



# Y. E. A.



## THE GOATS OF ATONEMENT

*The book of Leviticus, chapter 16 reveals an ancient ritual that was performed on behalf of Israel. Two kids of the goats were taken from the flocks to be presented before Yahweh. One was to be slaughtered, while the other was released alive to go into the wilderness alive bearing the sins of the people. Many think that this goat is a type of Yahshua in His capacity to take away our sins, but is this really the case? Let's look into this ritual to see if we can understand what this goat typifies.*

*By Jerry Healan*

Yahweh commanded the Levitical High Priest Aaron to, "...take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house. And he shall take the two goats, and present them before Yahweh at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for Yahweh, and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring **the goat upon which the Yahweh's lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before Yahweh, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat** into the wilderness," Lev. 16:5-10.

After Aaron offered the bullock for himself and his own family, he was to, "...kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. And **there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.** And he shall go out unto the altar that is before Yahweh, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and

hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel," vv. 15-19.

### TYPES AND PARABLES

The book of Hebrews informs us, "Now when these things were thus ordained (the tabernacle, its appurtenances, the priesthood, etc.), the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of Yahweh. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Spirit this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: **Which was a figure for the time then present**, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, **imposed on them until the time of reformation,**" Heb. 9:6-10.

The Greek word for "figure" is *parabole*, which is translated elsewhere as "parable!" Yahshua utilized parables in order to keep the understanding of His words hidden from all but His disciples, "And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand," Mt. 13:10-13.

Even Aaron's entrance into the Holy of Holies once a year with the atoning blood of the bullock and the goat was a parable to keep the people blinded as to what they truly represented. Notice



# Y.E.A.



that the great overall preponderance of Israel was blinded, “Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (According as it is written, Yahweh hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompense unto them: Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? Yahweh forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy,” Ro. 11:5-11.

Paul goes on to say that the overall preponderance of Israel was blinded so that the rest of mankind, the non-Hebrews, might also be saved. Do you understand this? Yahweh called His People Israel His sheep. Sheep were sacrificial animals. Israel was sacrificed for the rest of the world. But Yahshua is the ultimate sacrifice because He is the True Shepherd and the Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (Jn. 10)

## YAHWEH’S LOT

The High Priest was to cast lots to see which goat was to be sacrificed and which was to be let go alive into the wilderness. Understand this; the choice belonged to Yahweh alone. Man’s choice can’t be trusted. Adam, the father of all mankind, including Israel, made the wrong choice in the Garden of Eden setting the stage for his descendants to follow in his footsteps. The Scriptures reveal that Eve thought that Cain was the promised seed (Gen. 4) while rejecting Abel giving him a name which meant to be transitory, vain.

The descendants of Adam had chosen Nimrod as their savior after the flood. Babylon worshipped Marduk and Bel, both being Cain and one of his descendants. The Persians worshipped Mithras and Zoroaster (Adam and the seed of Eve), The Greeks worshipped Zeus, the Romans Jupiter, the

Canaanites worshipped Ba’al (the same deity as the Bel of Babylon. The worship of these deities has been syncretized into man’s religions in today’s world (including Christianity).

One lot was for Yahweh and the other for *Azazel* (Scapegoat). The kid of the goats upon which Yahweh’s lot fell was to be sacrificed for a sin offering. His blood was to be taken first into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled upon the mercy seat. Then the items of the sanctuary were to be purified and finally the High Priest would come forth from the tabernacle in order to sprinkle the blood upon the altar of sacrifice. The blood of this goat was sprinkled upon these items in order to make an atonement and cleanse them from the sins, the failures of the children of Israel, “Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel. And he shall go out unto the altar that is before Yahweh, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel,” Lev. 16:15-19.

## OUR SIN OFFERING AND ATONEMENT

This kid of the goats represented Yahshua in His capacity of being our sin offering and our atonement, “Therefore if any man be in the Messiah, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of Yahweh, who hath **reconciled** us to himself by Yahshua the Messiah, and hath given to us the ministry of **reconciliation**; To wit, that Yahweh



# Y. E. A.



was in the Messiah, **reconciling** the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of **reconciliation**. Now then we are ambassadors for the Messiah, as though Yahweh did beseech you by us: we pray you in the Messiah's stead, be ye **reconciled** to Yahweh. For **he hath made him to be sin for us**, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of Yahweh in him," 2 Cor. 5:17-21.

The Hebrew word for "atonement" and "reconcile" is the same word! Yahweh reconciles, atones us to Himself through Yahshua the Messiah. In verse 21, the words that I have emboldened can also be read as, "He hath made Him to be a sin offering for us." (According to the *Companion Bible* notes.)

After Yahshua offered the acceptable atoning sacrifice for Israel's and all mankind's transgressions, He ascended into the heavens in order to sprinkle the true heavenly mercy seat of which the earthly mercy seat was just a type, a parable of., "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; **A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which Yahweh pitched, and not man**. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: **Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things**, as Moses was admonished of Yahweh when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to **the pattern** shewed to thee in the mount. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises," Heb. 8:1-6.

