

The Azazel – Two Goat Theory

Saturday, 10 October 2009

Shalom

Yesterday in our Yom Kippur service the Pastor asked the people to perform a symbolic act. Everyone was told to line up in the center aisle making two rows, then everyone was told to symbolically stretch out their hands and lay their hands on the goat for Azazel which represents.

Yeshua. The front door was opened and symbolically Azazel went out that door taking the sins of the people into the wilderness. Does the scapegoat Azazel represent Yeshua? It was all very confusing to me. Could you please explain the two goat theory to me. Thank you.

Norm

Dear Norm;

You've asked a good question for Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). This is my understanding of the issue. In Leviticus chapter 16, Aaron, the cohen (priest) chooses the two goats: one for the Lord and the other for the scapegoat (which is azazel in Hebrew). In verse 21, Aharon lays his hands on the head of the live goat, confesses over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions. All their sins are laid on the head of the azazel, who bears on itself the iniquities of Israel and carries them entirely out of the camp. Compare this to Isaiah 53. The wording is so similar: "And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (v.6) Yeshua, as a lamb led to the slaughter, willingly gave Himself as the Azazel (*scapegoat) for us all. He allowed the Lord to lay upon Him all our sins: "...For He shall bear their iniquities...Because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Isaiah 53: 11-12) Another interesting note to add is that the word, AZAZEL is used in Hebrew as a swear or curse word. When we watch TV in Israel and someone swears in English, the subtitle in Hebrew reads, "Azazel." This flows beautifully with the verse that says Yeshua became a curse for us (Galatians 3:13)