

**The Book of Leviticus:  
Why It Matters to Christians**

**“Day Of Atonement”**

**Leviticus 16**



# Leviticus

Week	Date	Topic
1	Oct 1	Leviticus Introduction
2	Oct 8	Sacrifices: Leviticus 1-7
3	Oct 15	Priesthood of Aaron: Leviticus 8-10
4	Oct 22	Ritual Cleanliness: Leviticus 11-15
5	Oct 29	Day of Atonement: Leviticus 16
6	Nov 5	Holiness of Conduct: Leviticus 17-20
7	Nov 12	Holiness of Priests: Leviticus 21-22
8	Nov 19	Sabbath and Feasts: Leviticus 23
9	Nov 26	Preparation and Punishments: Leviticus 24
10	Dec 3	Sanctification of the Land: Leviticus 25
11	Dec 10	Promises and Warnings: Leviticus 26
12	Dec 17	Vows and Redemption of Tithes: Leviticus 27
13	Dec 24	Summary class

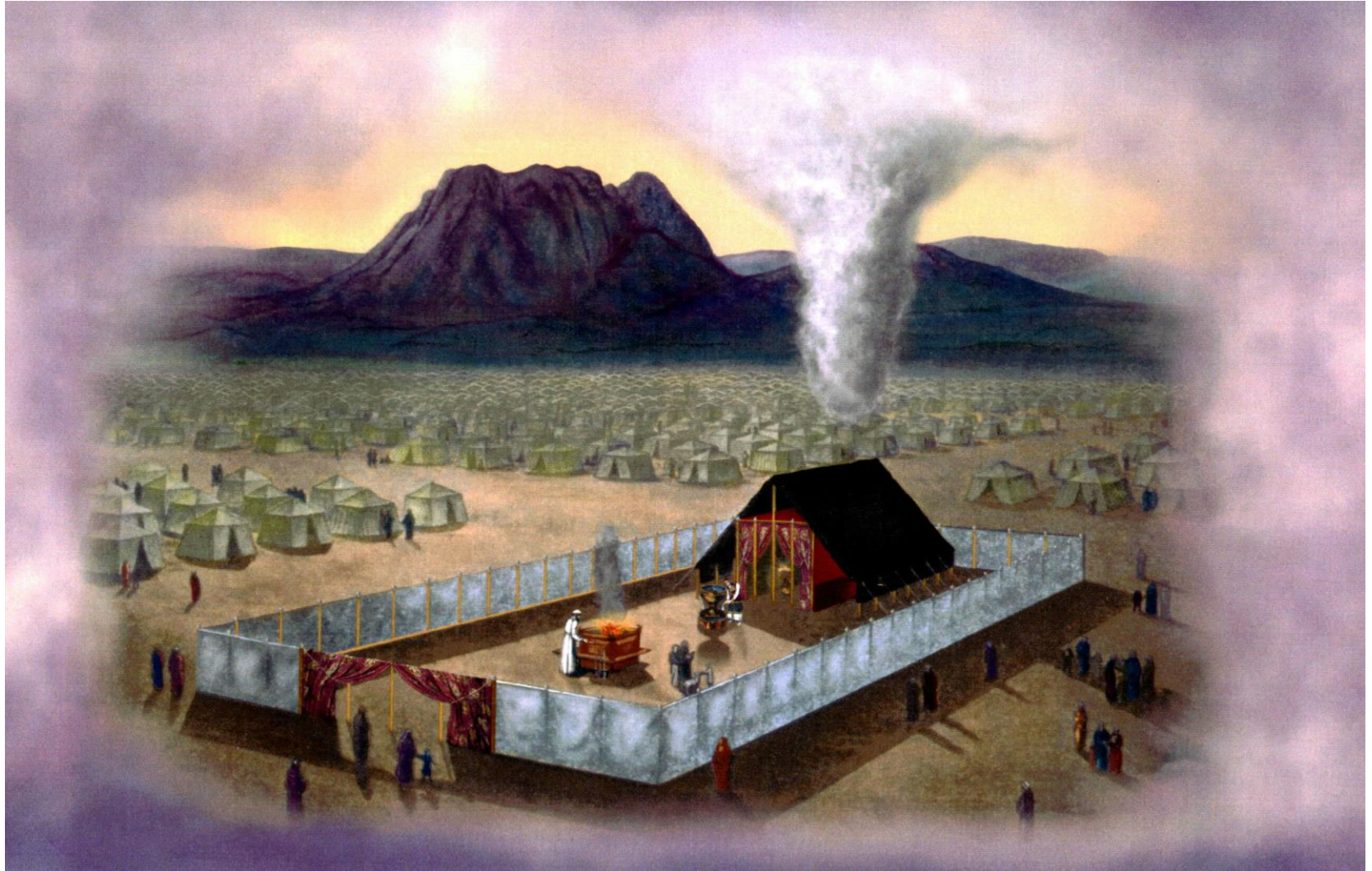
# Today's Objectives

- Review the last week's lesson from last week
