



Who Am I?

"I Am Washed Clean"

Leviticus 16, Zechariah 3:1-10

Sunday | February 28th, 2016 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Zechariah 3:1-10 "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the LORD said to Satan, 'The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?' Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, 'Remove the filthy garments from him.' And to him he said, 'Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.' And I said, 'Let them put a clean turban on his head.' So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by. And the angel of the LORD solemnly assured Joshua, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here. Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree.'" (Zechariah 3 ESV)

(See also Lev. 16, Is. 1:18, 1 Jn. 1:6, 7, 1 Cor. 6:11, Rev. 7:14, Heb. 9:22, Ps. 103:10-12, Is. 38:16, 17, Heb. 8:12, Micah 7:18, 19)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Jerry Bridges] "The greatest scapegoat in all of history... is the Lord Jesus Christ. The word is never used of Him in the Bible, but it is used of a male goat in the Old Testament sacrificial system, all of which pictured the one great sacrifice of Jesus in His death. Each year the elaborate system of sacrifices inaugurated

by God for the Jewish people reach its climax on the great Day of Atonement. On that day two male goats were selected, and the high priest cast lots over them. One was to be killed and its blood sprinkled on and before the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place where God symbolically dwelt. The death of this goat as a sacrifice to God symbolized our Lord's propitiatory sacrifice on the cross for us.

The role of the second goat is described in Leviticus 16:20-22..." [Stop and read]

"By laying both hands on the goat's head and confessing over it all the sins of the people, the high priest symbolically transferred those sins to the goat, which then carried them away to a solitary place where it would never be seen again. This goat was called the scapegoat because all the guilt of the people was transferred to it, and it bore their sins away into the desert.

Thus, in the first part of the ritual involving the two goats, the death of the first goat symbolized the means of propitiating the wrath of God through the death of an innocent victim substituted in the sinner's place. The sending away of the second goat set forth the effect of this propitiation, the complete removal of the sins from the presence of the Holy God and from His people.¹

Since both goats represented Christ, we may say that Christ became our scapegoat, bearing the guilt of our sins in His propitiatory sacrifice and by that act bearing them away from the presence of His Holy Father...

"...Let me introduce you to another seldom-used and little-understood theological word: expiation. You can readily see its spelling similarity to 'propitiation.' In fact, the two words are often confused, but they are significantly different in meaning.

Propitiation... addresses the wrath of God. ...Expiation, which basically means 'removal,' accompanies propitiation and speaks of the work of Christ in removing or putting away our sin. Such is the symbolism of the two goats used on the Day of Atonement."²

¹i.e. "Expiation"

²Jerry Bridges, *The Gospel For Real Life* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2002), p. 61-63, 71, 72.

DISCUSS

1. Read Zechariah 3 and as a group identify all of the gospel images. What piece really jumps out at you? Why?
2. What does it mean that our sins have been removed or cleansed (*i.e. expiation*)? What are the implications?
3. Read Bridges' piece (*c.f. Lev. 16*). Discuss the differences between propitiation and expiation (*i.e. the two goats*).
4. In reading about the Jewish sacrificial system from Lev. 16, how does it impact your understanding of Christ's sacrifice for us?
5. Where do you often experience accusation? How does understanding these things help in combatting the accuser (Satan)?
6. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?
7. As a group, offer up worshipful prayers to God, thanking Him for what He has done for you.

Notes: