

The Lord's Scapegoat

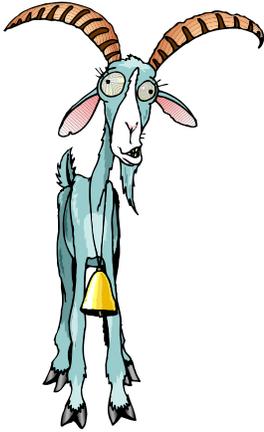


Illustration: A pure white male goat. We have taught this from a round pen setup; have taught this also inside a gym with a tarp placed underneath the goat. Either way, you have the children's attention from the beginning.

Key Verse: [Leviticus 16: 5-10](#)

5And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

6And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

7And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

8And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

9And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD's lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.

10But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

Introduction:

I have two very special young friends in NC that touched my heart several years ago and illustrate what I want to share with you today. Emily and Seth are brother and sister. Emily watched over her brother like a guardian angel. She constantly "had his back" patiently and lovingly watching out for him. I remember when Seth was beginning to understand that he needed the Savior, the Lord Jesus. He would come to talk to me at "salvation" question time week after week; didn't quite understand. He was one of those kids that when he did understand, then he immediately accepted Jesus' payment for his sins and whole heartedly accepted with faith unwavering.

At home evidently Seth had gotten into some mischief and needed some correcting and even some punishment. Emily stepped in and became his "advocate" and she said, no, Seth doesn't fully get it; I will take his punishment for him ! WOW, what kind of sister loves like that?

You see Emily knew something very special about Seth, he was born with a condition called Down's. Her love and compassion for him, her brother, was such that she wanted to take his punishment for him, she didn't feel he understood that payment was due for his transgressions.

Message:

Let's read Leviticus 16: 5-10 and I will explain.

The goat that was selected to die [called the Lord's goat] represents Jesus Christ. This is 1500 years before Jesus is born.

The scapegoat represents us "presented alive before the Lord." And then the scapegoat was set free. Jesus' death was the reason we can be forgiven and set free.

God had Moses establish this 3500 years ago, that is 1500 years before Jesus was born because He had in mind from before the beginning that Jesus would pay for our sins.

Rev. 13:8b "... of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Ephesians 1:4a "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,...."

When God the Father and God the Son made the first man, Adam, God the Father allowed HIS SON to step forward to say: I know man will sin, will cause me much grief, will require me to leave the throne of heaven, and die on a cross for all their sins. But Father, Adam and all mankind is worth my sacrifice.

Jesus **is** represented as the Lord's goat and His sacrifice was **more** than giving of His earthly life. Jesus came to give His earthly life, but he came to suffer in more ways than we can imagine.

Jesus agonizes in the garden. What would cause Him to be so stressed? Jesus' sacrifice was bigger than we can know. He would be betrayed by Judas, one of his twelve, and then forsaken by the rest. He was falsely accused and lies were told about him. They beat him, tortured Him, then nailed Him to the cross.

But this was not what bothered him; not what broke His heart.

We find out back in the Garden of Gethsemane what truly was causing Jesus so much agony.

Matthew 26:38-39

38Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

39And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Jesus was not agonizing over the physical pain, nor the public humiliation, not even being abandoned by his disciples that he had trained.

Jesus was agonizing over the fact that when He took my sin and your sin upon himself, that God would have to turn His back on His only son. For the very first time, and only time in all eternity, God the Father and God the Son were out of fellowship. For the first time in all eternity, Jesus Christ, God the Son, was truly alone.

But because of His sacrifice as the "Lord's goat"; we the "scapegoat" were set free.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Jesus took our punishment through his death on the cross. Then he rose from death three days later and ascended to heaven to show us that we too will be with him for all eternity in heaven if we put our faith in Jesus and repent of our sins that caused Jesus to be crucified.

Acts 1: 11 "...ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Are you saved and sure you are ready to go when he comes for you? If you are saved, are you just standing around looking into the heavens or are you bringing your friends and family to church?