

# The Day of Atonement

Once a year, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month, the high priest of Israel was to enter the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle “to make atonement.” **Leviticus 16** provides all sorts of instructions about this annual “Day of Atonement”:

- **16:1-4**: how the high priest was to come into the Most Holy Place, wearing the holy garments
- **16:6**: offering a bull as a sacrifice for his own sins
- **16:5-10**: bringing two goats to the tabernacle; sacrificing one for the people’s sins and sending the other into the wilderness as a **“scapegoat”**

The high priest would lay both his hands on this goat’s head, confessing all the sins of the people of Israel.

“He shall \_\_\_\_\_ them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. The goat shall \_\_\_\_\_ all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.” (21-22)

## What did it all mean? What was happening?

“For on this day shall \_\_\_\_\_ be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the LORD from all your \_\_\_\_\_.” (16:30)

## But what does this have to do with our King?

...the LORD has \_\_\_\_\_ the iniquity of us all. (Isa 53:6)

Jesus was led “out” of Jerusalem to a place called Golgotha, the Place of a Skull (Matt 27:32; Mark 15:20; John 19:17). Listen carefully to **Hebrews 13:10-12**:

We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned \_\_\_\_\_ the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to \_\_\_\_\_ the people through his own \_\_\_\_\_.



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let’s think back through some of the language in **Hebrews 13**:
  - What is the “altar” we have “from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat”? (13:10)
  - What is the significance of Jesus suffering “outside the gate”?
  - Jesus suffered “in order to sanctify the people through his own blood” (13:12). In your own words, what does it mean to “sanctify”?
- “Therefore,” the *Hebrews* writer calls, “let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured” (13:13). What does this mean? What might it look like for us to answer this call?
- The New Testament word often used as a parallel to “atonement” is “propitiation.” Let’s open our Bibles back to **1 John 1:1-2:2** and read together. How would you summarize John’s message?