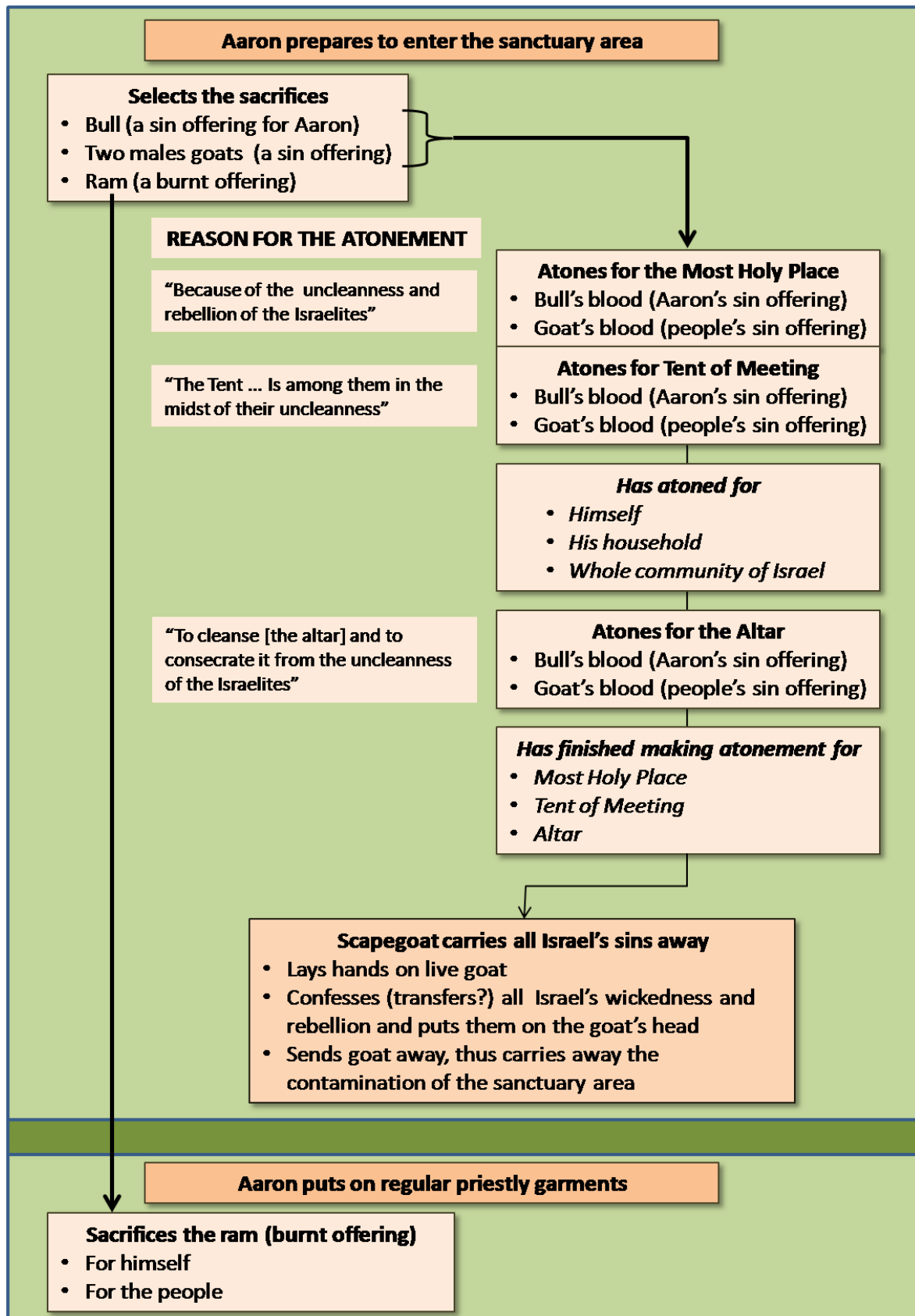


# THE SCAPEGOAT AND THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY AT LEVITICUS 16

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## LEVITICUS 16, NIV (*subheadings added*)

### Preparations that enable Aaron to enter the sanctuary area

This is how Aaron is to *enter the sanctuary area*: with a young **bull** for a sin offering and a **ram** for a burnt offering.

He is to put on the **sacred linen tunic**, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must **bathe himself** with water before he puts them on.

### Selection of the sacrifices

From the Israelite community he is to take **two male goats** for a sin offering and a **ram** for a burnt offering.

Aaron is to offer **the bull for his own sin offering** to *make atonement for himself and his household*.

Then he is to take **the two goats** and present them before the LORD at the *entrance to the Tent of Meeting*. He is to cast lots for the two goats—one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat.

Aaron shall bring the **goat** whose lot falls to the LORD and **sacrifice it for a sin offering**.

But **the goat** chosen by lot as the **scapegoat** shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for *making atonement by sending it into the desert* as a scapegoat.

Aaron shall bring **the bull for his own sin offering** to *make atonement for himself and his household*, and he is to **slaughter the bull** for *his own sin offering*.

### Aaron makes atonement for the Most Holy Place

He is to take a censer full of burning coals from the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense and take them *behind the curtain*. He is to put the incense on the fire before the LORD, and the smoke of the incense will conceal the atonement cover above the Testimony, **so that he will not die**.

He is to take some of the **bull's blood** and with his finger sprinkle it on the **front of the atonement cover**; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times **before the atonement cover**.

**He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people** and take its blood *behind the curtain* and do with it as **he did with the bull's blood**: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it.

In this way *he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place* because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been.

### Aaron makes atonement for the Tent of Meeting

He is to do the same for the **Tent of Meeting**, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness. No one is to be in the Tent of Meeting from the time Aaron goes in to make atonement *in* the **Most Holy Place** until he comes out, **having made atonement for himself, his household and the whole community of Israel.**

### Aaron makes atonement for the altar

Then he shall come out to **the altar** that is before the LORD and *make atonement for it.*

He shall take some of the **bull's blood**

and some of the **goat's blood**

and put it on all the **horns of the altar**. He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to **cleanse it** and to **consecrate it from the uncleanness of the Israelites.**

### Scapegoat carries all Israel's sins away

When Aaron has finished *making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar,*

he shall bring forward **the live goat.**

**He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and** *confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head.*

**He shall send the goat away into the desert** in the care of a man appointed for the task.

The **goat** *will carry on itself all their sins* to a solitary place; and the man shall release it in the desert.

### Aaron bathes and puts on his regular clothes

Then Aaron is to go *into the Tent of Meeting* and **take off the linen garments** he put on before he entered the **Most Holy Place**, and he is to leave them there.

He shall **bathe himself** with water in a holy place and put on his regular garments.

### Aaron sacrifices the ram for himself and for the people

Then he shall come out and **sacrifice the burnt offering for himself and the burnt offering for the people**, to make *atonement for himself and for the people.* ...

### These actions cleanse from all their sins

On this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. **Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins.**