Notice the words utilized here. The Levitical priesthood, its tabernacle, temple, and sacrifices were only examples, shadows and patterns of the true heavenly tabernacle that Yahweh pitched. There is much to be gleaned from this, but that is not the purpose of this article at this time.

There is one question that I would like to ask and answer quickly in this treatise, however. Since the statement is made "For if he were on earth, he

should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law..." Would Yahshua serve in His capacity as the heavenly High Priest after the order of Melchizedek if and when He comes back to this earth? Most certainly! You see, there is no longer a temple at Jerusalem, neither is there a Levitical priesthood that is actively offering sacrifices and offerings today. There may be a group that is prepared to do so, but unless Yahweh Himself issues the edict to rebuild a temple, which was done in Solomon's day and also in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, then all man is doing is once again taking matters into his own hands, which are not acceptable to Yahweh.

## NO MAN IN THE TABERNACLE

We who know the truth of the matter should greatly rejoice that Yahshua has ascended into the heavens as our Heavenly High Priest, having offered the only acceptable atoning sacrifice. He is in heaven today, still in the process of making atonement for Israel and mankind.

Yahshua told the people of His day, "Then said Yahshua unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me. Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come. Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles? What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come?" Jn. 7:33-36. "Then said Yahshua again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come," Jn. 8:21.

Yahshua told His own disciples, "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. Simon Peter said unto him, Master, whither goest thou? Yahshua answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards," Jn. 13:33-36.



# Y. E. A.



Yahweh's atonement has yet to be finalized and completed for the book of Revelation declares, "And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of Yahweh, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of Yahweh, and from his power; and **no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled,**" Rev. 15:5-8.

Notice that the temple was filled with smoke. The Levitical High Priest of old had to take a censor with coals and incense from the altar of incense in order to make a cloud of smoke which covered the ark and prevented the priest from looking upon Yahweh and perishing.

## THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

The High Priest would return from the tabernacle taking the blood of the goat of sacrifice, as well as the blood of the bullock that he sacrificed for himself and his own household, applying it to the four horns of the altar seven times. The altar had four horns, one for each direction of the earth, north, south, east and west.

Yahweh had scattered His people Israel to the four corners of the earth because of their sins that they had, have and are committing in these last days. The application of this blood was for the purpose of cleansing the altar. (Lev. 16:18-19)

Remember that the purpose for this ritual is a parable, which purposely blinds not only the people of the world, the Gentiles or non-Hebrews, but even the Hebrews, the Israelites themselves.

The sprinkling of the blood on the horns of the altar, the place of sacrifice, which took place in Jerusalem, was for cleansing. Seven last plagues must be poured out upon the beast and his kingdom before Yahshua returns to make atonement for the place of sacrifice (Jerusalem) and gather His people unto Himself. Thus, in these last days, Yahweh is bringing about the gathering of the armies of the nations of the world to the Middle East.

This gathering of the armies of the nations to the Jerusalem area will set up the conditions for the intervention of Yahweh in the affairs of this world and also Israel. The Scriptures speak of this great battle as the battle of the great day of Yahweh. It is the battle known as Armageddon (Har Megiddon), or Jezreel.

The pouring out of the seven last plagues will be induced upon the beast (Rome) and his armies and peoples. These seven last plagues will completely destroy the beast and his powers. It will cleanse the Jerusalem area making the way possible for Yahshua, the King of Kings, to establish His glorious kingdom of heaven on this earth.

## THE SCAPEGOAT

Finally, the live goat is brought, "And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness," Lev. 16:20-22.

Many people believe that this goat is also a type of Yahshua the Messiah, but let's look into the Hebrew term for this goat to see if we can identify it/him more closely.

The English term for this goat is "scapegoat." The Hebrew term is *azazel*. The word *azazel* is defined as "goat of departure." It is shown in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* to be a combination of two Hebrew words, *az* and *azal*. *Az* is defined as; from 5810, a she-goat (as strong), but masculine in plural (which also is used ellipt. for goat's hair). Since this is a male goat and not a female, we must go to the root word to get the meaning. The primitive root word is #5810, *azaz*, which is defined as; a primitive root; to be stout (literally or figuratively). It is generally translated as; harden, impudent, prevail, strengthen (self), be strong.

*Azal* is the second Hebrew word involved in this word *azazel*. It is defined as; a primitive root; to



# Y.E.A.



go away, hence, to disappear. It is generally translated as; fail, gad about, go to and fro, be gone (spent).

Who is defined in the Scriptures as gadding about, going to and fro? Now there was a day when the sons of Elohim came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan came also among them. And Yahweh said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered Yahweh, and said, From **going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it,**” Job. 1:6-7.

“Again there was a day when the sons of Elohim came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan came also among them to present himself before Yahweh. And Yahweh said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered Yahweh, and said, **From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it,**” Job. 2:1-2.

