



Sermon Discussion Guide Day of Atonement - Tim Knipp 10/29/23

Note from a question writer:

One of the things that Tim pointed out in this sermon was that the Day of Atonement sits at the very center of the book of Leviticus. Additionally, Leviticus sits at the center of the Torah/Pentateuch (first five books of the bible). These first five books are structured as a [chiasm](#) (think like a sandwich that mirrors itself). In Hebrew writings whenever there is a chiasm and something at the center we are invited to pay close attention.

So, what are some of the things to pay attention to? First off, here we get the one time of the year that the high priest would enter the holy of holies. Why do you think that this is the one time where the high priest enters? What does that say about the now but not yet aspect of God's relationship with the Israelites?¹

Notice also that the high priest is not entering with the full regalia when he goes in (no bling). He does put the regalia on later on (Lev. 16:23-24). Why do you think that is?

Another thing to note is the emphasis of collective atonement. The rituals here are for Aaron, his household, and the people as a whole. Why do you think that there is such an emphasis of collective atonement here?

There is a lot that is happening here in this ritual that can feel kind of strange to us. Remember that the purpose of this book is to have it so that the people of Israel can live in proximity with God and that the outflowing of this book is that Moses will be able to speak with God in the tent (Num. 1:1). We do not see God's final/ideal way of relating to His people here but rather something that points forward. God desires to live in the midst of His people bringing cleansing them and the environment of any residue of sin and death.

Helpful resource: [Bible Project: Atonement](#)

¹ Fun sidenote: This is when Zechariah has his meeting with the angel in Luke



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- What are your favorite rituals and why are they your favorite?
- What is a daily/weekly/monthly/yearly ritual that sustains you?

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
- Read Leviticus 16. While the passage is being read, pay attention to what details stand out to you and share the pieces that catch your attention.
- Watch [Bible Project: Atonement](#). What stands out to you about the need to clean the environment around sin?
- Tim pointed out that Jesus fulfills the role of both goats (and the bull!) by being exiled and killed and shedding his blood. Why do you think that Jesus died on Passover, rather than the Day of Atonement? How do these two events help us understand what Jesus did in his death, resurrection, and ascension?
- Read Hebrews 8:1-6. If the high priest was only allowed in once a year to the holy of holies, what does it mean that Jesus is permanently there? How is that hope for us?

Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- What are the areas around you that you feel like they need cleaning?
- What might cleaning the environments that we are in look like?
- How do you think the Day of Atonement might meet the needs and desires of the space and culture we live in?



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Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- One of things that Tim pointed out is that our culture's ability to move past guilt is hampered by a lack of ritual. What are the rituals that you have around confession of sin and reinforcement of being forgiven and loved? What might rituals for those things look like?
- What rituals do you have for restoration of relational wrongs? What might rituals look like for that?

Time of Prayer