



God's Scapegoat



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[Scapegoat, "a live goat over whose head the high priest confessed all the sins of Israel and which then was sent into the wilderness, symbolically bearing their sin on the Day of Atonement.]

Jesus is the scapegoat of God. The scapegoat revealed in the Blood of Leviticus is symbolic of the sacrificial Lamb of God. Jesus, as the Lamb, is the one sacrifice that God looked forward to slaying from the fall of Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden, throughout mankind's history for the next few millennium, until that fateful day on Calvary outside Jerusalem. Jesus is the sacrifice that God Himself made, not man. Though Jewish religious leaders & Roman soldiers were instrumental in the trial, scourging, crucifixion, & death of Jesus, He was delivered up by the will & plan of God, in behalf of everyone else that has, does, or will, draw the breath of life upon the Earth!

All of the animal sacrifices that were offered under the Law of Moses were shadows of types of the sacrificial slaying of Jesus as the Lamb of God that carried away the sin of the world. Those sacrifices made under the Law could only partially portray the redemption that Jesus was going to manifest in the behalf of fallen mankind. The Scriptures tell us that God wasn't pleased with the slaying of animals under the Law of Moses, but their blood provided the temporary ignoring (ceremonial covering) of Israel's sinfulness that God demanded. Their sacrifice provided temporary covering over Israel's sinfulness, while the shed blood of Jesus washed us from our own sin!

Lev. 16/7-10 He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering. But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness.

Two goats were used in this sacrifice, & both of them portray part of the ministry of Jesus as the Lamb of God. One goat would be sacrificed & its blood sprinkled as a ceremonial cleansing that made atonement for the year-coming for Israel, while the other would have the sins of the people of God pronounced over it, ceremonially becoming the carrier of those sins, & then it would be led outside the walls of Jerusalem, & let loose into the wilderness. Again, this was a ceremonial portrayal of Jesus, Who was both sacrificed & Whose blood brought the removal of sin forever, & in Him bearing our sins upon Himself at Calvary, before His death, burial, & descension into the bowels of the Earth & the gates of Hell! He died outside Jerusalem, in the wilderness of Golgotha. Just as the goat was reckoned as carrying off the sins of Israel for a year, the sacrifice of Jesus carried away the sin of the world forever!

Lev. 16/20-22, 27 "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat. Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness. The bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp. And they shall burn in the fire their skins, their flesh, and their offal.

The scene of Aaron laying his hands upon the goat & confessing Israel's sins & iniquities upon it, is certainly a picture of God doing the same thing to Jesus at Calvary. Just as the goat being released into the wilderness ceremonially carried away their sin for a year, so Jesus literally & permanently carried off the sinfulness of mankind, once & for all of time! While the Day of Atonement was repeated annually under the Law, the day of Salvation was manifested once, the day that Jesus died! Because the goat ceremonially bore all of the sins of the tribes of Israel for the coming year, God overlooked their transgressions, not based upon their behavior, but upon the goat being recognized as having carried off those transgressions & character flaws. Literally, Jesus became sin for us, & was the carrier of our sin personally.

Isa.53/4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

Here's the scapegoat, Jesus, being identified in Isaiah 53, a prophetic look for Israel's benefit into the ministry of the Messiah. As our scapegoat, Jesus bore our griefs, sorrows, pains, sicknesses, depression, & defeat! Because they were laid upon Him, we've been delivered from them! Once they were carried off by Jesus, they had no more right to, or authority over us! It tells us that as the scapegoat, Jesus, at Calvary, was smitten (afflicted) by God personally! He did that so that we never have any reason to be afflicted by God ever again!

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Our transgressions brought the punishment that was poured upon Jesus at Calvary. It was our iniquities that caused Him to be bruised by God. He was crushed under the judgment of sin & demand for divine justice that had to be settled under the law of God. Every obstacle to us being restored to the peace of God dealt with by the sacrifice of Jesus as the scapegoat! He was punished, tormented, & chastised with our due-punishment, so that God's peace was offered through Him, & we enter into that peace through the New-Birth! God has peace toward us through what Jesus did, & we receive His peace through becoming New-creations in the New-Birth! Everything that was poured upon Jesus at Calvary, we've been delivered from! By the completed work of Calvary, we are forgiven, redeemed, sanctified, justified, & once we're Born-again, we're also glorified!

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Jesus received all of God's judgment against sin, once & for all time, at Calvary, & all of our iniquity was placed upon Him. So because our iniquity was removed, literally, not ceremonially, by Jesus as our substitute on the cross, God has no reason to be angry against sinners, other than in the act & attitude of them rejecting Jesus as God's gift of life! God, as the High Priest of Love, pronounced, prophesied, & placed the sinfulness of us all upon Jesus. Jesus, as our scapegoat, had the iniquities, transgressions, failures, & guilt of mankind laid upon Himself, & now we are delivered from them! We are also liberated from all punishment that God has right & reason to give to us, because of it being placed upon Jesus as the sponge of God, as He absorbed everything that separated us from God!

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Jesus was oppressed with everything that was common to sinful man, as He hung upon the cross. He was afflicted by the will of God, the hands of men, & by the hopes of satanic powers. Jesus was slaughtered, not as a war casualty, but as our scapegoat! Everything He was afflicted with was in our behalf, & we have been liberated from! We know that Jesus could've certainly called down legions of angels to take Him down from the cross, but if He'd've done that, our redemption wouldn't have become manifested. We owe Jesus a debt of gratitude that we couldn't pay in any way to any degree! But we can surely be thankful to Him for all of the blessings He's bestowed upon us, amen?

10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin....

Why & how could the Heavenly Father be pleased by turning His Son over to torment? And why would He be involved in allowing grief to be poured upon & into Jesus? Because Jesus was in the process of becoming the scapegoat that would settle the issue of sin that had separated God & man spiritually! God could delight in bruising Jesus in the knowing that mankind would be restored to union with Father, Son, & Spirit shortly after Jesus' resurrection, beginning on that specific day of Pentecost, just short of two months from then! Since Jesus personally became God's own offering of sin, there's no more offering ever to be given! His life was the only sacrifice that God would be pleased with, for He was the sinless Lamb, slain upon the altar of Golgotha, that paid the price in full for man's forgiveness, redemption, & restoration to the love & grace of God!

11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

Jesus paid our debt in full before God, & there's no remaining balance accounted to us. We are free & clear of all sin, as far as God is concerned. We should be convinced of this truth, for it liberates us from all fear, guilt, & condemnation. To know that we are legally justified by Jesus & personally justified by the Holy Spirit is vital in your relationship with God, your ministry to people, & your response to the accusations of the powers of darkness. Because Jesus bore your iniquities, you have none to bear. That's right, none whatsoever, now or forever!

12 And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

As the scapegoat had the sins of Israel pronounced over it & ceremonially laid upon its head, so Jesus became numbered with the transgressors by becoming one with their sinfulness. He didn't commit sin, He became the sponge of God that soaked all the sin of world into Himself, & carried them away. What the scapegoat & the other goat that was slaughtered could only do figuratively & temporarily, Jesus did entirely & eternally, without fail! We are now the redeemed of the Lord, & we'll forever gratefully give honor to Jesus, our Lord, Savior, Friend, Hero, Who is our Scapegoat!