

Forgiveness and Cleansing at The Cross

Wayne O. Cochran
wayne.cochran@gmail.com

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just
to **forgive us** our sins and
to **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and **cleanse me** from my sin!

Psalms 51:1-2

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Psalms 32:1

What happened at the Cross?

- **Atonement** : covering of sin, judgement seat has become mercy seat.
 - **Substitution** : Jesus died in our place
 - **Propitiation** : wrath averted, righteous sentence of Law has been carried out, justice satisfied.
 - **Expiation** : cleansed from sin, sin removed
- **Reconciliation** : restored relationship
- **Forgiveness** : sin not counted against us
- **Redemption** : released from bondage to sin and death, ransom paid.
- **Justification** : declared righteous
- **Sanctification**: made holy

Sacrifices as Shadows of The Cross

- Job 1:5, 42:7-8
- Cain and Abel : Genesis 4:3-5
- Noah : Genesis 8:20-22
- Abraham and Isaac : Genesis 22
- Passover Lamb : Genesis 12
- Jethro, Priest of Midian : Genesis 18:12
- Levitical Offerings: *Burnt, Grain, Peace, Sin, Guilt Offering* (Leviticus 1-5)
- Shadow only: *“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”* Hebrews 10:4

Day of Atonement

Leviticus 16

- *Yom Kippur*: Holiest day of year, High Sabbath, only prescribed day of fasting
- Focus is on repentance and the forgiveness of sins
- Two male goats, casts lots to decide role of each goat (16:8-10)
 1. Sin Offering
 2. Scape goat

Goat for Sin Offering

Leviticus 16:15-19

- Blood is brought inside the veil and sprinkled on the *mercy seat* (כַּפֹּרֶת *Kapporet* = atonement piece = covering).
 - Where God's presence is
 - Cloud of incense covers the mercy so that the priest does not die!
- **Atonement** for the uncleanness of the people and because of their transgressions.
 - blood, signifying death, is payment for sin
- Some of the blood of the goat is placed on the horns of the altar.



The Scapegoat

Leviticus 16:20-22

- Priest lays hands on live goat and confesses over it all their iniquities, transgressions, and sins.
- Sins are placed on the head of the goat and it is sent into the wilderness.
- The goat bears all their iniquities on itself to a remote area in the wilderness.



Goat 1 : Propitiation

- Christ, our High Priest, substituted Himself for us by dying the death we deserved.
- By covering (*i.e.*, atoning for) our sin, the wrath of God of towards us is averted.
- Propitiation as “*satisfaction*” or “*appeasement*”
 - Jacob propitiates Esau (Genesis 32:20)
 - Christ’s death satisfied God’s justice. Sin was paid for.

Propitiation in NT (ESV)

- ἱλασμός *hilasmos* : propitiation, atoning sacrifice
- 1 John 2:2
- 1 John 4:10
- Romans 3:25
- Hebrews 2:17

Goat 2: Expiation

- Sin is removed, taken away, **so that we can be made clean.**
- Sin can defile the soul, causing us to be filthy or unclean (Mark 7:20-23).
- When Christ makes you clean (Isaiah 1:18) you become white as snow -- your sins no longer define you, your shame is gone.
- Rehab the prostitute, the only saint listed alongside Abraham in both Hebrews 11 and James 2 as examples of faith!