

Leviticus 23:23-32

October 6, 2013
Communion Sunday

I See a Crimson Stain

Introduction:

*On Calvary's hill of sorrow when sin's demands were paid
And rays of hope for tomorrow across our path were laid
I see a crimson stream of blood it flows from Calvary
Its waves which reach the throne of God are sweeping over me.*

G.T. Haywood

Truth of this great hymn?

- ✓ Profound impact of Christ's shed blood
- ✓ It reaches to the very throne of God where it satisfies the righteous claims of God
- ✓ It flows to the depths of human depravity and forgives, reconciles, and restores humanity to right relationship with God

NOTE: This hymn underscores the two-fold work of Christ's blood that finds its genesis, not in Calvary's cross first, but in the Old Testament truth revealed on the Day of Atonement.

I. Historical Context of the Day of Atonement

A. Month of Tishri-7th month of the Jewish calendar

1. 1st day of Tishri was considered Jewish New Year-Rosh Hashana (blowing/feast of trumpets)
2. 10th day (2nd of Jewish high holy days) was Yom Kippur-Day of Atonement
3. Between the two-fasting/repentance/reconciliation with others
4. Each day led up to the drama of Yom Kippur-10th day-Day of Atonement
5. The sacrifices of this day would form the ground of God's dealing in grace, mercy, patience and forbearance

B. Leviticus 16 provides great explanation of this important day

1. The way was not yet open for man to approach at all times the presence of God-even less to abide
2. God was shut in/man was shut out

C. Never more apparent than this point in Israel's history

Now the Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered profane fire before the Lord, and died; 2 and the Lord said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat. Leviticus 16:1-2 NKJV

1. Sin of Nadab and Abihu

Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. 3 And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace. Leviticus 10:1-3 NKJV

2. God would send fire to consume (9:24/Elijah)
3. Must not treat-His presence lightly
4. They died-God dealt severely

D. So after this great calamity God unfolds clear instructions for how sinful man could approach His holy presence

II. Holy Responsibility of High Priest on Day of Atonement

"Thus Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with the blood of a young bull as a sin offering, and of a ram as a burnt offering. 4 He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These are holy garments. Therefore he shall wash his body in water, and put them on. 5 And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering. 6 "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house. 7 He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Leviticus 16:3-7 NKJV

A. Inconvenient and humble responsibilities

1. 7 days of preparation/away from families
2. Mundane duties usually given to priests carried out by high priest
3. Securing of all sacrifices/Diversity of High Priestly garb
4. To all of that-fear is added-1 miss-step=death

B. A work of loneliness/solitude

1. No one could assist or accompany

There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel. Leviticus 16:17 NKJV

2. Reviving fires, trimming lamps, all alone in the presence of the Holy One

C. Exhausting and oppressive

1. Huge responsibility with all eyes on him
2. Crushing burden of thousands weighed heavy upon him
3. Duties with ordinance/15-17 animals to slaughter

III. Drama of the Day of Atonement

He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 8 Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering. 10 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. Leviticus 16:7-10 NKJV

A. Two goats were to come from the congregation (v. 5)

1. Syrian goats (dignified, elevated, graceful, and clean)
2. Jews highly appreciated these goats-one of most valuable of all domesticated animals
3. Kids of first year-costly to give

B. Lots were cast over these two goats

1. 2 to 3 million people looking on outside of tabernacle
2. All facing the altar-between people/altar -2 goats
3. Yahweh on one lot/Azazel (to receive or turn away) on the other
4. The one on whom the lot fell to Yahweh would die

NOTE: Blood must be sprinkled

"Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. 16 So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness. Leviticus 16:15-17 NKJV

5. The release of the scapegoat

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. 22 The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness. Leviticus 16:21-22 NKJV

- a. Sins of the people confessed
- b. Scapegoat carried out of sight of the congregation

IV. Spiritual Significance of the Day of Atonement

NOTE: We know it reveals truth

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Hebrews 10:1-4 NKJV

A. Seen in the work of the High Priest

1. Inconvenient and humiliating work

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:5-8 NKJV

2. Loneliness/solitude

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24 NKJV

I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me. Isaiah 63:5 NKJV

(ILL) Gethsemane/Even on cross

3. Crushing load (weight of the world, pain, 2 Corinthians 5:21)

B. Seen in the sacrifices

1. The slaughtered goat (Lord's lot v. 8)
2. Not about individual personal sins but about-Christ dying for the sake of God's justice

“Its waves which reach the throne of God”

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:12-14 NKJV

GREAT TRUTH: Necessary whether or not anyone was EVER saved

- ✓ God dishonored in world, truth despised, majesty slighted, creation marred, claims disregarded, character defrauded, name blasphemed
- ✓ Cross remediated that whether anyone was saved or not
- ✓ Cross provides ground on which God can be just and loving at the same time and extend grace

Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed. Psalms 85:10 NKJV

- ✓ Cross glorified God and leaves man without escape

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 NKJV

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17 NKJV

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. 1 John 2:2 NKJV

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, Titus 2:11 NKJV

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. Hebrews 2:9 NKJV

3. This glorifying of God is seen in the goat that that must die
4. In the goat that was released the crimson stain sweeps over humanity-forgiveness of men is seen
 - a. God's secondary purpose
 - b. In one goat-God's glory is maintained
 - c. In the second-humanity's sin is put away
 - ✓ All their sins
 - ✓ Not one left
 - ✓ To an uninhabited place

As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Psalms 103:12 NKJV

Conclusion: Dual work of Calvary

1. Satisfy God-crimson flow to throne
2. Save humanity-works overflow all

Then he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp. 29 "This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. 30 For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord. 31 It is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever. Leviticus 16:28-31 NKJV

- ✓ Nothing we can add
- ✓ A Sabbath of rest

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV