

Atonement Fulfilled

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 9/30/2017

All of God's Holy Days have an actual time of fulfillment. For example: The Old Testament of Feast of Passover had its **fulfillment** in the Passover of Jesus Christ. We read:

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost was **fully come**, they were all with one accord in one place.

That is speaking of the **fulfillment** of Feast of Pentecost when God's Spirit was poured out on His Church. Next week we will celebrate the **fulfillment** of the Feast of Tabernacles that will come with Jesus Christ ruling in the Millennium. Today we picture the **fulfillment** of the Feast of the Day of Atonement.

A lot of people dread the Day of Atonement – and thereby miss out on the superb meaning of the Day. We are going to talk about the tremendous and wonderful meaning of Atonement and Reconciliation. Understanding Atonement will even shed light on the meaning of Passover – because the two Feasts are very closely related.

The **Day of Atonement** is about **cleansing** all mankind of sin, and their ultimate reconciliation to the Father. We have come to the tenth day of Tishri, the seventh month of the Sacred Hebrew calendar.

Jesus Christ's Passover continues to bring about **reconciliation** to God for those called **now** into the body of Christ. Each person needs to be brought into a right relationship with God the Father because our sins have distanced us from His presence.

The Feast Day of Atonement looks forward to the Day when Jesus Christ's Passover sacrifice will finally cover the sins, **not only** for those called now, but for **all mankind**. Yes, Jesus died for all – **but** the world is not yet called to salvation.

The reconciliation of the world – to God the Father – awaits the **fulfillment** of the Day of Atonement.

On that soon coming Day of Atonement – **after** Jesus returns to this earth in great power – pictured by the Feast of Trumpets – and **before** the Millennium begins – pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles – God the Father will act to **reconcile** all mankind to Himself.

The Day of Atonement will open both **Israel** and the entire **world** to reconciliation to the Father. That is a glorious Day – and it will occur just before the start of the Millennium.

Atonement speaks of God's act of **covering sin** in order to reestablish the original relationship between God and man. Atonement then, is a great Day in the fulfillment of the Plan of God. Reconciliation with God became necessary when Man became sinful.

We do not often like to think about it because we are mostly in **denial** – but man is in deep, deep trouble unless something is done about this **sinful nature** of ours. The Old Testament story of Passover foretold that – reconciliation with God was possible and forthcoming. That Old Testament Feast of Passover pointed to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ – the Lamb of God.

Passover and the Day of Atonement **both** teach us about the forgiveness of sin and our **reconciliation** to God through Christ's sacrifice.

However, where **Passover** concerns the redemption of the **firstborn** [the Church brethren, the saints, the Christians], whom God has called in every age before Jesus Christ's return – **Atonement** reveals the reconciliation **of all humanity** to God.

Let's look at the meaning of the Day of Atonement in Leviticus. The first thing that pops into many minds about Atonement – is that it is the Feast of **NO FOOD**.

Actually, The Day of Atonement is filled with **Spiritual** Food, **Spiritual** nourishment – and surprisingly, the Bible has much more to say about Atonement than most people realize. We will see that there is a **sin offering** made for the people.

Leviticus 16:5 And [Aaron] shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel **two kids of the goats for a sin offering**...

We are **not** going to **say a lot** about the two goats today – just a little...

Leviticus 16:29 And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall **afflict** your souls, and do **no work** at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourns among you:

"Afflict your souls" – Fasting on this day reminds us of our need for God's sustenance, and helps us to draw near to God.

In addition to fasting on the spiritual Feast of Atonement, there is a great emphasis placed on the fact that **no work** of any kind is to be done on this Day. That is because no amount of work or good deeds on our part could ever begin to **heal the breach** that exists between sinful man and Almighty God.

Human effort is completely **useless** in making the atonement that is needed to pay our death penalty. We are totally incapable of **working out** a right relationship with God on our own – it must come about another way.

For us, Atonement is a day of solemn remembrance of the **perfect work** of our High Priest Jesus Christ, who gave us precious access to the Father, that we enjoy... and who took away our sins. The world at large is unable to recognize that truth – for now...

Keep in mind that Jesus Christ is our High Priest... and that He is represented by the **priest** in this Old Testament ceremony.

Leviticus 16:30 For on that day shall **the priest** make an **atonement** for you, to **cleanse** you, that ye may be **clean** from all your sins before the Lord.

Thankfully we've learned that God's Holy Days reveal the Plan of God being worked out.

