



The Sanctuary Lesson 6 4Q 2013

The Day of Atonement

SABBATH

We are studying The Day of Atonement – what does atonement mean?

Dictionary definition has several:

- the reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ
- reparation for an offense or injury : satisfaction
- *obsolete* : reconciliation

From *The God-Shaped Brain*:

Atonement is one of those words whose meaning has changed. I remember when I used to believe God's law was an imposed law, it affected how I understood God's Word. Like many, I thought that atonement meant "satisfaction or reparation for a wrong or injury; to make amends." I drew all kinds of wrong conclusions: like Jesus had to die to appease the Father's wrath toward my sin. As long as I believed that distortion, love didn't flow in my heart. It was the truth that set me free and opened my heart to love.

I discovered when the King James Bible was translated into English in 1611, atonement had a different meaning than we typically ascribe today. In the 16th and 17th centuries the word "one" was not only a noun but also a verb. If two people were at odds and I wanted to bring them back into friendship I might say, "I am going to *one* them." I am going to bring them back into unity, into oneness. This concept quickly became known as "at-one" or "atone." We pronounce it atone rather than at-one because that is the old English pronunciation. When you are all by yourself, you are not "all one" but "alone." The process of uniting warring factions is, therefore, called atonement. (p. 177)

Here is the reference for this section of the book:

"atone: short for the phrase 'set or make at one'... make one, put at one, unite... From the frequent phrases 'set at one' or 'at onement,' the combined *atonement* began to take the place of *onement* early in the 16th c., and *atone* to supplant *one* vb. about 1550. *Atone* was not admitted into the Bible until 1611, though *atonement* had been in since Tindale. (Simpson, J., Weiner, S., *The Oxford English Dictionary Second Edition*, Clarendon Press, 1989, p. 754-755.)

When we think of the Day of Atonement, are we thinking of the Day of Reconciliation, the Day of Unity, the Day of Oneness, the Day when all are One with God? Or do we think something else?



Thoughts?

Before we even explore the meaning of this ritual day, we have to decide which trail we are going down. Do we go down the legal, imposed law trail, or do we see things through the natural law, God's design protocols for life?

The imposed law trail results in appeasement, payment and legal conclusions.

The natural law trail results in actual reconciliation, restoration and unity with God.

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "Throughout the year, all kinds of sins and ritual impurities were transferred to the sanctuary. With the Day of Atonement comes a time for their removal."

Can anyone show me a Bible text where the sanctuary was contaminated, defiled, or in other ways corrupted by the application of the blood of the sacrificial animal?

It is true, that during OT times the sanctuary was, in violation to God's instructions, defiled by prostitutes, by pagan symbols, by offering pigs, but where is there a Biblical record of the blood of the sacrificial animal defiling the sanctuary?

The idea that the blood of the sacrificial animal contaminates the sanctuary is a result of starting down the wrong trail. In other words, if we have a legal model: the law is broken; we must keep a record of sin in order to have just punishments meted out etc. then we find ourselves with this idea that the blood transfers the sin to the sanctuary, to keep a record for proper punishment and thereby contaminates it.

But, again, can anyone show a Biblical record of this? Interesting isn't it, that every time the blood of the sacrificial animal touched anything it made it holy.

This is totally consistent with the healing model. The blood, metaphor for the life of Christ and the truth Christ brought, cleanses from lies and selfishness. When we understand God's law as the design protocols for life, sin is deviation from that design, which is incompatible with life, then we realize the application of the blood does not contaminate, but heals.

During the daily sin offerings the sinner confessed sin on head of animal and then cut the throat, the daily priests, not high priest, took the blood in vessels to the various points. This symbolizes the work of sharing the gospel to heal believers, conversion and sanctification. Our ministry in God's cause, sin is being removed from the sinner by the blood of the lamb. It represents the writing over the old character with the new character of Jesus.

Day of Atonement – is the time, in the annual cycle when unity is achieved.



The sacrificial goat does not have sin confessed on it, but yet it is offered as a sin offering. What does this mean?

No sin confessed but offered as a sin offering, why? Because it is not about the conversion, confession, repentance or surrender of the heart of the sinner, which is symbolized in the sin offering sacrifice, what happened daily.

The Day of Atonement is about the work of the High Priest in cleansing, restoring and reuniting people with God. The goat is not slain by a person confessing sin, but by the High Priest, which represents Christ. This is representative of Christ's self-sacrifice – Christ's work in the cleansing the soul from sin.

Consider the various activities in the sanctuary and our role in salvation:

- We can confess our sins (daily sacrifice)
- We can accept Jesus and all He has done
 - the blood applied to brazen altar represents conversion
 - the blood applied to the golden altar represents sanctification
 - the eating of the sacrificial lamb by the priests, the continual internalization of Christ into the heart
- We can witness the truth and share the gospel, the work of the daily priests and the vessels which carried the blood.
- We can study the word of God, wash in the laver.
- We can fellowship together with other believers studying God's word, eating the bread each Sabbath in the holy place.
- We can experience the work of the Holy Spirit within, the fire in the altars.
- We, united with Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, can be a light to the world, the lampstand.
- But only Jesus can actually cleanse and restore us and make us holy and reunite us, make us at-one with God.
 - Thus only the High Priest burned incense on the altar, representing the character of Christ going up before God from the hearts of believers in praise and prayer.
 - Only the High Priest trimmed the wicks of the lamp, represented the work of Christ in the heart of the believer cutting away the sinful traits and making us more like Him a light to the world.
 - And only the High Priest was in the Temple officiating and working on the Day of Atonement, representing Christ's work of cleansing the heart from sin and restoring the character of His people into perfection. He is preparing His bride for the wedding.
- Day of atonement is also about corporate cleansing, preparing the bride for Christ's return
- Settling into the truth that cannot be moved
- Preparing the people of God to see God face to face



During the time the High Priest is doing this work the people, all the people, were fasting and praying, representing their devotion to cleanse their minds and cooperate with God for the full cleansing from sin.

Leviticus 16 documents the procedure for the High Priest on the Day of Atonement. It first starts with the bull slain by Aaron for the sin of Aaron and his family. This was a sin offering, and when Aaron went into the MH place, with the blood of this sin offering, he took the censor and two handfuls of incense and burned it to have the smoke of the incense hide Aaron from seeing the mercy seat. What would this mean?

The mercy seat represents what? Christ in His perfection. The smoke from the incense represents what? Christ-like character going up from the heart of the believer, in this case Aaron, in prayers and praise and adoration. So, what is represented? Without a renewal of Christ-like character in us we cannot see God or be reconciled to Christ. Or another way of saying it is: it is only through a Christ-like character we are able to see Christ and be reunited back to God.

After the bull for Aaron and his family, then Aaron has two goats, that are as alike as can be. He casts lots over them one for the Lord's goat. What does this represent. Satan attempts to impersonate Christ. Satan's lies, Satan's false system is as close to the truth as Satan can make it appear, yet it is still a false system. November 9 we will expose this false system and how it damages our minds, the Spirit Temple, in our God and Your Brain Seminar.

Then Aaron sacrifices the Lord's goat and takes the blood and goes back in as the High Priest but without the censor and without the incense, - which represents what? Jesus' work of applying His character and the truth to bring the universe back into unity. The blood is sprinkled on the lid and in front of it 7 times. Why? What does it represent?

One of the errors that has been made in understanding this is the incomplete understand of the ark. Some of the historic views focus on the law beneath the mercy seat and exclude the other elements within the ark. Further, they claim the law that is in the ark is the *broken law*, and thus the blood is to pay the penalty for the broken law. But, beneath the lid is also the manna, and the rod that budded. Those who take the broken law position fail on multiple points.

First, they ignore the other two elements that are in the ark, resulting in creating a distorted idea of what the ark represented and create a false legal picture.

Second, the fail to realize which law is in the ark. If you remember there were two sets of commandments given to Moses. The first one, what happened? It was broken! The second one was not broken. Which went into the ark? If God wanted to represent the broken law, which was covered by Christ and some legal payment of blood being made, why didn't he have the pieces of the broken law put in the ark? No, God had them put the *unbroken* law into the ark, which represents the restoration of God's law written into the heart of the believer, perfectly!



Those who take the position that it is to represent the broken law, err, why? Because they go to the text with presuppositions, already believing that the broken law required legal payment so they interpret the symbols to fit their preconceived ideas.

But if we let the symbols and Scripture speak for themselves, and we understand God's character of love and law upon which He constructed the universe, then we see something entirely different.

We realize the law under the lid is not the broken law, but the law unbroken, restored in the heart of the believer. This idea is reinforced when we include all three elements together in the order they were placed in the ark:

- Manna – the bread of life taken into the heart of the believer restores trust in God
- Law – once trust is restored the law is written on the heart, it is the law kept, the law of love, the renewed character here represented not the broken law. This is the new covenant.
- Rod that budded – once the law is written on the heart we are no longer dead in trespass and sin, but renewed, reborn to live lives of righteousness and bring forth fruits of righteousness

The lid covers because it is only as we are united with Christ, have His character overwriting our selfish character that we can be renewed into righteousness. Further, it was Jesus who provided the remedy which heals us, the truth which destroys lies and restores trust, and a perfect character which we receive when we trust Him.

Then what is happening on the Day of Atonement? It is the final settling into the truth that one cannot be moved, on a global scale, preparing the world for Christ's return.

The sprinkling of the blood on the mercy seat represents the sealing, the settling into the truth so that they cannot be moved, which occurs before the second coming, and only happens to those who have partaken of Jesus (manna), had the law written on the heart (tablets), and been renewed to bring forth fruits of righteousness (Aarons rod).

Notice the Most Holy Place is being purified from the sins of the people, because it stands in the middle of the camp which is unclean. (Lev 16:15,16)

What does this symbolize? The cleansing of the Bride of Christ, the church. The Sanctuary in this feast represents the corporate temple of God. Know ye not that you are a temple of God?

The church is in the world and the world is corrupt. Thus before Christ returns the church needs to be purified, settled into the truth such that it cannot be moved.

This is done by the settling of all the believers who comprise the church, those long time members, represented by the golden altar and the blood of the goat applied there, and the new converts, represented by the brazen altar and the blood of the goat applied there.



MONDAY

First sentence “The primary function of the high priest was to mediate between God and humankind.”
Thoughts?

Here is one Bible commentator who has a slightly broader perspective, do you agree or disagree, and what are the implications:

“While we rejoice that there are worlds which have never fallen, these worlds render praise, and honor, and glory to Jesus Christ for the plan of redemption to save the fallen sons of Adam, as well as to confirm themselves in their position and character of purity. The arm that raised the human family from the ruin which Satan had brought upon the race through his temptations, is the arm which has preserved the inhabitants of other worlds from sin. Every world throughout immensity engages the care and support of the Father and the Son; and this care is constantly exercised for fallen humanity. Christ is **mediating** in behalf of man, and the order of unseen worlds also is preserved by his **mediatorial** work. Are not these themes of sufficient magnitude and importance to engage our thoughts, and call forth our gratitude and adoration to God?” {RH, January 11, 1881 par. 4}

thoughts? The Bible says in Colossians 1:18-20 that all things in heaven and earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross. Heavenly things being reconciled.... Interesting.

How do you understand mediation?

Read third paragraph, “The blood of Christ...” thoughts?

The blood... releases the repentant sinner from the condemnation of the law – why?

What releases the tuberculosis patient from the condemnation of the laws of hygiene and health? Being cured. The blood of Christ is a metaphor, it is not literal red corpuscles that cleanse. When Jesus said unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood he wasn't speaking cannibalism. The blood represents the life of Jesus taken into the heart/mind of the believer, such that “it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me.” We receive a new heart and right spirit, the law is written upon the heart. Thus, the blood, applied to the heart, cleanses the conscience and mind of the believer, curing, healing, restoring to righteousness and thus, once renewed, the law finds nothing in the believer to condemn.

The blood, i.e. life of Jesus, doesn't cancel or erase history, thus the sin is not cancelled. David after repentance still had the scars and problems of his sin to deal with, even though his heart was cleansed.

It stands on record in the sanctuary, until the day of Atonement, meaning what?

- What do we understand the sanctuary to be symbolic of?
- According to Scripture the sanctuary is built out of intelligent beings
- What is the war over? 2Cor 10:3-5 it is over God, and what are the weapons Satan uses?



- Lies, about who? And where do lies infect or contaminate?
- And who has been damaged by sin?
- So what needs cleansing from sin?
- And who does Satan blame for all the pain and suffering? God,
- So after we are forgiven, and experience new motives in the heart, what remains to be removed?
- The responsibility of all sin remains until the end when all the blame will finally be placed upon Satan and God will stand fully vindicated.
- This is represented by the blood applied to the mercy seat, golden altar and brazen altar and then hands on the Scapegoat – that the minds of the believers have all the lies about God removed and all finally see the reality that the pain and suffering from sin originated in Satan and he is held responsible in the MINDS of all the saved and God stands cleared and vindicated, thus WE ARE RESTORED to unity AT-ONE with God!
- So the record of the history of sin stands, because God doesn't erase history, yet the sinner is cleansed and renewed from sin. Thus, throughout all eternity future the record, recorded history, will remain in our minds and will bring us joy as we eternally recall all God, through Jesus, has done to save and heal us.

TUESDAY

Read third paragraph, “The ritual with the live goat...” thoughts?

The lesson suggests that atonement was made with the live goat in a punitive sense, meaning that the sins were placed upon the scapegoat for ultimate punishment.

Thoughts?

They quote Lev 16:10 in support of this idea

But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord to be used for making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat.

Does the text say the atonement via the scapegoat is through punishment, or punitive means?

How does sending the scapegoat into the desert make atonement?

It depends on what you believe the problem of sin to be. What do you believe the problem sinned caused, the solution, and what the various elements represent in reality.

If the problem of sin is deviation from God's design, at the root are lies and selfishness. If that problem infected humans and resulted in humans operating deviant from God's design and therefore are in a terminal condition, and the solution being the truth to displace lies, restore trust and the receipt of a new nature procured by Christ, then we can understand the meaning of the elements.



- The blood represents the truth, which being placed upon the head of the scapegoat means we see reality as it is.
- The placing the hands on the head of the scapegoat and confessing the sins represents the removal of all the lies about God, the misunderstanding, the fear, hate, resentment, blame etc. that we have held against God and placing it where it belongs, on the originator of all these problems.
- We see the truth about God, about Jesus, about the origin of sin, about how sin infected us, about the damage sin does to the mind, about Satan and his true character and the responsibility for it all rests upon Satan who originated the lies and thus it all goes back on his head.
- The minds of all the saved are cleansed from all the lies and Satan is held responsible in the minds of all loyal intelligences.
- Going out into the wilderness represents that Satan is gone from existence, he and his lies never again to infect the people of God, thus the universe, freed from lies and selfishness are at-one with God again.

This is described in Isa 14:12-17:

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!
¹³ You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.
¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."
¹⁵ But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.
¹⁶ **Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble,**
¹⁷ **the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?"**

Other problems with the punitive position, the punitive adherents also claim that all sins, past present and future were placed on Christ and punished in Christ, but they now have the sins, already punished in Christ, being placed upon the scapegoat and being punished again in the scapegoat. Any concerns about this?

This is the problem with imposed law penal theories, they are inherently inconsistent and make God out to be arbitrary.

So, if not punitive, then what? What does the blood represent? Here is one commentator:

- The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By it [the truth] the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb. {COL 102.3}



- In the study of the Bible the converted soul eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, which He himself interprets as the receiving and doing of His words, that are spirit and life.” Fundamentals of Christian Education 378.1

Do you notice how this Bible commentary has the blood cleansing, healing, restoring, not contaminating?

But the truth brought home to the minds of those who have solidified themselves in lies causes suffering. Thus the suffering of the scapegoat, Satan, is not punitive, not an infliction, but the natural result of what happens when a person who hides in lies is confronted with the truth.

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph at the top, “Thus in the ministration...” thoughts?

Do you hear two types of issues are being describe, something going on daily and something going on annually.

What is represented by the daily activities? The conversion and healing of the individual from sin.

What about the annual events, according to this passage? Something occurring on a larger scale, and the Day of Atonement cleansing the universe from sin, not just the individual sinner.

FEASTS: Represent the history of the plan of salvation being played out from Adam’s sin until the second coming.

Passover – as soon as man fell into sin God passed over their sins Romans 3:25 he left the sins committed before hand unpunished. Christ was the lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.

Unleavened bread – immediately began dispensing truth unmixed with error to nurture and save, but it was mixed with bitter herbs, representing the bitterness of sin in this world.

Thus the feast of unleavened bread symbolized the internalization of the truth about God as revealed in Christ.

Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)– The truth spreads and takes root in many hearts and a harvest is experienced.

Trumpets – a special message for the end time – something special is about to happen prepare.

