

SERMON OUTLINE

Speaker: Dr Philip Satterthwaite

Text : Leviticus 16: 1 - 34

Title : The Day Of Atonement (Redemption Lies In The Future)

Introduction

The student who didn't take notes

Leviticus: very simple points, made in great detail

Leviticus 16

God's presence in Israel's midst as *dangerous*

Cleansing the Tent of Meeting (vv. 1-22):

- The sin offerings: atonement for the Tabernacle
- The 'scapegoat': removal of sin
- The high priest's unusual (linen) garments (cf. Exod. 28)

The burnt offerings (vv. 23-24). Note the change of garments

The people's role (vv. 29-31)

The conclusion (vv. 33-34)

How to Interpret Leviticus 16?

Leviticus 16 focuses on Israel's relationship with God

It stresses the importance of maintaining this relationship

Leviticus 16 makes clear that Israel's redemption is not yet complete:

- Israel does not yet have free access to God's presence (ctr. Gen. 2)
- In Leviticus, holiness is continually under threat
- Contrast Jesus' 'contagious holiness' and the apostles' preaching to the Gentiles
- Leviticus' intense future orientation: cf. Hebrews ('only a shadow', 10:1)

What about Clean/Unclean?

Clean/unclean and righteous/wicked in Leviticus (c. 16; c. 19)

A major point of the clean/unclean teaching is to symbolize the danger of sin

Not that Leviticus draws an automatic link between (e.g.) skin disease and sin

But clean/unclean symbolizes truths about the destructive power of sin

Conclusion

Leviticus makes very simple, fundamental points: ‘we belong to God’ (Lev. 1); ‘All of life belongs to God’ (Lev. 11); ‘Touch not the unclean thing’ (Lev. 11)

Leviticus 16 told the Israelites: this is *who* you are and this is *where* you are.

Leviticus 16 should make us (Christians) ask ourselves:

- Who are we?
- Where are we in God’s purposes of salvation?
- What should we hope for?

Do we see ourselves as God sees us, and does that shape our thinking and living?
Or do we let the world tell us who we are (and what we should do)?