

Leviticus 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

Analysis

And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

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 Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel, offering sacrifices and maintaining the tabernacle. This prefigured Christ's superior priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.

The holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

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. Ancient sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

וְנִתְּ	וְאֶהְרָ	עַל	שְׁנֵי י	הַשְּׁעִיר ׀	וְגֹבֹ ל	וְגֹבֹ ל
shall cast	And Aaron	H5921	upon the two	goats	lot	lot
H5414	H175		H8147	H8163	H1486	H1486
אֶחָ ד	לַיהוָה	וְגֹבֹ ל	אֶחָ ד	לְעִזָּאזִל:		
and the other	for the LORD	lot	and the other	for the scapegoat		
H259	H3068	H1486	H259	H5799		