Atonement –

- reunification with God, oneness with God,
- full healing, settling into the truth that one cannot be moved,



- sealing of God, the cleansing of the church to meet Christ,
- making a right judgment about God so that the lies about Him have been removed from the minds of the believers.

Tabernacles – second coming where we tabernacle with God for eternity in our earth renewed, our new Eden home symbolized by the green branches.

When did the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement start? 1844, based on what? Daniel 8:14 and what does it mean to cleanse the sanctuary in light of what we understand the sanctuary to be?

Just prior to the Daniel 8:14 text the Bible says that out of one of the horns that made up the divisions of the Greek Empire would rise a “little horn” which would reach the host of heaven and bring the place of the sanctuary low. How did this little horn power defile the heavenly sanctuary AFTER the fall of the Greek Empire? Did this power enter heaven where God sits? Of course not, then how did it defile the sanctuary in heaven after the fall of the Greek Empire?

“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the CHURCH of the firstborn, whose NAMES are WRITTEN IN HEAVEN.” Hebrews 12:22,23.

Notice the church has its membership registered in heaven. Satan defiles the heavenly sanctuary by defiling the membership of the church here on earth, by infecting their minds with lies about God.

Paul says, “Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.” (2Thes 2:3,4)

He is talking about that same little horn power that sets itself up in the church defiling the membership with lies about God and thus defiling the heavenly temple where God’s church is registered.

And what was presented that defiled the sanctuary?

Constantine converted and the church was infected with an imposed law construct and God was represented as a dictator who must punish sin. The atonement was perverted to be the payment of legal penalties and thus the minds of men, the membership of God’s church, was contaminated with lies about God and needs cleansing. Listen to what the first church historian taught:

Eusebius – First Church Historian (263-339 CE) said “There are no reserves in the stilted encomium [praise] with which Eusebius closes his history, no wistful regret for the blessings of persecution, no prophetic fear of imperial control of the Church. His heart is full of gratitude to God and Constantine. And it is not only his feelings that are stirred. He is ready, with a theory, indeed a theology, of the Christian Emperor. He finds a correspondence between religion and politics... **With the Roman Empire monarchy had come on earth as the image of the**



monarchy in heaven.” S.L. Greenslade, *Church and State from Constantine to Theodosius* (London: SCM Press, 1954).

But, the cleansing of the sanctuary, which began in 1844, was to remove this distortion about God from the minds of men. Thus EGW taught:

While God has desired to teach men that from His own love comes the Gift which reconciles them to Himself, the archenemy of mankind has endeavored to represent God as one who delights in their destruction. Thus the sacrifices and the ordinances designed of Heaven to reveal divine love have been perverted to serve as means whereby sinners have vainly hoped to propitiate, with gifts and good works, the wrath of an offended God.” (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 685)

Why does the penal legal distortion about God defile the heavenly sanctuary? Because the sanctuary is made out of God’s intelligent beings.

When God cleanses His temple notice what he cleanses:

MAL 3:1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the **Lord you are seeking will come to his temple**; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

MAL 3:2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. 3 **He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.**

Listen to this quote from one of the founders of the SDA church. It gives us insight into how people in the 19th century saw this:

The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi, **are descriptions of the same event**; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25. {Mar 248.3}

God cleanses His Temple by cleansing the very building blocks of this living breathing, loving, cohesive, unity of intelligent being where God dwells by His Spirit and character of Love! He brings all things in heaven and earth back into unity and oneness with Him and then once again one pulse of harmony runs through the entire universe!

Thoughts?



THURSDAY

Read fourth paragraph, “Functioning like...” thoughts?

What is the process being described? Cleansing! When does forgiveness happen? When he is cleansed. Thoughts?

What does it mean the iniquity is taken away?

Read last paragraph, “God’s work of...” thoughts?

Do you see how legal this sounds? Are sinners acquitted? When in universal history will it ever be true that Adam did not sin, that we did not sin? To acquit means to declare not guilty. This is the lie the penal group puts God in the role of telling – but it is false.

We are not acquitted we are healed, cured, cleansed, thus we are examined and found to be “without blemish” as the Scripture says! (Rev 14:5 ASV)

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, “Now the events...” thoughts?

Is this clear to you? Is it to be taken literally? How much is symbolic? What do the symbols represent? How do we translate the symbols to a more reality based understanding?