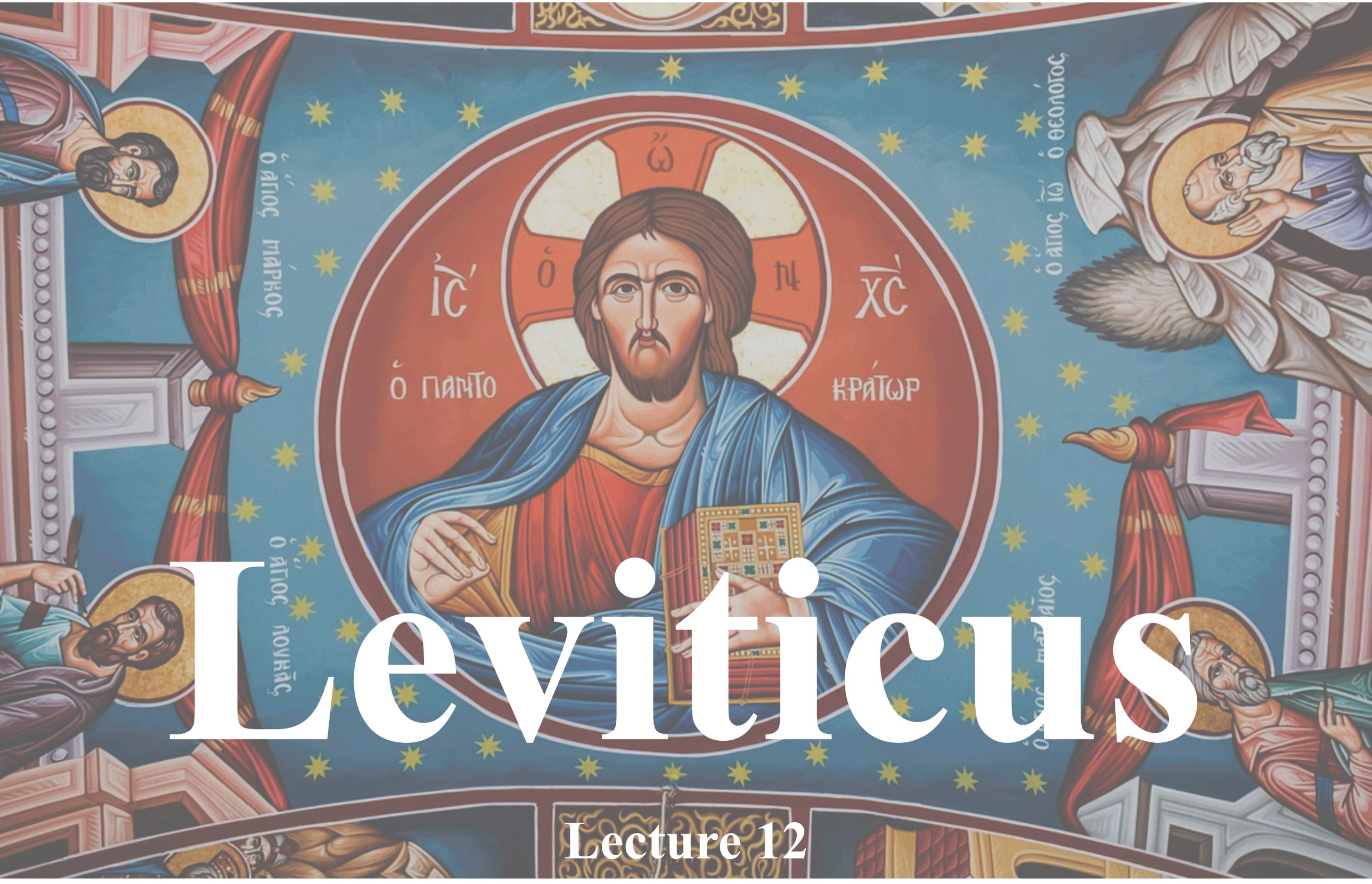


Leviticus

Lecture 12

The Day of Atonement

16 The Lord spoke to Moses after [c] the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they
drew near before the Lord and died, [2] and the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron
your brother not to [d] come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy
seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For [e] I will appear in the cloud over the
mercy seat. [3] But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: [f] with a bull from the
herd for a sin offering and [g] a ram for a burnt offering. [4] He shall put on [h] the holy linen
coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash
around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. [i] He shall bathe
his body in water and then put them on. [5] And he shall take from [j] the congregation of the
people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

6 “Aaron shall [k] offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall [l] make atonement
for himself and for his house. 7 Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the
Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting. 8 And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats,
one lot for the Lord and the other lot for [m] Azazel. [1] 9 And Aaron shall present the goat on
which the lot fell for the Lord and use it as a sin offering, 10 but the goat on which the lot
fell for [m] Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it
may be sent away into the wilderness to [m] Azazel.

