

# LEVITICUS 16

## THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

This chapter is the most important chapter in the book of Leviticus. It contains the ceremonies that were to be carried out on the tenth day of the seventh month (Oct), the annual Day of Atonement - "Yom Kippur". This was the most solemn day in Israel's calendar, the day when atonement (at-one-ment) was made for the sins of the whole nation. It served as a kind of annual spring clean that sweeps away the accumulated dirt of the previous twelve months. But not only did it provide purification for the people, it also cleansed the sanctuary from the pollutions introduced into it by the unclean worshippers to make possible God's continued presence among His people (16v16,19).

### STRUCTURE

1. Introduction : a solemn warning from God v1,2
2. Drawing near : instruction from God v3-14
  - A) preparation of the High Priest v3,4
  - B) preparation of the sacrifices v5-10
  - C) preparation of the way into the holiest of all v11-14
3. Making atonement for the nation v15-28
  - A) The goat that was sacrificed v15-19
  - B) The goat that was set free v20-22
4. The duty of the people v29-34

### Leviticus 16 and the N.T

The rituals of the D.O.A were only shadows of the reality that was to come. They pointed to the one who would serve as a perfect High Priest, who would offer a perfect sin offering by his death and who would become the perfect scapegoat who takes away the sin of the world. The lasting ordinance that Israel was commanded to observe would no longer be needed once the D.O.A had morphed into the day of Calvary.

#### Contrasts between Christ and Aaron in Hebrews 9+10

- A. Aaron was a sinner who needed to offer sacrifice for himself before making atonement for the people. Christ is pure and sinless and needs to offer no sacrifices for Himself (Heb 7v26ff.)
  - B. Aaron had to repeat the sacrifices regularly. Christ secured an eternal redemption by His own death (9v6-14,25ff)
  - C. Aaron's rituals secured him entry into the earthly sanctuary; Christ's death led him into the heavenly (9v24).
  - D. The repetition of aaron's sacrifices was a constant reminder of the persistence of sin. Christ's once and for all sacrifice secured permanent forgiveness of sin (10v1-18)
- All this should give us the "confidence to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus" (10v19)