Given that **Passover** provides the **cleansing** to make the **spring harvest** of the Church possible, it follows that there will be a **cleansing** during the greater fall harvest – – and the Day of Atonement certainly pictures that future cleansing. '**Clean**' – that is the operative word on this Day of Atonement. Watch for it.

Leviticus 16:30 For on that day ... shall **the priest** make an **atonement** for you, to **cleanse** you, that ye may be **clean** from all your sins before the Lord.

The Hebrew word translated **cleanse** and **clean** in this verse means more than exceptionally clean – it means **perfectly** clean. It is the Hebrew word, '**taher**' pronounced tah-hare. It means to be **bright**; to be pure; sound; clear; unadulterated; uncontaminated; morally innocent; or morally holy:

Like they say in the detergent commercials – **cleaner than clean**. Brethren, that is what Atonement is all about.

I do not want to get too technical – but let me demonstrate just **how clean** Atonement renders us before God. We are speaking about **cleaning up** our sinful nature so that we can stand before God as the **perfect** beings He created us to be.

Propitiation and Expiation

There are **two** characteristics to Atonement – and they are both addressed by Paul:

They are – in the Greek – hil-as'-kom-ahee and hil-as-tay'-ree-on. In English, that is **Propitiation** and **Expiation**.

The first characteristic is **Propitiation**.

****Propitiation** is the **payment**, that **pays** the cost of our sin – which is death. Greek *hilaskomai* pronounced hil-as'-kom-ahee Meaning to be propitious . *hileos* from the same as G2436; to conciliate, that is, (transitively) to atone for (sin), or (intransitively) be propitious: - be merciful, make reconciliation for.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is **death** [therefore **propitiation** needed someone to pay our death penalty for us]; but the gift of God [made possible by **expiation**] is eternal **life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

That's the second characteristic – **Expiation**.

****Expiation** is the act of removing even the **guilt** from the sinner. The Greek *'hilasterion'* pronounced hil-as-tay'-ree-on. An expiatory (place or thing); an atoning victim, or specifically the lid of the Ark in the Temple: - mercyseat, propitiation.

Continuing in Romans, Paul explains about expiation.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely [that's a picture of expiation] by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Keep in mind that 'justification' has to do with our guilty past being wiped out – cleansed.

Notice very closely whom God the Father uses to bring about this cleansing expiation rendering us innocent. As we continue, Christ Jesus is the subject:

Romans 3:25 Whom God the Father has set forth to be a propitiation/ **Expiation** through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Paul explains that the Atonement worked by Jesus Christ is so **thorough** that it even **purges** a **guilty conscience**. Our faith tells us that God both forgives and forgets our past transgressions. (Hebrews 8:12)

Hebrews 9:14 is the first verse that we will look at that contains **both characteristics** of Atonement – **Propitiation** and **Expiation**.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself [characteristic #1 - propitiation] without spot to God, **purge your conscience**... [characteristic #2 - expiation]

Atonement does two distinct things – it **pays** the price of sin, and it removes the **guilt** of sin.

I like this simple analogy.

You get caught for speeding and are brought before the judge.

He says, "Guilty, your fine is \$100."

Jesus shows up and does **two** things for you.

He says, Your Honor here is the \$100, his penalty is paid in full.

And your Honor would you please expunge his guilty verdict so that he can have a **perfectly clean** driving record.

The Judge says, "So ordered."

Brethren, it is just that way with regard to our guilty past sinful lives.

With Christ's propitiation and expiation in our stead, God the Father declares us legally innocent of all charges. We are completely innocent and exonerated before the High Court of heaven. That is how **clean Passover leaves us, and... that is how **clean** Atonement will render mankind.

I want to make it very clear that it is Jesus who shows up in court as our **advocate** and not Satan. Satan does not show up in this court – unless he is the prosecutor – the one doing the **accusing**. The church has been confused on that.

Too many of our brethren are hearing sermons today on how Satan is carrying away all our sins into the wilderness.

We had a doctrine in the Worldwide Church of God that said that we put all our iniquities on Satan's head where they originated and where they belong.

That was a misunderstanding.

On **Atonement** God wished to have a **sin offering** that would be **sacrificed** and yet **live**—to represent **both** the **sacrificed**, and the **resurrected** Jesus Christ—the two characteristics of Atonement.

God satisfied the single sin offering by requiring **two** identical goats be used to represent each characteristic of Atonement.

One goat was sacrificed – as Jesus Christ was - - and the other goat bore the iniquities of mankind away – **as Jesus Christ also does.

Today is not the "feast of Satan" – though he has muscled himself into the Day, and will be **getting top billing** in many church services today. Satan has inserted himself into this Day of Atonement because he seeks the glory that is Christ's. Did you ever notice that God does not give Satan top billing on this Day of Atonement? God doesn't even tell us exactly when Satan will be bound.

