

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophecy -Message Six: The Expiation

I. Overview:

Because of the negative situation of God's people, as portrayed in chapters 11 through 15, there is the need of redemption. Chapter 16 of Leviticus describes the expiation, which is a type, a shadow of redemption. Verses 15-19 presents a picture of the accomplishing of expiation, the covering of sins. Christ as the sin offering for God's people, on the one hand, deals with our sin before God and, on the other hand, sends sin, through the efficacy of the cross, back to Satan. The expiation in the Old Testament is a type of the propitiation in the New Testament. . The tax collector in Luke 18 is an illustration of the need of propitiation. Christ is the One who makes propitiation to God for us, He is the propitiatory sacrifice, and He is also the propitiation place. Because of the sprinkling of His redeeming blood, the cover of the Ark has become a propitiation cover, a place where God may contact us and where we may enjoy His grace.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. How's expiation of Old Testament point to redemption of New Testament?

Because of the negative situation of God's people as portrayed in Leviticus 11 to 15, according to God's divine economy there is the need of redemption. Because the Old Testament time was not the time for redemption to take place, a type, a shadow was needed. This shadow is the expiation. The expiation in the Old Testament is a type pointing to the redemption accomplished by Christ in the New Testament.

B. What is the type of the slaughtered goat as the sin offering?

The slaughtered goat of the sin offering is a type of Christ, who was made in the likeness of the flesh of sin, being the sin offering for us, the sinners. When Christ was incarnated, He became one with us in the flesh. He did not know sin, but He was made sin on our behalf to be judged by God, and thereby God condemned sin in the flesh and we also became one with Him in His resurrection.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the accomplishing of expiation and its effectiveness.

The second step for the accomplishing of expiation was to bring the blood of the goat inside the veil and sprinkle it on and before the expiation cover. It was for the fulfillment of God's requirement so that God might have fellowship with the approaching one. By the lid of the Ark, with the expiating blood sprinkled on it, the entire situation of the sinner was fully covered. Therefore, upon this lid God could meet with the people to show mercy and grace to them.

B. How are both God and man satisfied through the blood sprinkled on the expiation cover and on the altar?

The blood of the bull and the goat was not only put on and around the horns of the altar but also sprinkled on the altar seven times. The blood sprinkled on the altar was for the peace of the sinner, but the blood sprinkled on the expiation cover was for God's satisfaction. The blood was sprinkled first on the expiation cover. This was for God to see. It was for His satisfaction. Then the blood was sprinkled on the offering altar in the outer court. This was for the sinner to see. It was for his satisfaction.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the two hands of Christ as the sin offering for God's people are.

Azazel signifies Satan, the devil, the one who is the source, the origin, of sin. The goat that was for Jehovah was to be killed, but the goat that was for Azazel was to be sent away into the wilderness to bear away all the iniquities of the Israelites. This signifies that Christ as the sin offering for God's people, on the one hand, deals with our sin before God and, on the other hand, sends sin, through the efficacy of the cross, back to Satan.

B. Explain Christ makes propitiation for our sins with Hebrews 2:17.

In Hebrews 2:17 the Lord Jesus makes propitiation for our sins to reconcile us to God by satisfying God's righteous demands on us. Through His work on the cross Christ made propitiation for our sins. By appeasing God's righteousness and all His requirements on us, Christ has settled every problem between us and God.

Day 4 —

A. How was the sinner's situation covered by the lid of the Ark?

The propitiation place is typified in Exodus 25:17 by the sin-covering lid. The Ark was the place where God met with people. Underneath the lid of the Ark was the law; above the lid of the Ark were the two cherubim. Unless these requirements were fulfilled and God was satisfied, there was no way for sinners to contact God. However, by the lid of the Ark with the blood sprinkled on it on the Day of Expiation, the entire situation on the sinner's side was fully covered.

B. Explain the meaning of the propitiation.

Propitiation means to make us one with God. Because of our sins, that kept us away from God's presence and hindered God from coming to us. Therefore, we needed propitiation. Christ accomplished this on the cross, He offered Himself as the propitiatory sacrifice for our sins to solve our problems with God. In His death He propitiated for us and brought us back to God, making us one with God.

Day 5 —

A. How can God speak with the people on the propitiatory cover?

Through Christ, both the demands of God's law and the requirements of God's glory have been satisfied. Now we can meet with God in glory on the propitiatory cover sprinkled with the blood. By the lid of the Ark with the redeeming blood sprinkled on it the whole situation on the sinner's side is fully taken care of. Thus on the propitiatory cover, God can speak with the people and these people can receive grace from Him.

B. Why couldn't we come to God if the Ark didn't have the propitiatory cover?

The Ark can become our enjoyment only because of the lid which covers it. If the Ark did not have the propitiatory cover as a lid, we could not come to God, and God could not come to us. The propitiatory cover is needed by both God and us for the Ark to become our enjoyment. Now because of the propitiatory cover, we have a way to meet with God and speak with Him.

Day 6 —

A. What's the difference between the two Testaments of the propitiation and what is the meaning of the blood being sprinkled on the lid of the Ark seven times?

In the Old Testament, the lid of the Ark as a type of propitiation place was hidden in the Holy of Holies; in the New Testament, Christ as the reality of the propitiation place is openly set forth before all men. The blood was sprinkled on the lid of the Ark seven times, signifying completeness. Through the sprinkling of the blood, the golden lid became red in color. Therefore, because of the blood of redemption, we today can have fellowship with the righteous God in the glory of Christ.

B. How do we experience this matter of the blood on the propitiatory cover?

It is very real in our experience with this matter of the blood on the propitiatory cover. When we repented, God met us and spoke to us. At that time we had the deep sense that we were washed by the blood of Jesus Christ. Now whenever we meet with God in glory, we have the sense deep within that we are washed by the blood.

III. Conclusion:

The expiation in Leviticus 16 is a type of the propitiation in the New Testament. Propitiation is to appease our situation with God and to reconcile us to God. On the Day of Expiation the blood of the sin offering was brought into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled on the expiation cover, until Christ came to accomplish redemption by offering Himself as the propitiatory sacrifice to take away man's sin. Christ Himself is not only the propitiation for our sins, but also the sacrifice for our propitiation before God. And He is also the propitiation place, the propitiatory cover, and the throne of grace; in Hebrews 4:16 this place is the the cover of the Ark on which Christ sprinkled the blood He shed on the cross for our redemption. Because of the sprinkling of His redeeming blood, the cover of the Ark has become a propitiation cover, a place where God may contact us and where we may enjoy His grace in full.