



The Cleansing of the Jewish Sanctuary

Daniel 8:14 says, “*Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*”

To most of us, it seems foreign for anything or any place that gives sanctuary to the presence of God (no pun intended) to require cleansing.

The word for “cleansing” in the original language is *ṣāḏaq* (pronounced tsaw-dak')

Ṣāḏaq is typically translated as – “Justified” or “Righteous” and almost always relates to a person or individual. Daniel 8:14 appears to be one of the only places in Scripture that uses the word *ṣāḏaq* in relation to an inanimate object (the sanctuary).

So the question is—What occurred to require the sanctuary to need justifying?

To answer this question, we understand that an animal had to be sacrificed in order for the Jews to receive forgiveness of sin (see Hebrews 9:22).

Here is what typically occurred during the sacrifice for sin:

...if his sin, wherein he hath sinned, come to his knowledge; he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a male without blemish: And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat, and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering before the LORD: it is a sin offering. Leviticus 4:23-24

And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock before the LORD: and the bullock shall be killed before the LORD. Leviticus 4:15

Did you notice they are laying hands upon the head of the goat? Why would they do that?

Understand that when the children of Israel placed their hands upon the head of the goat, they were symbolically transferring their sins to the animal.

Now once the animal had the sins placed on it, then he was then killed.

Q. According to **Romans 6:23**, why was the goat killed?

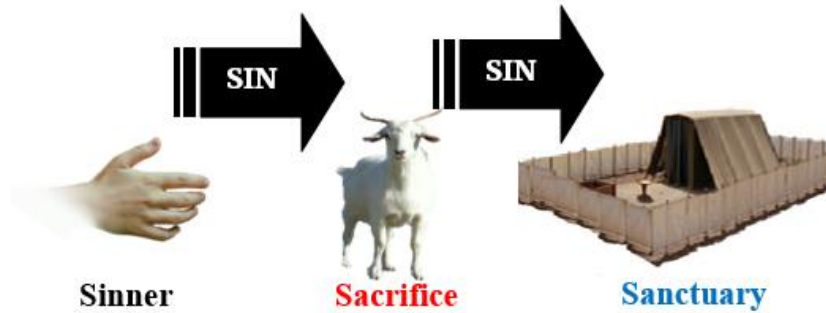
A. Because the sins were placed on the goat, the goat became the recipient of sins wages....which is death instead of the real offender.

The sacrificial system didn't end once the goat or lamb was killed.

And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out his blood at the bottom of the altar of burnt offering. Leviticus 4:25

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Understand the sequence of events:



It is very important that you understand this sequence of events. The sinner placed his hand over the head of the goat or lamb, his or her sins are symbolically transferred to the animal and then the animal is slain...but the blood is now transferred into the sanctuary.

Please understand that when the priest carried the blood into the sanctuary, he symbolically TRANSFERRED those sins to the sanctuary!

This sin offering occurred every day of the year. **Hebrews 7:27** says, "*Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's...*"

The Once-a-Year Service

Now because those sins were transferred to the sanctuary every day...there came one day of the year that required the sins to be officially removed from the sanctuary. We call this day, the Day of Atonement, Israel called in Yom Kippur...but Daniel called it, the CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY.

The Bible is clear on this once-a-year service: Notice what it says in **Hebrews 9:7** - *Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. 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.*

The Day of Atonement wasn't just for the people, it was also an atonement for the sanctuary!

*And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. **Leviticus 16:16***

In the original language, atonement means to disannul, forgive, pardon, purge, or cleanse.

So, understand the cleansing of the sanctuary was not about dirt...it was about removing the sins that were symbolically placed there.

According to **Leviticus 16:21**, what happened to those sins on the day of atonement?

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Leviticus 16:21 says, “And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness”

The sins that were committed by the sinner, were confessed and transferred to the sacrificial offering. When the sacrifice was slain, its blood was carried into the sanctuary transferring those sins therein. Then on the day of atonement at the end of the sacrificial service, the high priest confessed the sins over a second goat (we call it the live goat or the scapegoat) and then all the sins that were atoned from the daily sacrifices were symbolically transferred to the Scapegoat and he was sent away into the wilderness never to return.

The Day of Atonement was essentially a disposal of the atoned sins from the sanctuary!

What was the job of the people on The Day of Atonement?

*Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. **Leviticus 23:27-29***

The people’s duty was to be afflicted. This affliction was physically a fast, but spiritually it was a humbling of self, it was contemplating the God of heaven and understanding that only by His mercy that they were not consumed. And if you did not have this attitude during the day of atonement, you were cut off in your sins.

This reveals that the Day of Atonement was not just the removal of sins, but it was a type of judgment for the Children of Israel.