

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

וְגַזְעַק לְוְגַעַק לְהַשְׁעֵיר מְשִׁנְיָה עַל אַבְרָהָם יְנַתָּת

shall cast And Aaron H5921 upon the two goats lot lot
H5414 H175 H8147 H8163 H1486 H1486

לְעַזְזָאֵל אֶת לְיִהְעַנְה אֶת לְגַעַק לְעַזְזָאֵל

and the other for the LORD lot and the other for the scapegoat
H259 H3068 H1486 H259 H5799