- Look at various terms used in today's lesson
- Review the “old way” that sins were atoned through the annual Day of Atonement
- Examine the ceremonies that the high priest was to undertake to ensure the sacrifice was worthy
- Learn about the duty of the people and the promise of God
- Learn about the “new way” in which sins are atoned as outlined in Hebrews 9

# Last week

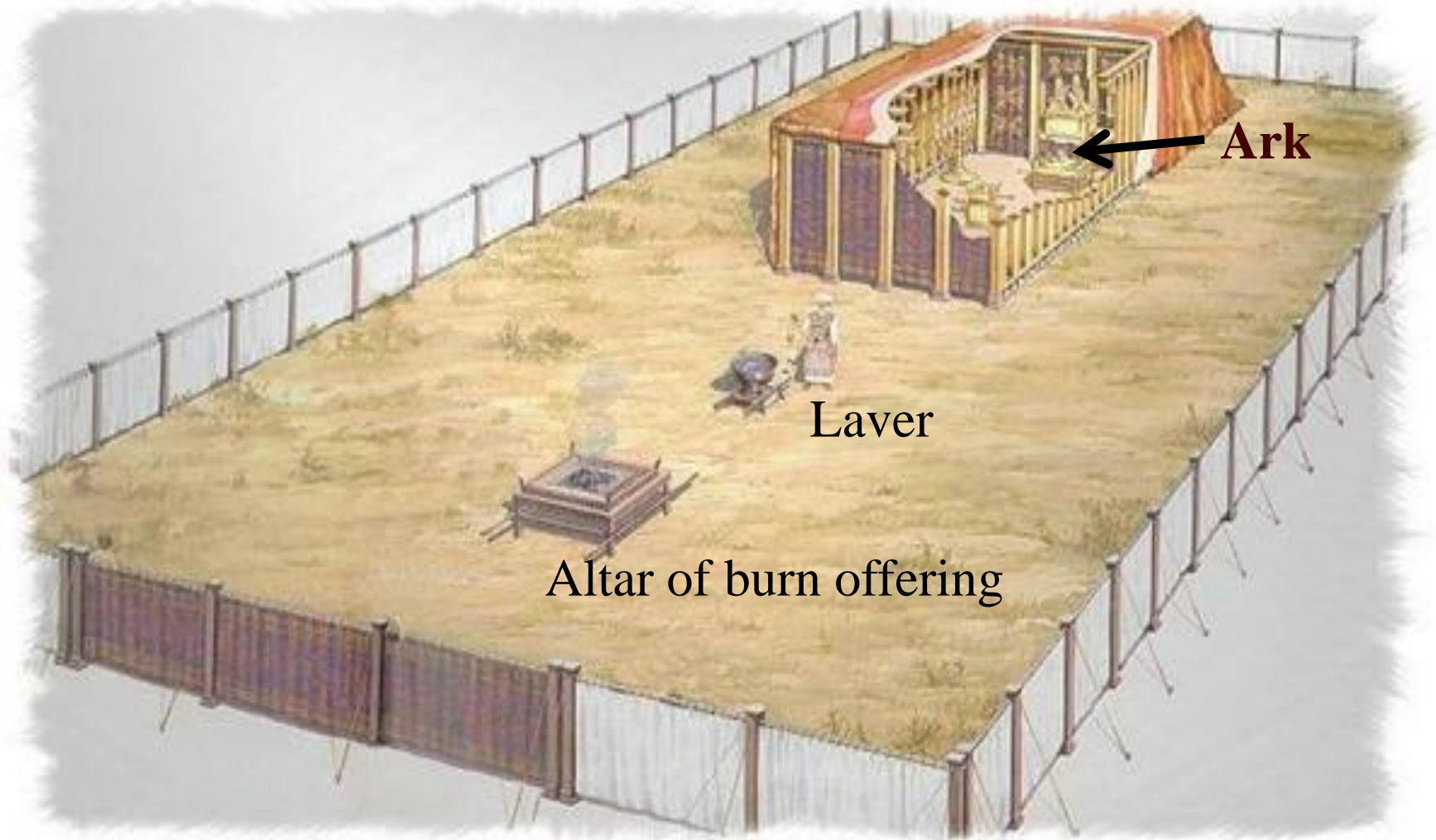
- Reviewed last week's lesson
- Learned how the concept expressed in Leviticus 10:10 translate into laws found Leviticus 11-15
- Reviewed possible sources of uncleanness and how God requires purification
- Learned about acceptable and unacceptable animals
- Learned about uncleanness due to childbirth
- Learned about uncleanness due to skin diseases
- Learned about uncleanness caused by the body

