

1. Day of Atonement:

- **Leviticus 23:26-28**
- Hebrew: *Yom Ha Kippurim* (plural)
- Based on the verb *Kapar* (כָּפַר) –
 - To make atonement, to make reconciliation, to purge.¹
- The noun *Koper* (כֹּפֵר) helps us understand the concept –
 - Ransom, a gift to secure favor
 - Ransom by offering a substitute – the blood (life) of the sacrificial animal is a substitute for the worshiper's life.
 - Illustrates the **theology of reconciliation** – securing favor with God by offering a substitute.
- Noun *Kippur* (כִּיפּוּר) –
 - Atonement, Mercy Seat (atonement cover).
 - The Mercy Seat is where the blood of the sacrificial animal is sprinkled.

2. Scapegoat ceremony:

- **Leviticus 16:7-10**
- The first goat is a sin offering (substitute) to God – the blood of the goat is sprinkled on the Mercy Seat (atonement cover).
- The second goat – the scapegoat – symbolizes the removal of sin from the community.
- **Scarlet Thread** – the priest tied a scarlet thread to the head of the scapegoat for identification.
- The scapegoat is removed from the city and pushed off a cliff to ensure death.

3. “the goat for *Azazel*”:

- *Azazel* – departs, banish, remove, take away.
- Symbolic of the physical removal of that which defiles – removing the sin

4. Ancient Near East Concept of Sin:

- “Sin” had “thingness” that created something tangible in the cosmos that God’s eyes could see.
- **Psalm 103:8-12** – recalls Exodus 34 and God’s attributes.
- **Micah 7:18-19** – hurling sin into the depths of the sea.
- The ancient mind prefers concrete conceptions – like a scapegoat ritual – to communicate God’s desire to forgive his people.

¹ R. Laird Harris, “1023 כָּפַר,” ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 452.

5. Jesus as the scapegoat -

- The scapegoat ceremony – **Matthew 27:15-18**
- Two similar options are presented – they are both named Jesus (Ya's Salvation).

Barabbas	Jesus
“son of the father”	“the Christ” (Messiah) (Matt. 27:17)
Jesus Barabbas	Jesus the Christ
Set free	Scapegoat

6. John 19:15 -

- “away with him” -
- Hebrew *Azazel*

7. Miracle of the Scarlet Thread -

- The scarlet thread placed on the scapegoat would be removed and displayed at the Temple.
- The scarlet thread would turn white each year, signifying God's acceptance of the offering.
 - **Isaiah 1:18**
- In the **Babylonian Talmud, Yoma 39b**, there is an interesting note about the scarlet thread –

“but during the forty years prior to the destruction of the Second Temple, the lot for God did not arise in the High Priest's right hand at all. So too, the **strip of crimson wool that was tied to the head of the goat that was sent to Azazel did not turn white**, and the westernmost lamp of the candelabrum did not burn continually.”

Babylonian Talmud, Yoma 39b

8. Jesus' Crucifixion –

Jesus Crucifixion	Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem
Approx. 30 AD	70 AD