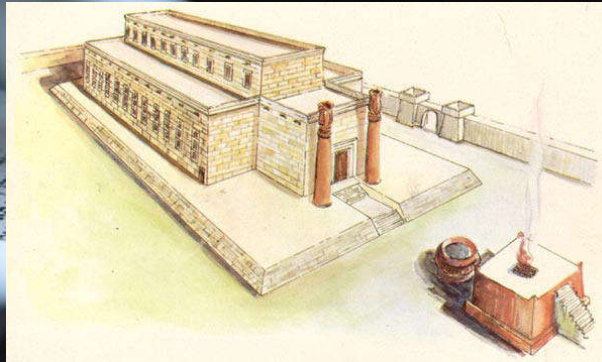
Why Don't Jews Sacrifice Animals anymore?



Jews still celebrate the day of atonement; and they don't believe that Jesus Christ replaced the sacrificial system once and for all. They still respect the canonical books of the OT. Why don't they sacrifice?

Why Not?

- Isaiah 1:11-14
- Hosea 14:2



1. Isaiah 1:11-14 = God does not want sacrifices.
2. Hosea 14:2 = Replaced with prayers for atonement. Thus, Atonement comes about through repentance and prayer
3. Also, No more temple

Next Time:



SCAPEGOAT

The Secret To Success Is Knowing Who To Blame