Satan is the one who is hardened, impudent, seeks to prevail, and strengthens himself (the definitions for *azaz*). He is the one who gads about, going to and fro and up and down in the earth (the definition for *azal*). The definitions of the word *azazel*, *azaz* and *azal* do not in any way represent the character of Yahshua the Messiah. they are, however, very definitive of Satan the devil.

## ZECHARIAH THREE

The Prophet Zechariah is shown a vision that is most important for us to understand, “And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of Yahweh, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him,” Zech. 3:1.

This High Priest is a type of the Heavenly High Priest Yahshua the Messiah after the order of Melchisedek. Yahshua the High Priest is told that he and his companions mentioned in this chapter are “men wondered at.” (v. 8) “Wondered at” is translated from the Hebrew word *mowpheth*. It also can be translated as “sign, token, miracle, omen, etc.” These men are all signs, tokens, omens or symbols. In other words, they are types, shadows, patterns of heavenly things.

Notice that in verse one, Satan is resisting Yahshua the High Priest. The Hebrew word for “resist” is *satan*!

What is Yahshua’s condition? “Now Joshua was

clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel,” Zech. 3:3. “Filthy” comes from the Hebrew word *tsowayim*, which is defined as; soiled (as if excrementitious)! Notice that! His clothing is soiled with excrement or dung!

The Prophet Malachi decrees against the priesthood that he would wipe dung on their faces because they failed to remain faithful to Yahweh’s service (Mal. 2:3). This is because they turned to idolatry, which is as dung to Yahweh.

Zechariah reveals that the only High Priest Who will have the power to cleanse the priesthood is named “Yahshua ben Josedech!” “Josedech” means “The Righteous Yahweh!” It was said of Yahshua the Messiah of Nazareth, “This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased,” Mt. 3:17. Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh, will be able to cleanse the heavens and the earth, restoring them to the intended purity. But in the meantime, while Yahshua has been in the mount, in heaven, Satan has resisted (satanized) Him by causing His people to turn to idolatry!

Satan is rebuked and Yahshua is given clean clothing, “And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment,” Zech. 3:4.

“Change of raiment” is translated by the *J. P. Green Interlinear Bible* as “festal garments.” Satan has clothed Yahshua with the feast days of idolatry, to wit; Sunday worship, Easter and Christmas. The Sabbath and annual holydays commanded by Yahweh are the festal garments that Yahshua is to be clothed. They depict Yahweh’s true plan of salvation.

He also must have His headdress replaced (Zech. 3:5). The headdress of the High Priest had a blue ribbon with the words “Qodesh La Yahweh” inscribed in gold thereon. Satan has caused the Heavenly Father’s name to be polluted, changed to idolatrous names and titles, and forgotten among the children of Israel.

Yahshua and Satan standing before the angel of Yahweh is a type of the two kids of the goats standing before Yahweh. Before everything can be cleansed, the goat for Yahweh had to be sacrificed. Yahshua is that sacrifice. He is now in the heavens making atonement.



# Y. E. A.



## YAHSHUA AND BARABBAS

According to Heb. 9:10, the parables of the tabernacle, temple, priesthood and their carnal ordinances of washings and sacrifices were given to the children of Israel until the TIME OF REFORMATION. Paul says, "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away," 1 Cor. 13:8-10.

Prophecies fail or are done away when they are completed or fulfilled. In other words, the priesthood and offerings were prophecies that were to be fulfilled. Yahshua came to fulfill them and once fulfilled the priesthood and sacrifices were done away.

According to the writings of the New Testament Assembly, two men were presented for the sacrifice, Yahshua and Barabbas. Yahshua is the "only begotten Son of Yahweh," but the name Barabbas means "son of the father."

Barabbas was incarcerated for murder, sedition and robbery. (Mk. 15:6-7; Lk. 23:19; Jn. 18:40; Acts 3:14). Satan was a murderer from the beginning (Jn. 8:44). Sedition is rebellion against government. Satan rebelled against Yahweh's government causing a third of the angels to follow him in his sedition (Rev. 12:4). He seeks to rob Yahweh of the majesty due Him, applying it to himself.

Yahshua is the One Who is to be sacrificed for

Yahweh so that His shed blood might atone all iniquity. Barabbas, a representative for Azazel, Satan, is let go alive.

## THE FINISHING ACT

When the Levitical High Priest finished cleansing the Holy of Holies and the sanctuary of the tabernacle, he returned to also cleanse the altar, the place of sacrifice (Lev. 16:17-18), "And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: And **Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited:** and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness," Lev. 16:20-22.

Yahshua is the High Priest, the sacrifice and the King of Kings. When He returns, He will cleanse Jerusalem (the place of sacrifice) of all her filthiness, and He will commence to gather His people from the four corners of the earth where they have been scattered because of their iniquities. He will cleanse them with His atoning blood. He will then take those iniquities and transgressions, placing them upon the head of he who initiated it all in the beginning and he (Satan) will be banished alive to the abyss, a place not inhabited or where there is no other living thing, to wit, the deepest darkest grave, for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:1-3).

The earth will then bring forth the fruits of peace and righteousness that has not been experienced since before the seduction in the Garden of Eden.

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