# Tabernacle





# Tabernacle



Ark

Laver

Altar of burn offering

# Altar

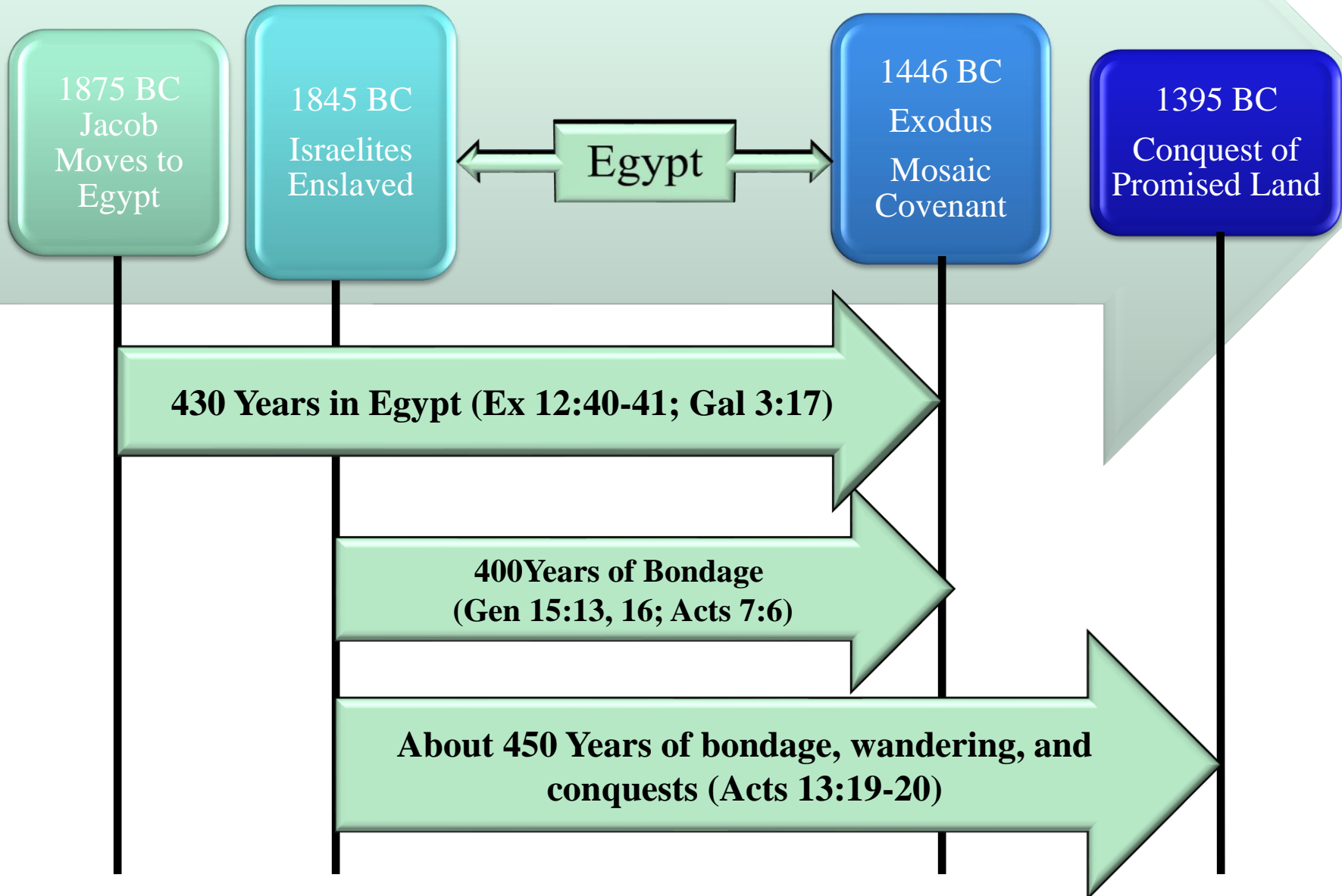


**The Egyptian Empire  
XVth century B C**





# Early Israelite Timeline



# Overview of Leviticus 16

- Sin
  - “...for sin is the transgression of the law.” 1 Jn 3:4
  - “All unrighteousness is sin.” 1 Jn 5:17
- Offering
  - That which is presented as atonement, e.g. a sacrifice
- Sin offering
  - Sacrifice for unrighteousness
- Almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without the shedding of blood is there is no remission (Heb 9:22)
- Lets discuss the old way versus the new way

# Overview of Leviticus 16

- Sacrifices and offerings that Moses described in the Law up to this point were not sufficient to cleanse all the defilements of the people
- Significant sinfulness and uncleanness still needed removing
- God appointed a yearly sacrifice that cleansed all the sins and impurities not covered by other means that the Israelites committed ignorantly (Heb. 9:7)
- The sacrifice of the **Day of Atonement** was, in this sense, the most comprehensive of the Mosaic sacrifices

# Chapter 16 Overview

- Final chapter of the first part of Leviticus that deals with the public worship of the Israelites
- The second major part of Leviticus begins at the end of this chapter and reveals the private worship of the Israelites
- Legislation that God prescribed shortly after and in view of the apostasy of Nadab and Abihu
- Information about how the high priest must behave to preserve himself from a similar fate
- Day of Atonement, or Great Day of Forgiveness, took place six months after the Passover



# Introduction (16:1-10)

- Introduction to the Day of Atonement legislation (16:1-2)
  - Moses received instructions regarding the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur immediately after the judgment of Nadab and Abihu
  - As usual, God revealed these laws to Moses, not directly to the priests or even the high priest, Aaron
  - Even the high priest was not to enter the presence of God in the holy of holies
- Instruction about when and how Moses could enter and approach God
  - Now He dwells within each Christian (John 14:17; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13)

