

Atonement – *[kaphar]* 1 to cover, purge, make an atonement, make reconciliation¹

God and man, then, are hopelessly estranged by man's sin, and there is no way back from man's side. But God provides the way. In the OT atonement is usually said to be obtained by the sacrifices, but it must never be forgotten that God says of atoning blood, 'I have given it for you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls' (Lv. 17:11). Atonement is secured, not by any value inherent in the sacrificial victim, but because sacrifice is the divinely appointed way of securing atonement. The sacrifices point us to certain truths concerning atonement. Thus the victim must always be unblemished, which indicates the necessity for perfection. The victims cost something, for atonement is not cheap, and sin is never to be taken lightly. The death of the victim was the important thing.²

As a term expressing relationship, atonement is tied closely to such terms as reconciliation and forgiveness.³

Scapegoat— *[‘aza’zel]* 1 entire removal, scapegoat.

1A refers to the goat used for sacrifice for the sins of the people.¹

The actual use and meaning of this word in Lev 16 is at best uncertain. However, regardless of its precise meaning, the significant dimension is the removal of the sins of the nation by the imposition of them on the goat. In this passage sin seems to be hypostatized and therefore readily transferrable to the goat. Indeed vss 21 and 22 state that this goat is to bear away the sin of the people. Such a ritual would illustrate vividly the physical removal of defilement from the camp to a solitary place where it would no longer infest the nation.⁴

¹ Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.

² Morris, L. L. (1996). *Atonement*. In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 102). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

³ Lyon, R. W., & Toon, P. (1988). *Atonement*. In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 231). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

⁴ Schultz, C. (1999). *1593 לְאַפָּרֶת*. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 658). Chicago: Moody Press.