

God deals with ALL sin and impurity



‘This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: on the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work – whether native-born or a foreigner residing among you – because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the Lord, you will be clean from all your sins. It is a day of sabbath rest, and you must deny yourselves; it is a lasting ordinance. The priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as high priest is to make atonement. He is to put on the sacred linen garments and make atonement for the Most Holy Place, for the tent of meeting and the altar, and for the priests and all the members of the community.

‘This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites.’

And it was done, as the Lord commanded Moses.

~ Leviticus 16:29-34 (NIV) ~

When you spill a drink on the floor, hopefully you clean it up straight away. But when you clean up the spill you are only cleaning that one piece of the house, not the whole house.

And it was a little bit like that with the laws God had given his people about what they needed to do to be holy after something had made them unholy. It was like just fixing up a spilt drink. But what about making everything clean and holy?

Well God needs people to be completely holy to be part of his family, so God gave his people a way for that to happen. Once a year, every year, the Jewish High Priest had to do a special sacrifice of a goat and then send a second goat away from the people, as a sign that God had gotten rid of all the people’s sin and impurity.

But this had to happen every year.

Every year God's people had to sacrifice a goat and send another goat out into the wilderness.

This was until Jesus came.

When Jesus came, he **was** the sacrifice to deal with all the world's sin and impurity. Jesus died once and for all, so that anyone who trusts in him can have all their sin and impurity forgiven and become part of God's forever family.

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Some questions to think about:

1. Why did God's people have to do a special sacrifice every year?
2. Why did God tell his people to send a goat away from their community?
3. What changed when Jesus came?
4. How do you feel about Jesus being the once and for all sacrifice so that we can be part of God's forever family?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that Jesus came to deal with all sin and impurity. Thank you that you were the sacrifice that makes it possible for us to be part of God's forever family. Please help us to live your way.

Amen.