

# Jesus Christ, Our High Priest (Part 4)

## He Is The ONLY Propitiation, Both Ours and Theirs

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The Day of Atonement was the sixth of seven feasts celebrated in Israel during its calendar year. It was on this Day that the LORD promised to cleanse His people from their sins, and not only those sins confessed, but also from all their sins that they had committed up to that point.

### Leviticus 16:29-30

“<sup>29</sup>This shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble yourselves and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you; <sup>30</sup>for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.”

It was on this Day that the LORD summoned His people before Him. It was so important for His people to attend and participate on that Day, He pronounced a severe penalty if they did not.

### Leviticus 23:27-30

“<sup>27</sup>On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble yourselves and present an offering by fire to the LORD. <sup>28</sup>You shall not do any work on this same day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the LORD your God. <sup>29</sup>If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people. <sup>30</sup>As for any person who does any work on this same day, that person I will destroy from among his people.”

On this Day, it was the high priest's official ministry to slaughter the goat that the LORD had chosen as the sin-offering. It was also the high priest's duty to present the blood of the slain animal before the LORD in the holy sanctuary (Leviticus 16:8-19).

This ritual was repeated year after year throughout the centuries under the mandate of the First Covenant until God inaugurated a better covenant with His people, the New Covenant.

Unlike the First Covenant who had many high priests that served consecutively, Jesus Christ has been and always will be the high priest of the New Covenant. His ministry on our behalf began on the Day of Pentecost almost two thousand years ago after He had ascended and sat down at the right hand of God.

#### Hebrews 7:23-24

“<sup>23</sup>The priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, <sup>24</sup>but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, hold His priesthood permanently.”

Unlike the First Covenant, the basis upon which Jesus entered the Holy of Holies as our high priest was not by the blood of animals, but by His own blood.

#### Hebrews 9:11-12

“<sup>11</sup>But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; <sup>12</sup>and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained everlasting redemption.”

Furthermore, Jesus did not enter the Holy of Holies on earth, but the one in heaven where God dwells.

Hebrews 9:24-25

<sup>24</sup>“For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; <sup>25</sup>nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own.”

Jesus' once-for-all sin-offering and propitiatory ministry has far reaching implications, not only for us, but also for those of the First Covenant who appeared before the LORD on the Day of Atonement and since died long ago.

Hebrews 10:1-4

“<sup>1</sup>For the Law, since it has a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near . . . <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

If the animal sin-offering presented by the high priest on the Day of Atonement did not actually cleanse the people from their sins, then how are they cleansed?

Romans 3:21-25

“<sup>21</sup>But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and Prophets, <sup>22</sup>even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup>whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.”

Hebrews 9:15

“For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the everlasting inheritance.”

When will they actually be cleansed since they are already dead? It will be when God raises them from the dead.

Ezekiel 36:24—37:14

“<sup>24</sup>For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup>Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.”

“<sup>33</sup>Thus says the Lord God, ‘On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt.’

<sup>37:12</sup>“Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel <sup>13</sup>Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. <sup>14</sup>I will put My spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it,” declares the LORD.’”

The efficacy of Jesus Christ’s one time sin-offering on Calvary and His propitiatory ministry as our high priest should not and must not be underestimated. If we do not take advantage of God’s grace as offered, there will be grave consequences.

The singular subject that consumes the author of Hebrews is Christ's high priesthood and how we as His people are to avail ourselves to it. If after being instructed concerning the grandeur of Jesus Christ's priesthood and then choosing not to participate, the author of Hebrews warns us of the dire consequences.

Hebrews 10:26-31

“<sup>26</sup>For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup>but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. <sup>28</sup>Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup>How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? <sup>30</sup>For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.’ And again, ‘The LORD will judge His people.’ <sup>31</sup>It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

What is the remedy?

Hebrews 4:14-16

“<sup>14</sup>Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in all things as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”