11 “Aaron shall present [k] the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement
for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. 12 And he
shall take [n] a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of
sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil 13 [o] and put the incense on
the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover [p] the mercy seat that is
over the testimony, so that he does not die. 14 And [q] he shall take some of the blood of the
bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat on the east side, and in
front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

15 [r] “Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its
blood [s] inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling
it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. 16 Thus he shall [t] make atonement for
the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their
transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with
them in the midst of their uncleannesses. 17 [u] No one may be in the tent of meeting from
the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made
atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. 18 Then he shall
go out to the altar that is [v] before the Lord and [w] make atonement for it, and shall take
some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of
the altar all around. 19 And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven
times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.

20 “And when he has made an end of [x] atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of
meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands
on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and
all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall [y] put them on the head of the goat and
send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. 22 The goat
shall [z] bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and [a] he shall let the goat go free
in the wilderness.

Step 1: Aaron selects two goats as a sin/purification offering for the people. (v. 5)

Step 2: Aaron brings them before the Lord, to the entrance of the Tabernacle. (v. 7)

Step 3: Aaron casts lots over the goats in order to select one for Yahweh and the other for Azazel. (v. 8)

Step 4: The goat for Yahweh is sacrificed as a sin offering. (v. 15)

Step 5: Aaron carries the blood of Yahweh's goat inside of the Holy of Holies and sprinkles it seven times on the front of the mercy seat that sits on top of the Ark of the Covenant. (vv. 14-15)

Step 6: Aaron then carries the goat's blood out of the Tabernacle, daubs some of it on the horns of the Altar of Ascension that stands in the Courtyard and, finally, sprinkles the blood seven times on the altar. (v. 18)

Step 7: Aaron presents the live goat to the Lord. (v. 20)

Step 8: Aaron lays *both* of his hands on the head of the goat and confesses all of Israel's sins over it, transferring Israel's sins to the goat. This happens just before sending the goat away into the wilderness. (v. 21-22)

“The term ‘azazel’ is problematic, and has defied scholarly consensus with regard to its meaning. There are four main suggestions as to its significance, with some variety within each: (1) azazel may refer to a demon (or to a god of wrath, perhaps even YHWH’s own displeasure via an alter ego), (2) azazel may refer to a place, a rocky precipice or the uninhabited wilderness, (3) azazel may simply mean ‘utter destruction’, (4) azazel may signify ‘the goat that is sent away’ […] Whatever the precise import of the term ‘azazel’, the basic significance of the azazel rite is not difficult to discern—the second goat is used to placard the removal of Israel’s sins and guilt.” - L. Michael Morales

"There are seven ways in which Yahweh bases his appointed feasts on the number ‘seven': One, every seventh day is a Sabbath. […] Two, Yahweh’s annual calendar (Lev. 23) consists of descriptions of seven festal times: the Sabbath (23:3), Passover [and Unleavened Bread] (23:4-8), Firstfruits (23:9-14), Weeks / Pentecost (23:15-22), Trumpets (23:23-25), the Day of Coverings / Atonement (23:26-32), and Booths / Tabernacles (23:33-43) […] Three, every seventh *year* is a Sabbath year of rest for the parts of the land that bear crops: ‘seventh day’ for persons and animals, ‘seventh year’ for the land […] Four, after every seven sevens of years, the [leader of Israel] is to proclaim the fiftieth year a Year of Jubilee […] Five, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles, the only two feasts spanning more than one day, are each celebrated for seven days […] Their two ‘independence week’ celebrations consisted of annual returns to cheap pantry bread and homemade tents, humble reminders that Yahweh created them from scratch and not they, themselves […] Six, just as the Jubilee is celebrated every seven sevens of years, Pentecost is celebrated every seven sevens of days […] Seven, the seventh month of the year, Tishri, contains the largest number of Israel’s feasts: the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles.” - Jack Franicevich

1.) Weekly Sabbath / no work / (23:3)

2.) Passover & Feast of Unleavened Bread / no work / (23:4-8)

3.) Feast of Firstfruits / nothing stipulated / (23:9-14)

4.) Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) / no ordinary work / (23:15-22)

5.) Feast of Trumpets / no ordinary work / (23:23-25)

6.) Day of Atonement / no work, it is a Sabbath to you / (23:26-32, esp. 31-32)

7.) Feast of Booths / no ordinary work / (23:36)