We just know that he is not bound at Trumpets when Jesus returns to fight against him – and he is bound when the Millennium begins...

Leviticus 16:8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the *scapegoat*. (Strong's: goat of departure)

We all know that the Hebrew for scapegoat is *azazel* from *aiz*, a goat, and *azal*, to depart. **Azazel** REFERS TO "RECONCILIATION."

We have found that when the Bible interprets the Bible, **azazel** is fulfilled by Jesus Christ and **none** other! Most of you will remember that one of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's favorite **versions** of the Bible was the Moffatt version. Notice the Moffatt rendition of Leviticus 16:8:

Leviticus 16:8 Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for Azazel **the demon**.

That is an unfortunate translation because that part about the demon is not in the Hebrew **at all!** It is totally made up and spurious. That is not a real translation or an interpretation – that is out and out misleading fraudulence - though, I'm sure the translators felt that they were acting in good faith.

But brethren, please understand that the source for that **misinformation** came from a book entitled "Islam and Its Founder," which is certainly not inspired, and from the "Book of Enoch" which is false literature known as pseudepigrapha. That means false writings.

It is not at all inspired by God – quite the contrary.

In **Exodus 28:37-38**, it says that the high priest symbolically carried **iniquity throughout the year**.

Then, **on Atonement, the iniquity was transferred to the goat of departure and sent away**.

Jesus Christ is our High Priest... and that He is represented by the **priest** – so it is Jesus who bears the iniquity. For the truth, let's turn over to Isaiah 53. This subject was covered beginning **last** Atonement in two sermons titled, "Two Aspects of Leviticus 16." There is a great deal of information contained in those Sermon Transcripts, or you can listen to the audio as well.

Briefly, the heretical Book of Enoch led to the erroneous conclusion that all sin was to be ascribed to Satan (Enoch 2:8). [IT WAS NOT! wz]

"To him [Satan] ascribe all sin," it reads.

That quote was the basis for the Worldwide Church of God's teaching that all sin would be placed on Satan's head. This was a terrible mistake.

That is where we incorrectly received the notion that Satan bears our iniquity instead of Jesus Christ our Savior and Messiah.

"Ascribe to him all sin" was incorrectly substituted to mean that **Satan bears** all our iniquities, when clearly from the Holy Scriptures it is **Jesus Christ** who bears our iniquities (Isaiah 53:6).

Remember when John the Baptist saw Jesus coming unto him, and said,

"Behold the **Lamb** of God, which *takes away* [Gr. **bears away**] **the sin of the world**. (John 1:29)

That **bearing away of sin by Jesus** is what the Day of Atonement is all about.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him [**Jesus Christ**] the **iniquity** of us all.

Isaiah 53:**11** He shall ... justify many; for [Jesus the Messiah] **shall bear** [*'nasa'*] **their iniquities**.

Isaiah 53:**12** Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath **poured out his soul** [his life] unto **death** [the payment characteristic of goat #1]: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he **bore** [*'nasa'*] the **sin** of many [the covering characteristic goat #2], and made intercession for the transgressors.

Indeed, the young *azazel* was led away with all our sins – **but it was Jesus and not Satan** who **bore the iniquity**. That is the Gospel Truth!

A lot of well meaning people have been **taken in** and grossly misinformed by this carelessness. The doctrines of Jesus Christ are always based on the Word of God, and **never** dependent upon a heretical book.

Over and over in the Scriptures we find that it is God who takes away iniquity and transgressions. God will say to Israel in the future:

Isaiah 44:22 I have **blotted** out, like a thick cloud, your **transgressions**, and like a cloud, your **sins**; return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

God is speaking of the future fulfillment of Atonement when He will cause those of the captivity of Judah and those of the captivity of Israel to return, and will rebuild them, as at the first.

It will be like when they first went into the Promised Land.

Jeremiah 33:8, God says, I will **cleanse** them from all their **iniquity**, whereby they have **sinned against me**; and I will **pardon** all their **iniquities**, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

At that time, God's Atonement will provide a spiritual clean bill of health for Judah and Israel.

Jeremiah 50:4 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God.

Jeremiah 50:5 They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.

Jeremiah 50:6 My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place.

Jeremiah 50:20 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and **there shall be none**; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

The Day of Atonement had the ceremony of the two goats which shows a part of a larger **cleansing** ritual performed once a year.

Where the Feast of Passover provided for our **personal** reconciliation to God the Father...

Here in Leviticus 16, the emphasis of events is **national** and universal rather than individual.

