

# Prequels to Calvary — Part 3

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## Prequels to Calvary — a three-week study

*Prequel* — there is something in the Old Testament that points toward what happens later in the New Testament

1) Serpent     2) Sheep     3) Ram     4) Scapegoat

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### Scapegoat

- **Leviticus 16: 1-22, 33-34**

And the Lord spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the Lord, and died; 2 And the Lord said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat. 3 Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on. 5 And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goat for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. 6 And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house. 7 And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the Lord's lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. 10 But 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. 11 And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself: 12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the Lord, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: 13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: 14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. 15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: 16 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. 17 And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel. 18 And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the Lord, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. 19 And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. 20 And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the

congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: 21 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: 22 And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness. 33 And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation. 34 And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the Lord commanded Moses.

- in early America, practice of the “Sin Eater” — paid to “eat” sins (food, drink left by corpse) of one who died suddenly; take sin and judgement away from the house
- other rituals to ward off evil: hex signs — apotropaic rituals to turn away harm
- mistake to identify Yom Kippur; Day of Atonement, as Apotropaic Ritual

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### Three animals used in Yom Kippur in Moses' time

- each had specific function; when one died, others were needed to complete cleansing
- 1st — young bullock — sin offering for Aaron and his house
- 2nd — first goat used as sacrificial sin offering — corporate sin for children of Israel
- 3rd — second goat used as scapegoat

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### Scapegoat

- live goat brought before congregation
- all sins of children of Israel for the year, pressed down upon head of goat
- goat bearing the sins lead into the desert by strong man, can't bring sin back
- later tradition, goat in wilderness was pushed over cliff and killed, to assure no return

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### Jesus as Scapegoat

- all sin of corporate humanity, for all time pressed heavily on Him
- He who knew no sin, became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- on the cross is the only time in New Testament where Jesus, in conversation with His Father, did not call God His Father
- “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?’” (Matthew 27:46)
- God cannot have fellowship with sin
- Jesus as sin/scapegoat, cast out, sent away; with sin never to return

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### **Not only to take away sin but to bear pain**

- we are all getting healed from something
- press down our pain, wounds, and rejection on Jesus
- Jesus can bear it away, and it will not come back
- gives us peace in the middle of the storm
- this is the day of atonement

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### **When you receive Jesus**

- don't have to live in fear; no last rites
- my death died when He died
- He was rejected — I am accepted
- He was abandoned — I am adopted
- He was trampled — I am made whole

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why were two different goats needed to cover sins?
2. Why did Jesus not call God His *Father*, when He was on the cross?
3. Does knowing that He can bear your pain, *as well as* save your soul, encourage/comfort you?
4. Had you ever thought of Jesus as a scapegoat? Does that metaphor work?