



Christ Our  
Atonement

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**T**he Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur is one of the most tremendous revelations we can have of our salvation. As we review Leviticus 16 and Isaiah 53, I want these Scriptures to come alive for us. They give us a clear picture of Christ as our Messiah, who He is, and what He did for us.



## Two Different Types of Offerings

**L**eviticus 16 describes two different types of offerings happening simultaneously. The first is the sin offering. Then we have another unique offering related to the scapegoat or the Azazel goat that only appears in the Scriptures in Leviticus 16. The priest first offered the sin offering that brought forgiveness for the sins of the people. Then the priest took another goat and laid hands on it. Beginning in verse 20, we read:

“When he finishes atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall offer the live goat. Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who stands in readiness.”

LEVITICUS 16:20-21

This unique provision only happens at the time of Atonement. So first we must understand the mystical reality of what the priest is actually doing. If we believe in the covenant that Moses established between God and the people, then we realize that these actions are not just symbolic. When the priest offered the sin offering on the altar, people’s sins were really forgiven.

Unfortunately, in Christianity we tend to take away the veracity of the Hebrew Scriptures, but you cannot do that. This forgiveness was real and everything about the covenant that God made with Israel was real. When these offerings took place, forgiveness actually happened. The removal of sin worked, and it still stands for the Jewish people as a covenant with God. Christians tend to say, “Well, Jesus replaced all of that,” and a lot of people just jump into the New Testament and do not even read the Old Testament anymore. But you cannot do that either. You cannot understand what is going on without the reality of the Hebrew Scriptures. When the priest performed the sin offering—whether it was a bull or a ram or a goat or doves or whatever—we have to remember that people’s sins were actually forgiven by God in that process. In the same way, when the Scriptures talk about the fact that the high priest laid his hands on the scapegoat, he literally laid upon this animal all the sin and all the iniquity and all the transgression of all the people of Israel. It was a very real thing. Then when that goat was driven out into the wilderness, those sins and iniquities were literally removed from the people and removed from the camp. The removal of sin actually happened. Get out of your mind this idea that it was just waiting for another time.



## The Lamb of God Who Takes Away Sin

**W**hen John baptized Christ at the Jordan River, we have this prophetic confirmation that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Lamb of God spoken of in Isaiah 53 and Leviticus 16 who would take away the sins of the world (John 1:29, 36). When we look at the revelation of Yeshua as being the Messiah who was to come, I want us to recognize the prophetic reality of these offerings and the fact that God said there would also be a Savior in human form who would come. Was this necessary because the sacrifices of the Hebrew Scriptures did not work? No, the

only problem was the flesh nature of man. It was not that the sacrifices themselves did not work or were not living and effectual. They were effectual, and they actually happened for people, but it was that inability in human flesh to do our part back to God. God's part worked, and His part was accepting all the sacrifices and offerings. All those things worked, but humanity fell short. So God proclaimed that He would bring a transition to solve the problem of the weakness of our humanity—and He would do it through a human acting as the One to carry the sin away. This is all part and parcel of the Day of Atonement.

Everything we believe about Christ must be found in the context of the covenants and prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures; it must have this mystical reality to it. If you cannot find it there, then it does not work in some new form. So I want us to see that when we talk about this prophetically, it is absolutely tied into these two sacrifices that took place on the Day of Atonement. The prophecies in Isaiah 53 are some of the clearest, most overt prophecies about the Savior or Messiah who was to come. So this Person is now replacing the goat, the bull, the ram, and the scapegoat or the Azazel goat that we see talked about on the Day of Atonement. But also notice how exactly He replaces what was happening in Leviticus 16. If you have a revelation of Yeshua, you know that Isaiah 53 is speaking of Christ, and for others it is speaking about the Messiah.

For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,  
And like a root out of parched ground;  
He has no stately form or majesty  
That we should look upon Him,  
Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.  
He was despised and forsaken of men,  
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
And like one from whom men hide their face  
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.  
Surely our griefs He Himself bore,  
And our sorrows He carried;  
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten of God, and afflicted.  
But He was pierced through for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,  
And by His scourging we are healed.

