

Handout 1: Leviticus Lesson 7

Chapter 15 addresses Yahweh's instructions to Moses and Aaron concerning:

1. Contagious venereal disease
2. Normal seminal discharges
3. Menstruation of women

The instructions follow this basic outline:

- I. Israelite males (vs. 1-18)
 - a. abnormal discharges from sex organs (vs. 1-15)
 - b. normal seminal emissions (vs. 16-18)
- II. Israelite females (vs. 19-30)
 - a. women in menstruates (vs. 19-24)
 - b. abnormal vaginal discharges of blood (vs. 25-30)
- III. Conclusion (vs. 31-33)

Yahweh's instructions for Moses and Aaron in chapters 11 through 15 have been concerned with four kinds of possible personal defilement for the covenant people that made them ineligible for worship in the Sanctuary. Included in the list of ritual impurities there was also instruction on the necessary rituals to re-instate the covenant member to the community and the Sanctuary after the person was cured of the impurity and/or had observed the prescribed period of separation:

1. Defilement through eating unclean foods.
2. The necessity for ritual purification after childbirth.
3. Defilement by contracting a contagious skin disease.
4. Defilement through sexual impurities.

As Leviticus 15:31 states, the primary objective of both the priests and the people is to maintain a pure Sanctuary as a dwelling place for Yahweh. A Sanctuary that is impure or defiled cannot be a place where a pure and holy God can dwell in the midst of His people. From where do the two major threats to the Sanctuary's purity come?

1. From the covenant people who were responsible for maintaining their own purity so as not to defile the Sanctuary with an impure worshipper.
2. From the priesthood that performs their liturgical duties within the Sanctuary's precincts who were responsible for its maintenance, for providing the liturgy of worship and expiation for the people, and for maintaining the Sanctuary's sanctity.

Scholars have long debated what exactly is meant by *Azazel*. This Hebrew word is found nowhere else in the Bible except in Leviticus chapter 16 where it appears four times (Lev 16:8, 10 = twice and 26). There are at least four explanations:

1. It is the name of the place to which the live goat will be taken.
2. It is the designation/description of the live goat.
3. It is an abstract noun signifying "complete removal."
4. It is the name of a desert demon or for Satan.

Handout 2: Leviticus Lesson 7

Animal Sacrifice on the Feast of Atonement—Yom Kippur (10 th of Tishri) Ex 30:10; Lev 16:1-34; 23:26-32; Num 29:7-11; Heb 9:6-14; <i>Mishnah: Yoma</i>		
Sacrifice	Purpose	Sacrifice and Blood Ritual to Expiate the Sanctuary
1. bull calf	After the morning Tamid service: the bull was offered as the High Priest's sin sacrifice for himself and his family (Lev 16:6).	<u>Expiation for the Tabernacle:</u> -Sprinkled on the east side of the Mercy-seat in the Holy of Holies (Lev 16:14). -Sprinkled 7 times in front of the Mercy-seat (Lev 16:14). -Fat burned on the Altar and the animal's body entirely burned outside the camp (Ex 29:14; Lev 4:11-12; 16:27).
2. he-goat #1	Confession of the people's sin and sacrificed for the sins of the people (Lev 16:15). Goat #1 and #2 were considered to be a single sacrifice representing both life and death (Lev 16:5).	<u>Expiation for the Tabernacle:</u> -Sprinkled on the east side of the Mercy-seat in the Holy of Holies (Lev 16:15). -Sprinkled in front of the Mercy-seat 7 times (Lev 16:15). -Smearred on the horns of the Altar of Incense and sprinkled 7 times mixed with the bull's blood (Ex 30:10). <u>Expiation for the Courtyard Altar:</u> -Remaining blood of the bull and goat poured out at the base of the Altar (Lev 4:18). -Fat burned on the Altar and the animal's body entirely burned outside the camp (Lev 16:25, 27).
3. he-goat #2	-Confession of the people's sin and laying the sins of the people upon the life of the goat (Lev 20-22). -The live goat bears away the sins of the people into the wilderness (Lev 16:23).	
4. ram #1	Whole burnt offering for the High priest (Lev 16:24).	According to the ritual in Lev 1:10-13: the animal's blood splashed around the courtyard Altar and the entire animal burned on the Altar.
5. ram #2 also a young bull and seven yearling sheep with grain offerings	Whole burnt offerings for the community (Lev 16:24; Num 29:8-9).	According to the ritual in Lev 1:10-13: the animal's blood splashed around the courtyard Altar and the entire animal burned on the Altar. The whole burnt offerings were sacrificed at the same time as the afternoon Tamid.