

PROPITIATION

Since October 12 is the eve of Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), I thought I would begin this new series of bible lesson entitled, Church Age doctrines, with the doctrine of Propitiation.

Yom Kippur taught that Christ would be the atoning sacrifice for the sin barrier between man and God. Unfortunately, many modern day Jews miss the spiritual or doctrinal lesson of the “atoning sacrifice” of Lev.16.

They take the Talmud’s works interpretation of Yom Kippur such as:

Do not eat food or drink for 25 hours,
Do not wear perfume,
Do not have sex,
Do not wash, and
Do not wear leather shoes

Rather than the grace fulfillment of the atoning blood sacrifice of shadow Christology of Lev.16 (Judaism 101).

“We maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law.” (Rom.3:28)

“But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction.” (Rom.3:21-22)

“The Greek word for propitiation, hilasterion, in Rom.3:25 and Heb.9:5 and the Hebrew word, kapporeth, in Exodus 25 and Lev.16, both literally mean, ‘lid,’ or ‘cover,’ and refers to the mercy seat over the ark of the covenant.” (Blood of Christ, pg.20, Thieme Jr)

Therefore, **propitiation** is rooted in Yom Kippur (covering of sins) of Old Covenant shadow Christology. In 1 Chron.28:11, the Holy of Holies is called the “house of the mercy seat” (beth ha kapporeth). In the OC, it was the place where propitiation took place for the priest nation of Israel.

This lesson will study FOUR aspects of the New Covenant doctrine of Propitiation.

Propitiation is one of the 50 things that every Church Age receives by grace at the moment salvation by faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. The following is a definition of the Church Age doctrine of propitiation

“Propitiation is the act of appeasing the God’s wrath against Adamic sin by sending His Son to become the atoning sacrifice.”

“God demonstrated His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, shall we be saved from wrath of God through Him.” (Rom.5:8-9)

“He is the atoning sacrifice (propitiation, NAS/ hilasmos) for our sins, and not only for our but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2, NIV)

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His as an atoning sacrifice (propitiation, NAS/ hilasmos) for our sins.” (1 John 4:10, NIV)

2. During Yom Kippur, the atoning sacrificial blood was sprinkled over the mercy seat with the “cherubim of Glories overshadowing the mercy seat.” (Heb.9:3-5)

Cherubim were involved with the judgment of AOS (Gen.3:24). Two metal cherubim were placed on the mercy seat (Ex.25:18-22). Cherubim were woven into the ten curtains of the Tabernacle (Ex.26:1). Cherubim were also woven into the veil of the Holy of Holies (Ex.26:31-34). Two wooden cherubim were made to stand in the Holy of Holies (1 Kings 6:23-28).

“In the OT, the cherubim were symbolic attendants that marked the place of the Lord’s enthronement in His earthly kingdom (1 Sam.4:4; 2 Sam.6:2; 2 Kings 19:15; Ps.99:1). (NIV, Ex.25:18)

“Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who sits enthroned between the cherubim.” (Ps.80:1)

In the NT, the place of the Lord’s enthronement in His earthly kingdom is the Church Age believer’s body (1 Cor.3:16; 6:19-20; John 14:16-17; Gal.2:20).

3. The mercy seat on top of the Ark of the Covenant containing the Law was God’s visual aid lesson that no one is declared righteous by works of the Law (Rom.3:20-28; Gal.2:16; 3:19-29).

The Ark of the Covenant was removed from Israel under the 5th cycle of divine discipline to Babylon (586BC) (Heb.9:5) [cannot speak in detail]

“Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.” (Rom.3:20)

“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.” (Rom.3:28)

“And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.” (Phil.3:9)

4. The propitious work of Jesus Christ on the cross offers unlimited atonement to all members of the human race on the basis of grace through faith (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16).

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, the veil of the Holy Holies was torn down (Matt.27:51). This finished or completed what had been started in 586BC with the removal of the ark of covenant (Matt.5:17; Rom.10:4; Heb.9:12).

“By abolishing in His flesh the enmity (13 judicial charges of AOS), which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.” (Eph.2:15-16)

Unlimited by grace on God’s side but limited by faith on man’s side (Eph.2:8-9; 2 Pet.3:9; Heb.2:9)

“He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)