

See the Sacrifice of Your High Priest

- 1. He Sacrifices for the Sins of Others 2. He Sacrifices Once for All 3. He Sacrifices His Own Life**

The Day of Atonement

- Want you pretend for moment: instead being 21st cent Xian, who's come ch, in Burl, on GF; instead you're OT Heb, who's come temple, in Jrslm, on DA. And on this sacred, annual, holy day called DA (Yom Kippur in Heb), surrounded by fellow Hebs gathered at temple, what you see? 1st thing see: very imp person, HP. Leader of all other priests, holds highest office in Jewish religion. Normally dressed in the full regalia/office: tall turban, beautiful blue robe; covering torso is sacred ephod, w/brstplt containing 12 precious gems, attached w/golden thread, standing for 12 tribes/Israel, whom he represents before Lord. Imprsv sight. But today on DA, wearing simple white robes, so as not stain his formal garments w/the bld soon be shed.
- Next thing see: large bull, tethered to harness, led by assisting priests. And even though from your position in audience you have clear view what's about happen, you just can't help but close eyes & turn head, when HP draws his knife, and w/swift motion opens bull's throat, so that bright red bld gushes into collection basin beneath. After that: see 2 goats brought before HP. Lots are cast, and 1 goat: selected be scapegoat (more on that later). But other goat: selected for Lord and receives same fatal knife treatment at throat as bull; and its blood also collected in a basin.
- Alright, you can look again; all slghtng's done. Now you watch as HP walks, w/calcltd dgnty, across Outer Court, into temple building itself, into main inner room called Holy Place, where only priests can go. Even though can't see into building, you know: at back of Holy Place: small chamber called HH. This chamber so sacred: only HP allowed enter, & only once/yr, on this day: DA. HH houses actual ark/cvnt, gold covered chest containing real manna from Exds & actual 10 Cods from Mt. Sinai. Lid on top this golden box has 2 angels facing each other, their wings outstretched – called mercy seat. And it's from this location, btwn 2 angels, that Lord would speak to Moses. This HH, w/ark/cvnt & mercy seat, is holiest place on earth. And on this DA, HP enters HH 3x. 1st time) he burns sacred incense. 2nd) carries in the basin/bld from bull sacrificed earlier; dips finger in bld, then sprinkles bld on ark & mercy seat – this is to atone for his own sins. 3rd) enters w/goat's bld; again, sprinkles bld on ark & mercy seat w/finger – this time, make atonement for sins/ntn/Isr. All this is what takes place, yr after yr, at temple in Jrslm, on DA.

See the Sacrifice of Your High Priest

- Ok, now come back to Burl, back to SJ. Today, on this GF, are you going see same things here at ch that saw at temple on DA? Well, yes & no. We priests not going slghtn any animals, or sprinkle any bld on altar. But today you will see the HP (perf/ultmt HP), making perf/ultmt scrfc to atone for sins/ppl. That HP: JC. And today, on GF, you'll see scrfc your HP, as scrfcs 1) for sins/others; 2) once for all; 3) his own life.

He Sacrifices for the Sins of Others

- 1st, your HP scrfcs for sins/others. **Vs. 27a.** Remem: on DA, bld/goat for sins/ppl, but bld/bull was for sins/HP. He: still sinful man. And for him stand in presnc/God, reprsnt sinful ppl, he needed his sins covered first. But our HP J, who stands in presnc/God on our behalf, **“does not need...sins/ppl,”** bec J has no sin! He's sinless Son/God! In vs right before our psg, vs. 26: **“Such a HP truly meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners.”** J never sinned, ever! Was certainly tempted to sin. In Heb 4: **“We do not have a HP who is unable to empathize w/our weaknesses, but we have one who has been temptd in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin” (15).** So, he could dedicate entire priestly ministry to scrfcng not for his sins but for ours.
- And we have plenty/sins need forgvng! You/I present J w/record sinful behvr that'd demand death/many animals if we lived in OT. And that's just us. God tasked J w/bearng sin/entire wrld, evry snl person ever lived. On cross, J litrly had weight/wrld on shoulders. So today, as you see J nailed to cross, you have see own punishment there; have realize: that's what you deserve, not J! Your HP is scrfcng not for his own sins but for yours/mine. He scrfcs for others.

He Sacrifices Once for All

- 2nd, your HP also scrfc once for all. **Vs. 27a...**“once for all.” Lev 16: where God outlines all instrctns for DA, evthng I descrbd earlier, like: what HP wear, which anmls he’d scrfc, what do in HH. And as bldy/gory as whole thing seems us, God wanted rituals/DA repeated annly, yr after yr, bec rich in symbism. These rituals taught ppl: sin is serious; and for sin be paid for (for there be forgvns), bld had be shed. What a pwrfl, trbl remndr of consqncs/sin that these ppl witnsd not only on DA but thruout yr. You read OT – God had this whole sacrfl systm that invlvd scrfc at tmple evry day. You can hardly imagine amnt/bldshd that took place at tmple, day in/out.
- But at cross/Xp, that scrfl systm comes to end & finds finals fulfilmnt, as our HP makes ultmt scrfc once for all. All scrfc/OT pointd ahead symbcly to cross, where J made scrfc end all scrfc. Reason cried out **“Finished:”** his death was making final paymnt for evry sin evr commtd, incld yours/mine. Anml scrfc could never do that. **Heb 10: “Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same scrfc, which can never take away sins” (11).** But they did symbcly forshdw the scrfc that did take away sins, that doesn’t have be repeated **“The bld/J, his Son, purifies us from all sin” (1 Jn 1:7).** On cross, J made atonement once for all.

He Sacrifices His Own Life

- Finly, I want you see scrfc/your HP as scrfc his own life. **Vs. 27b.** Let’s go back for momnt to DA, bec there’s smthng else haps that day at tmple I haven’t told you re yet. Remem 2nd goat, one not scrfd? That goat called scapegoat. You’re in crowd; from your position you can see HP bend down, place both hands on scapegoat’s head; and then w/loud, clear voice, for all hear, he confesses all wickdnss/sins/ppl. What he’s doing: symbcly trnsfrng all collectv guilt/nation onto this scapegoat. Then, goat: led out tmple courts, into wilderness, where will die lonely death, bearing sins/ppl.
- J is scapegoat. All collectv guilt of all ppl/wrld was trnsfrd onto him; and he was led out, to Golgotha, to die lonely death on cross, bearing sins/wrld. You can see same symbism in Gen 22, when Abrm about to scrfc son Isaac. Remem: they carry wood up mnt, Isaac asks where scrfc, Abrm says Lord’ll provide; get there, Abrm ties up Isaac, places on altar, about scrfc own son, knife in air, when angel/Lord calls out: Stop, don’t harm boy. And then in thicket, there’s ram caught by horns, which Abrm scrfd instead son. In both instncs (HP w/scapegoat on DA; and Abrm w/Isaac on Mt. Moriah), Lord provided a scapegoat/sub. J, for us, is that sub. He: punshd on cross instead/us; bore our guilt as our sub.
- So here we have grand irony of GF: that scapegoat is also HP; that the scrfc is also the scrfc-r. OT HPs never scrfd selves, or bore sins/ppl selves. But that’s exactly what J did! **Vs. 27b.** Our HP scrfd own life, for us, bec loves us! Faced this cross/pain/death – made self the scrfc to redeem us – bec loves us.

No More Day of Atonement

- There’s psg in Bible at end OT, Zech 3, where Lord: **“I will remove the sin of this land in a single day” (9).** Talking re DA? Yeah. Talking re GF? Yeah. We don’t observe Yom Kippur/DA anymore as Xians. We don’t need to, bec we have J, the perf/ultmt HP, who vs. 27.

Hebrews 7:27

Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

