

**Video:** Yom Kippur: <https://youtu.be/fssPmwOhRf0>

1. **The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur).** Leviticus 16 describes the annual ritual of Israel’s most holy day on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month. The name of this solemn day is given in Lev 23:27

Lev 23:27 Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the **Day of Atonement** (Yom Kippurim)...

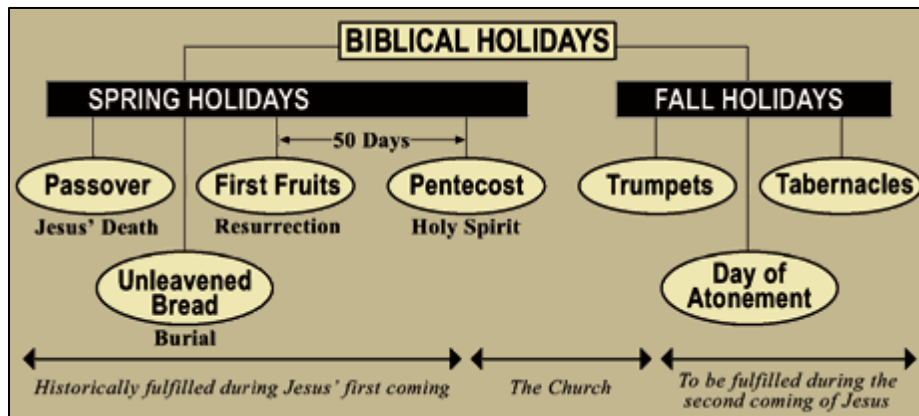
Literally translated it is **“a day of atonements** (plural)”. Atonement is mentioned 16 times in the 34 verses of Lev 16. Read Lev 16 and notice every occurrence of the word “atonement” or “atone.”

Another name that conveys the sense is “Day of **Purgation**.” Purgation is the act of purging or cleansing something by separating off the impurities. Think about a bodily detox/purge to remove toxins.

Read Lev 15:31. What gets defiled by the people’s sins? Like smog enveloping a city, the tabernacle gets defiled by the people’s sins and must be atoned for and cleansed along with the people on this special day.

| Atonement in Leviticus 16           |  | Verse References                |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Cleansing for People</b>         | Aaron                                  | 6, 11, 17, 24                   |
|                                     | Aaron’s house: the priests             | 6, 11, 17, 33                   |
|                                     | all the assembly / the people          | 17, 24, 33                      |
|                                     | “you” / people of Israel               | 30, 33, 34                      |
| <b>Cleansing for the Tabernacle</b> | the Most Holy place                    | 16, 20, 33                      |
|                                     | the Tent of Meeting / altar of incense | 16, 20, 33<br>Also see Ex 30:10 |
|                                     | the (bronze) altar                     | 18, 20, 33                      |

2. **The Prophetic Fall Holidays of Israel.** God appointed 7 annual holidays for Israel to observe: 4 were in the Spring, and 3 were in the Fall:



All the Fall Holidays occur in the **seventh** month (Tishri): Trumpets on the 1<sup>st</sup> day, Day of Atonement on the 10<sup>th</sup> day, and Tabernacles on the 15<sup>th</sup> day (lasting for 8 days). Just as the Spring Holidays had a prophetic significance and were fulfilled during Jesus’ **first coming**, we believe the Fall Holidays also have a future prophetic fulfillment during the **second coming** of Jesus.

Although Christians see in the Day of Atonement a picture of the historical death of Jesus, the full effects of that death will be seen in the future when Israel repents, Jesus raises the dead, judges the nations and “purges” the entire creation of its pollution from sin and death. Read Zech 3:9; 12:10; 13:1 and Rom 8:19-24.

3. **A Holy Assembly with Self Denial and No Work.** Read Lev 23:26-32.

- a. **A Holy Assembly.** The day was the most solemn of all the Old Testament rituals. So significant was it that in later Jewish tradition it came to be called just “The Day” (Yoma). It has been called the Good Friday of the Old Testament.

During this day the **most sacred person** (high priest) entered the **most sacred space** (holy of holies) on the **most sacred day** of the year (yom kippur) to perform the **most sacred ritual**.

- b. **Self-Denial.** Notice that God told them **3 times** to deny themselves (or “afflict yourselves” as some translations render it). This referred at a minimum to fasting food. In fact, in later Jewish tradition Yom Kippur was simply called “The Fast.” Read Acts 27:9 where Luke mentions it in Paul’s journey to Rome.
- c. **No Work.** There had to be a complete cessation of work. Absolutely no work or else it says that God would destroy them (vs 30). It was a “Sabbath of complete rest” (vs 32).

4. **The 5 Animals in the Ritual.** There were 5 animals in the Yom Kippur ritual described in Lev 16: 1 bull, 2 goats and 2 rams. The bull and 2 goats were used as sin offerings. The 2 rams were used as burnt offerings **after** the sin offerings were completed.

|                        | For Aaron and the priests  | For the people  |
|------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Sin offerings</b>   | 1 bull killed,<br>blood applied, fat burned on altar,<br>carcass burned outside camp | 1 goat killed<br>blood applied, fat burned on altar,<br>carcass burned outside camp |
|                        | 1 scapegoat sent away to Azazel in the wilderness                                    |   |
| <b>Burnt offerings</b> | 1 ram  | 1 ram   |

All of them are said to have “made atonement” (vv. 6, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 20, 24, 27, 30, 32, 33, 34).

Note: there were additional offerings (burnt, grain, sin) specified in Num 29:7-11 offered on Yom Kippur along with the daily offerings (burnt, grain, drink), but these were not part of the main ritual in Lev 16.

5. **Aaron’s Preparation.** God warned Aaron to take the necessary precautions to avoid death when he came into the Most Holy place. Aaron knew God was serious... 2 of Aaron’s son had died due to their negligence. These consisted of bathing, clothing, the incense cloud, and bringing a sin offering for himself first.

- a. **Bathing/Clothing.** Read Lev 16:4 and 16:23-24.

Aaron had to take **2 complete baths**: one before he went into the Most Holy place for the Sin offerings, and another after the Sin Offerings were completed but prior to the Burnt offerings. During the Sin Offerings he had to remove his normal high priestly attire, his garments of “glory and beauty” (Ex 28:2) and put on simple **linen** garments. This represented an expression of **humility** when appearing before Yahweh.

After completion of his sin offering ritual, and before appearing to the people for the burnt offerings, he had to remove the linen garments and put back on his normal garments. In John 19:23 the soldiers disrobed Jesus for crucifixion. After his death Jesus was wrapped in linen garments (John 19:40)

- b. **Incense Cloud.** Read Lev 16:12-13. The incense used had to be “beaten small.” Upon entering the Most Holy place Aaron had to make an incense cloud to obscure his vision of Yahweh in the glory cloud above the cherubim.
- c. **Aaron’s Sin Offering.** Unlike our high priest Jesus, Aaron was sinful so had to bring a Sin offering first for himself (and the priesthood) before he could offer on behalf of the people. Note the 7 times in Lev 16 where it mentions that Aaron was bringing an offering “for himself” Lev 16:6 [2x], 11 [3x], 17, 24