Leviticus 16 repeatedly uses terms like "congregation," "the people," "the children of Israel," and "the **assembly**."

Throughout the year, an individual could make sin offerings for unintentional sins, but on this Holy Day of Atonement, the high priest made a sin offering for himself, and then one for the **entire nation**.

These offerings only covered only accidental and unintentional sins, though, because there is no sacrifice to cover presumptuous sin under any of God's covenants. You cannot 'buy' you way out of sin.

We see the role of the Father in Atonement.

John 3:16 For God [the Father] so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish [propitiation], but have everlasting life [expiation].

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. [**Atonement fulfilled** will bring salvation to the entire world.]

John the beloved apostle wrote very late – and he reiterated the role of the Father in Atonement.

1John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God [the Father], but that He loved us, and **sent** His Son to be the propitiation / expiation for our sins.

From the many prophecies of Israel's cleansing and restoration, the Day of Atonement shows the starting point of Israel getting back on track as a nation, with her covenant with God being re-confirmed.

God the Father – through Jesus Christ is going to **cleanse** the nation of Israel in the future.

Sin is a terrible thing – and we take it all too casually. Sin does not just **go away** just because we don't want to think about it. Sin brings hurt, destruction and death – and worst of all it breaks a relationship with our God.

We have heard many times that Atonement means **placing the blame** on Satan where it belongs. That is letting us off the hook all too easily. We shake our heads at Adam and Eve in the Garden trying to **shift the blame** away from their own choices, and yet, we have followed the same line of thinking when it comes to the *azazel* goat.

We did the same thing in excusing ourselves and passing the **blame** to Satan. We all collectively said on each Day of Atonement, "**It's not my fault** – it is Satan's fault!"

Let's be absolutely clear: We are each to blame for our own sin.

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell;

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to **reconcile** all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled...

Colossians 1:22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and **unblameable** and **unreproveable** in his sight:

That is perfectly **cleaned up** and reconciled to the Father. I've often said that nothing hurts more than **betrayal** by someone we dearly love. Next to that painful separation is the pain caused by someone dear who of their own accord withholds their love and closeness from you.

Here is the most important concept that we need to understand with regard to Atonement.

****Isaiah 59:1** Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

****Isaiah 59:2** But your **iniquities** have separated between you and your God, and your **sins** have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

Isaiah 59:4 None calls for justice, nor any pleads for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

Isaiah 59:5 They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and **weave the spider's web**: he that eats of their eggs dies, and that which is crushed breaks out into a viper.

Weave the spider's web is an allusion to lies and deceit in business, politics and personal relationships – but it is based on the opulent and lavish life style of the evil rich and powerful of Isaiah's day.

Even more exotic and glamorous than silk of today were the garments made of **spider's silk** in Isaiah's day.

Isaiah 59:6 Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: **their works are works of iniquity**, and the act of violence is in their hands.

Just off the East coast of Africa is the island nation of Madagascar. The ancient art of weaving spider's silk is still alive in the highlands of Madagascar. There is a big spider there that produces a large strong web.

It is the golden orb spider. [*Nephila madagascariensis*] Madagascar's spider-silk from the golden orb spider possesses great strength and elastic – and it is a beautiful gold color.

Very elastic – twice that of nylon , and five times tougher than steel, and ten times stronger than Kevlar – and able to stretch twice its length to stop a bullet without breaking. Each strand pings like metallic guitar strings and yet, the finished tapestry is as soft as cashmere. It takes over a million strands of spider silk to make an item of clothing.

Scientists have been trying, but as yet are unsuccessful in producing anything as perfect as the natural spider-silk. Though inferior in shape and quality, the Chinese **silk worm** was found to be more prolific and easier to work with – and became the predominant silk that the world today knows.

Isaiah goes on to say that those deceitful business men and politicians will not profit in the long run but will fail and be brought to judgment.

Isaiah 59:7 Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

Isaiah 59:8 The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goes therein shall not know peace.

Isaiah 59:9 Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.

Isaiah 59:10 We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men.

Isaiah 59:11 We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.

Isaiah 59:12 For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;

Isaiah 59:13 In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

Judgment and Redemption

Isaiah 59:14 And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

Isaiah 59:15 Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.

Isaiah 59:16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

Isaiah 59:17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

Isaiah 59:18 According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands [distant lands] he will repay recompense.

Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

Isaiah 59:20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 59:21 As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and forever.

We do not often speak of an emotional separation from God – but we are emotional beings – and it is we who have brought about our separation from Him. The division between us and God is entirely our fault – and yet, it is the love of God that brings us back together – even though we are the offending party.

****Atonement and reconciliation begin with God the Father.**

****2Corinthians 5:18** And all things are of God [the Father], who has **reconciled** us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of **reconciliation**.

And, God in His perfect love does not hold us **guilty** one iota – not attributing the blame to us.

2Corinthians 5:19 To wit, that God [the Father] was in Christ, **reconciling the world** unto Himself, **not imputing their trespasses unto them**; and has committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

"Reconciling the world unto Himself," is what the Day of Atonement is all about. The most extraordinary thing is that God is **not charging our trespasses unto us!** It is God the Father who exchanges our sinful nature for the righteousness of Christ.

2Corinthians 5:21 For [God the Father] has made Him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the **righteousness** of God in Him.

1Corinthians 5:7 ...Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Passover has brought about reconciliation for Christians – but not yet for the world – that will be at the fulfillment of Atonement.

God the Father is Savior. We most often think of Jesus Christ as Savior – but let's understand and know that **salvation begins** with God the Father – as does Atonement and reconciliation. Paul explains it here:

Titus 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of **God our Savior toward man** appeared,

Titus 3:5 Not by **works** [no work today] of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy **He** [God the Father] **saved us**, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:6 Which **He** shed on us abundantly **through** Jesus Christ our Savior;

In terms of the separation that exists between God and man, that abyss – that gap can only be bridged **through the atonement that God provides**, which was accomplished by Jesus Christ.

****When will the New Covenant go into effect for Millennial Israel?**

Hebrews 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

Hebrews 8:8 For finding fault with them, He saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

Hebrews 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their **iniquities will I remember no more.**

****That is the basic meaning of atonement – “expiation,” guilt removed and forgotten.**

It means **“to provide legal satisfaction, such that guilt is removed, and the obligation of punishment is paid.”**

It includes cleansing, forgiving, pardoning, purging, and covering. The effect of atonement is that two formerly estranged parties – God and man – are brought back into agreement, because whatever controversy that was between them has been legally satisfied.

The effect of Christ’s work is that we are reconciled—with God. But Satan’s binding—as truly relieving as it will be—cannot legally achieve this. Satan is put entirely out of commission for one-thousand years.

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and **bound him a thousand years,**

Revelation 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled:

Satan’s **binding** does not cause mankind’s **guilt to be removed**, or the curse of the law – which is death – to be recompensed.

Now, there is still a future fulfillment of the Day of Atonement, and it is spoken of repeatedly.

Jesus is Creator — Satan is created. Satan can only attempt to usurp a title reserved for God.

Psalms 99 even uses this word for “bear” [‘nasa’] as a title for God:

Psalms 99:8 You answered them, O Lord our God; You were to them **God-Who-Forgives** [El-Nasa] **God-Who-Bears their Iniquities**, though You took vengeance on their deeds.

God does not share His role and title of **God-Who-Bears their Iniquities** with Satan – because Satan does not **bear all our iniquities**.

Satan is not equal to Christ.

**Paul asks the rhetorical question:

Romans 11:1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an **Israelite**, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Romans 11:2 God has not cast away his people which he foreknew.

Ezekiel 16:62 And I will establish my covenant with thee [Israel]; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD:

God says that Israel will be so ashamed she will never open her mouth again, after God provides **atonement** for all she has done.

Ezekiel 16:63 That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth anymore because of thy shame, **when I am pacified toward thee** for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.

God says that Israel will be so ashamed she will never open her mouth again, after God provides **atonement** for all she has done.

There remains a great national cleansing, pardon, and purging of the sins, transgressions, and iniquities of Israel.

This atonement will be provided by God so Israel can be reconciled to Him, and it will set the stage for the peaceful paradise of the Millennium.

In the Millennium, the people who are “at one” with God will be those **for whom God has made atonement.

That is the foundational point, and there is only one way such oneness is possible. And that is for God the Father to work His atonement through Jesus Christ. And for Christ to bear-away, into the wilderness, our sin.

To make Satan’s binding the focus of atonement **minimizes our personal responsibility for sin, and the absolute need for **what only God can provide**.

Having the wrong focus on Satan also grossly and shamefully devalues the overwhelming price that was paid by Jesus, and all that it accomplishes – both at Passover and at the coming future Day of Atonement.

The Father and Jesus Christ have paid greatest price that can be paid – and now, on the fulfillment of Atonement – it will be **applied to all mankind** (not just the called out Church brethren today).

It required the death of man’s Creator – Jesus Christ, and **His willingness to remove the guilt, and to remember our sins no more.

End: Atonement Fulfilled