# Requirements for Ceremonies (16:3-5)

- High priest had to make elaborate preparations for entering the holy of holies
  - Cleansing himself spiritually and physically
- Offerings made were a bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, both to cover own sins (Heb. 5:3)
  - Also had to wear a special uniform, not the ornate garments that he usually wore to carry out his regular duties
  - Bathe himself
  - The high priest entered the holy of holies only once each year on the Day of Atonement to make these special sacrifices (Heb. 9:7)

# Outline of Ceremonies (16:6-10)

- Aaron first offered the bull as a sin (purification) offering to cover his sins and the sins of the other priests (v. 6)
- He cast lots to decide which of the two goats would die as a sin offering for the people and which one would be sent into the wilderness (vv. 7-8)
- Then he sacrificed the goat that was to die (v. 9)
  - The “scapegoat”
- Finally he brought the other goat before the Lord and then dispatched it into the wilderness (v. 10)

# Instructions for the Ritual (16:11-28)

- Blood-sprinkling ceremony (16:11-19)
  - Purification offering that Aaron was to offer for himself and the other priests
  - Incense smoke used to mask his view of God's presence
- Casting of lots over the goats
- Sacrificing one of the goats (vs. 15-19)
  - As a sin offering for the people
  - Cleansed sanctuary of defilement caused by sins of the people
  - Making it possible for God to continue to dwell there
  - Sprinkling of blood on the mercy seat removed the sins of the people (seven times)





# Scapegoat (16:20-22)

- Second goat symbolically bears the sins of the people
  - Taking the sins to an unclean place, far from God
- Hebrew word used to describe the goat was “Azazel”
  - Goat of removal
  - Some believe it described a desolate physical location where the goat would perish, taking the sins with it
  - Others believed it referred to a demon to whom the Israelites sins were returned so it would not accuse them
- Goats represented two aspects of atonement
  - Goat slain represented judgment
  - Goat released represented removal of own guilt

# Cleansing of Participants (16:23-28)

- Describes rituals for cleansing those who came in contact with the sacrifices
- Contrasts the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man
- All elements of the ceremony were to be followed closely

# Duty of the People (16:29-34)

- Instructions for the yearly celebration of the Day of Atonement
  - Read Heb 9:7-12
- Israelites were to humble their souls and refrain from work in preparation for this event
  - Included fasting (read Isa 58:3 to see what happens in the future) and no work
- Promise of God
  - Atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you (v. 30)
  - Could enjoy the assurance of fellowship with God
  - God promised forgiveness and cleansing to all who trusted in the value of the sacrifices He provides



# Hebrew 9

- Earthly Tabernacle as a comparison (vs. 1-10)
  - Describes the ceremonies in the Tabernacle as external regulations applying until the time of the “new order”
- Blood of Christ (vs. 11-28)
  - Christ as the High Priest
  - Went through a greater and more perfect tabernacle, one not made by man (vs. 11)
  - He entered the Most Holy Place not by the blood of goats or calves, but by his own blood (vs. 12)
  - The blood of Christ provided the inward cleansing, or the cleansing of our souls, from acts that lead to death
  - Therefore, Christ is the appointed, once and for all, to do away with sin by His own sacrifice (vs 26)

# Day of Atonement in Israel

- Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
- Rabbis looked for ways to preserve the rituals from the Day of Atonement for future generations
- Could not continue the Day of Atonement without the temple
- So, they substituted prayer, repentance, and giving to charity for sacrifices and rituals that could no longer be practiced
- Descriptions of the former rituals of Yom Kippur (now called Avodah) can be found in a special prayer book used for Yom Kippur (found in the mahtzor)

# Review

- Reviewed last week's lesson
- Learned relevant terms used in Leviticus 16 and in Hebrew 9
- Learned about the ceremonies that the high priest conducted in order to take part in the day of atonement
- Learned about the duty of the people
- Learned about the promise God made to the people
- Reviewed Hebrews 9 and learned about Christ's atonement for our sins
- Next week Leviticus 17-20