

## THE GOAT IS GONE!

Leviticus 16:1-22

INTRODUCTION: The portion of Scripture we read from Leviticus chapter sixteen deals with the Day of Atonement. In the Jewish feasts calendar, that God gave to the new nation of Israel, there were seven feasts—three in the spring of the year, one in summer, and three in the fall of each year.

### I. THE JEWISH FEASTS

The Jewish calendar and our calendar are very different. The first of our year starts in January. The first of the Jewish year started in the fall at the Feast of Trumpets, commonly called today, Rosh Hashanah. This year, Rosh Hashanah will be on September 25, the first day of the month Tishri; that is their January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Jewish nation was to start each New Year getting their hearts right with their God. Psalm 39:23-24.

### II. YOM KIPPUR—THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

Yom Kippur is what we see described in Leviticus 16:1-2. Only once a year could the High Priest of the Lord enter the Most Holy Place and even then he must take special preparation for himself before entering into the Most Holy Place. Leviticus 16:3-5. Aaron was entering the very presence of God to make atonement for the sins of his people. As Aaron entered the Most Holy Place earth and heaven collided: Leviticus 16:6. The word “atonement as used in the Old Testament means “a covering.” The offering of the blood of animals could never take away sin: Hebrews 10:4; Leviticus 16:7-10. Aaron casts lots for the two goats. One goat is chosen for the people as the scape goat. Aaron would confess all the sins of the nation of Israel to the Lord over the head of the scapegoat: Leviticus 16:20-22. As the High Priest confessed all the sins of the nation of Israel over the head of the scapegoat it would be very quiet as the people realized that their sins are being covered with the blood of the goat that shed its blood to cover their sin because their God is merciful and gracious to them. Isaiah 59:1-2: after the scapegoat is gone the Lord can once again answer His people’s prayers. The word for scapegoat was “Ahzahzel” and it means “to take away!”

### III. JESUS IS OUR SACRIFICE FOR SIN AND OUR SCAPEGOAT!

As Jesus stood trial before Pilate his own community declared him guilty: John 19:16-18. The Apostle John is reminding his people of the purpose of the Day of Atonement. The Jews shouted “Ahzahzel, Ahzahzel” “Take Him Away! Take Him Away!” John 19:14-15; Hebrews 10:1-4; John 1:16-17; Hebrews 10:11-18. Jesus Christ was both our sacrificial Lamb and our scapegoat. “The Goat is Gone!” John 1:29-34; 1 Peter 2:24. Jesus poured out His blood for us so we might become the righteousness of God in Him: 2 Corinthians 5:21. We are each made new by our faith in Jesus Christ: 2 Corinthians 5:17. Our Lord knows all about our sins. He knows our past. He knows about all our addictions; He knows it all but the message we rejoice in is “the Goat is Gone!” Hebrews 13:11-13; Psalm 103:11-12. Have you confessed your sins over the head of Jesus; your scapegoat? Have you personally accepted Jesus Christ as your sacrificial and scapegoat?