ISAIAH 53:2-5

Understand the terminology in Isaiah 53 and see how our problems and issues are literally laid upon this Person in the same way that the priest laid hands on that Azazel goat. The sin and transgressions of the people were literally laid on that goat: "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteem Him stricken [All we see is a Man who

was beaten and put to death], smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions [on the cross Yeshua was pierced in His side], He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him.” See how it was put on Him. In other words, what Yeshua went through in the beatings, scourging, whippings, and suffering was what we deserved for our sin and transgression, but we avoided the sentence of death because it was placed on Christ. He suffered the discipline of God for our sin, iniquity, and transgression. It was placed upon Him; it “fell upon Him.” Notice that sense of impartation like the high priest’s hands on the goat. In the Hebrew it says they “landed on Him” or “lighted upon Him.” So you get this idea that the sin was transferred off of us and placed upon Him, just as when the priest laid his hands on that goat on the Day of Atonement and mystically the sins and iniquities of the people were actually removed from them and placed on that goat.



## A Death Had to Take Place

**D**o not take away the reality of God’s covenant. It was a real thing. And it is that same real promise that works for us in the reality of Yeshua as our Savior: “The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.” We are healed by what He received in beatings. Yeshua existed as that Azazel; He was the Messiah who was brought forth for us.

All of us like sheep have gone astray,  
Each of us has turned to his own way;  
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all  
To fall [to land, to light, to be placed] on Him.

He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
Yet He did not open His mouth;  
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,  
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,  
So He did not open His mouth.  
By oppression and judgment He was taken away;  
And as for His generation, who considered  
That He was cut off out of the land of the living  
For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?

ISAIAH 53:6–8

Yeshua died for all humanity. Why? Because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). In the old covenant sacrifice there had to be death. That is why the priest slit the throat of the animal being sacrificed. A death had to take place and that really happened in the Temple. A death took place, and God accepted the death of that animal in place of the person who brought the offering. These sacrifices worked. Then God brought forth Yeshua and said, “Now it is going to work with Him—exactly as it worked before.” And Isaiah 53 shows how Christ replaced that event. Yeshua had to die because the wages of sin is death. There had to be a death involved in order for us to be released from the sentence of death that rested upon us. So Yeshua was cut off from the land of the living for the transgression of God’s people to whom the stroke was due.

But the LORD was pleased  
To crush Him, putting Him to grief;  
If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,  
He will see His offspring,  
He will prolong His days,  
And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.  
As a result of the anguish of His soul,  
He will see it and be satisfied;  
By His knowledge the Righteous One,  
My Servant, will justify the many,  
As He will bear their iniquities.

ISAIAH 53:10–11

We are the offspring of Yeshua’s sacrifice. He will bring forth a multitude of righteous ones because of His righteousness. That is why Christ had to be righteous. He had to be perfected. Two things happened: Yeshua had to be perfect and holy because our sin was transferred to Him, and His righteousness and purity were transferred to us. Now you can see why God brought forth another sacrifice. The animal sacrifice could only go one way. It absolutely worked that you could lay the sin and transgression on that animal and have it carried away, but God was looking for something greater. That animal did not have the righteousness of God, so it could only remove the sin and transgression. That is why there is a new covenant, not because the other was not effective in what it did. But it was only bringing forgiveness for sin and removing the transgression.



## His Righteousness Is Transferred to Us

**W**hen God took Christ and perfected Him, He made Yeshua righteous and added something new into the New Covenant. Not only was Christ a sacrifice for our sins like the Azazel that removed all the iniquity and transgression, but also in this mystery of impartation and transference the righteousness, purity, and holiness that only Christ as the Son of God was able to impart is transferred back upon us. Now you see why God did something greater in bringing forth Christ because in Him we have His righteousness. And it was by this righteousness that God promised Christ that He would justify the many. Beautiful. And it is His righteousness that comes back upon us in this process of the Day of Atonement.

Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,  
And He will divide the booty with the strong;  
Because He poured out Himself to death,  
And was numbered with the transgressors;  
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many,  
And interceded for the transgressors.

ISAIAH 53:12

Read through both chapters of Isaiah 53 and 54 to see the magnificence of this Messiah and what has been provided for us. Isaiah 54:7 says, “For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you.” We know Christ suffered this on the cross when He said, “Father, why have You forsaken me?” (see Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). God had to turn His face away from Yeshua because of the sin that was laid upon Him. Christ suffered because

God had to express His anger toward sin and iniquity. This separation was probably the most difficult thing Yeshua faced because His entire life consisted of His relationship with the Father. Christ had never before experienced being cut off from that relationship or felt like God had turned away from Him. We are used to feeling cut off from God. But for Yeshua the most painful moment of the cross was when He was aware that the Father had to turn His face from Him.



## The Father's Great Plan of Atonement

**W**hat Yeshua went through on the cross was literally the Day of Atonement experience. He went to the cross as both a sin offering and as that goat of removal to remove our sin nature. The revelation of our salvation is a mystical picture, and it all has to do with this ability of God to transfer from Himself to us. When Yeshua went into the grave, He went into the netherworld and dumped all that sin and transgression where it belongs because there is only one place for it in God's creation and that is in Gehenna. Then as Yeshua was resurrected, He brought back the souls of those who had slept, and they walked around the streets of Jerusalem (Matthew 27:52–53). Can you imagine walking to the Temple in Jerusalem after the resurrection and suddenly bumping into your old uncle who had died about thirty years ago? That must have been a mindblower. But that is what the Word says. These people came forth from their graves and walked the streets of Jerusalem. They experienced resurrection because Yeshua is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). The sin was left where it belongs, and in that same process the saints were redeemed to come forth in resurrection. So we have this beautiful picture.



In Leviticus 16 and Isaiah 53, we are able to see the whole picture and really understand what God's plan of atonement for man is all about. The Father could have been satisfied with just having a sin offering and forgiving us. Then every time we sinned and repented, God would forgive us. That was how the Temple services worked, and unfortunately that is the way many of us choose to walk as Christians. We are content with the fact that there is forgiveness of sin and that we can always repent and return. That is what I call living in the Passover existence where we have a sin offering that brings about forgiveness of sin. But as we really step into this Day of Atonement, we recognize that not only did God forgive us of our sins, but He literally made a way for us to become righteous. The Father had a plan in Leviticus and transferred that plan to the Messiah. He brought forth Christ as His Son and all these things played out.



## Christ Is Our Living Day of Atonement

Christ is our living Day of Atonement. Azazel means “entire removal.” But in Christ there is also the impartation back to us of entire sanctification. We are to be sanctified entirely, our whole spirit, soul, and body preserved complete and without blame at His coming (1 Thessalonians 5:23). This is our life: entire sanctification. We have been washed, sanctified, and justified in His name and in the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11). This is our atonement. Yeshua was not just the sacrifice for sin; on Him was laid the transgression of us all. He carried away the nature of sin. We can see it throughout the New Testament Scriptures. But somehow this experience has drained away from us. I want something restored until we have a drive in our relationship with the Lord that has this understanding of what Christ really did for us—not just the forgiveness of sin, but the entire removal of the sin nature.

No one has ever thoroughly experienced the complete release of sin, so our minds just accept, “Well, it must not be available, so let’s back off. God forbid that we get too obnoxious about really believing the Word or demanding an experience.” But I refuse to go on from this moment and have Yeshua be something lesser in my life than what He really died for! We declare the finishing of that work. We appropriate the complete sanctification, the complete purity and blessing and righteousness that is ours by virtue of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). We bless this Day of Atonement. As phenomenal as the Day of Atonement was, the transfer of God’s holiness to the people was still lacking. That is why we needed a new covenant. Lord, we take the transference of Your righteousness. We loose all that You are in holiness, in sanctification, and in purity to rest upon Your people as a result of this tremendous blessing of the Day of Atonement. Amen.



### For Further Study

**John 1:29.** “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” He removes it.

**1 John 3:2–10.** “We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.” John is talking about complete purification, an absolute atonement experience to the point where we cannot sin because everything that was in Christ now abides in us.

**Malachi 3:16–18.** “You will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.” God is going to make a distinction and the difference is this atonement experience.

**1 Peter 1:13–16.** “Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your

behavior; because it is written, ‘YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.’”

**Hebrews 13:10–16.** “... those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.” The author is talking about Leviticus 16:27 because on the Day of Atonement the sin offering was taken outside the camp and burned. The priest did not keep it. That is why Yeshua had to be crucified outside the gate of Jerusalem. Christ was the atonement sacrifice for the Day of Atonement.

**2 Corinthians 5:20–21.** “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

**1 Corinthians 1:26–31.** “God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are.” Through the Day of Atonement, we allow God to glorify Himself in His people by working His qualities of righteousness, sanctification, and redemption in us.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23–24.** “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

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*All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).*

# ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

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## ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes our ability to:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

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