

# Leviticus 16:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

## Analysis

**And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.**

This verse falls within the section on **Day of Atonement**. The most sacred day in Israel's calendar, when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies to make atonement for all Israel's sins.

The Hebrew word kaphar (כִּפּוּר) means 'to cover' or 'to make atonement.' The sacrificial system provided temporary covering for sin, pointing forward to Christ's perfect, once-for-all sacrifice.

The New Testament reveals that Christ's sacrifice accomplishes what the Levitical system could only symbolize—complete forgiveness and restoration of relationship with God.

## Historical Context

The most sacred day in Israel's calendar, when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies to make atonement for all Israel's sins. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) described in chapter 16 became Israel's most sacred day. Only on this annual day could the high priest enter the Holy of Holies, making atonement for the entire nation. This ceremony, still observed in Judaism, found ultimate fulfillment in

Christ's entrance into heaven itself (Hebrews 9:11-12). Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. The Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. In what ways does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ's atoning sacrifice and the seriousness of sin?
2. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

## Interlinear Text

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עֹלֶם	עוֹלֶם	לְמִקְדָּשׁ	לְמִקְדָּשׁ	לְכַפֵּר	לְכַפֵּר	עַל	בְּנֵי	מִקְדָּשׁ	יִשְׂרָאֵל
H1961	H2063	H0	statute	And this shall be an everlasting		H2708		H5769	
unto you to make an atonement						H3722		H1121	
for all their sins	once	a year	And he did	commanded		H2403	H259	H8141	H6680
as the LORD	H853	Moses				H3068		H4872	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 9:7** (Parallel theme): But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

**Hebrews 9:25** (Parallel theme): Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

**Exodus 30:10** (Sin): And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.

**Hebrews 10:14** (Parallel theme): For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

**Hebrews 10:3** (Sin): But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

