
Atonement...

Rabbi Alon Meltzer

A New Page of Talmud

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Achrei Mot 5782



Aaron shall take the two he-goats and let them stand before יהוה at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting; and he shall place lots upon the two goats, one marked for God and the other marked for Azazel.- **Vayikra 16:7-8** Both of these he-goats were a gift for Hashem, both before the lots had been drawn as well as after the lots had been drawn. To make this point quite clear the Torah wrote that the High Priest is to present both of them to the presence of Hashem. Even after the lots had been drawn and one of these he-goats had now been described as לעזאזל, "for a rocky place (identified with Satan)," the Torah continues

writing יעמד חי לפני ה, "that the he-goat is to stand alive in the presence of Hashem (verse 10)." In other words, one must not think that the scapegoat was addressed as a gift to Satan; it too was addressed to Hashem though by a

different route..- **Rabeinu Bachya on Vayikra 16:7**² Satan was complaining that whereas God had given him authority over all the nations He had not given him any control over the Jewish people. God responded that on one day a year, namely, on Yom Kippur, he, Satan would have authority over the Jewish people in the event the latter were sinful. – **Pirkei d'Rabbi Eliezer 46:8**³ (6) One day the divine beings presented themselves before the LORD, and the Adversary came along with them. (7) The LORD said to the Adversary, "Where have you been?" The Adversary answered the LORD, "I have been roaming all over the earth." (8) The LORD said to the Adversary, "Have you noticed My servant Job? There is no one like him on earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and shuns evil!" (9) The Adversary answered the LORD, "Does Job not have good reason to fear

God? (10) Why, it is You who have fenced him round, him and his household and all that he has. You have blessed his efforts so that his possessions spread out in the land. (11) But lay Your hand upon all that he has and he will surely blaspheme You to Your face." (12) The LORD replied to the Adversary, "See, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on him." The Adversary departed from the presence of the LORD..- **Job 1:6-12**⁴ Perhaps some of those who are perversely minded and are not ashamed to censure excellent things will say, "What sort of a feast is this where there is no eating and drinking, no troupe of

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וְלָקַח אֶת־שְׁנֵי הַשְּׂעִירִים...
Vayikra 16:7

entertainers or audience, no copious supply of strong drink nor the generous display of a public banquet, nor moreover the merriment and revelry of dancing to the sound of flute

and harp, and timbrels and cymbals, and the other instruments of music which awaken the unruly lusts through the channel of the ears? (194) For it is in these and through these, it seems, that they think good cheer consists of. They do this in ignorance of the true good cheer which the all-wise Moses saw with the most sharp-sighted eyes and so proclaimed the fast a feast and named it the greatest of feasts in our ancestral language, "a Sabbath of Sabbaths," or as the Greeks would say, a seven of sevens and a holier than things holy.⁵– **Philo of Alexandria, The Special Laws 1:186-7**

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