

FREE Prison Ministry Inc

Faith Resources Empowering & Encouraging the incarcerated

November 19, 2025

Dear friends,

Greetings, my brothers and sisters in Christ! We hope this letter finds you well. God is good and continues to provide for our every need!

We would like to address an administrative matter that has come to our attention. Some of you may be wondering why the book you ordered was not on the Unavailable Book List, but you did not receive it. The most likely reason is that institutional rules would not allow us to ship it to you (e.g., hardback or highlighting not allowed). There are also other rules restricting orders (see Placing an Order on the back page). We put these in place to ensure the greatest number of inmates have access to these quality resources.

From Jeff:

The Temple was the holiest site in Judaism. Its basic design followed the pattern of the Tabernacle given to Moses. The Temple had a courtyard where the people gathered, the Holy Place where priests performed their duties, and the Holy of Holies where God resided. The ark of the covenant was also present in the Holy of Holies which contained an urn of manna, Aaron's staff, and the tablets of the covenant (aka the Ten Commandments) (Heb 9:4). On top of the ark sat the mercy seat where two cherubim perched at either end with their wings outstretched pointing at each other.

Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies and only on one day of the year, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement—the 10th day of Tishri in the Hebrew calendar. In 2025, it began at sunset October 1st.

In Jesus' day, the high priest would initially dress in his usual high priestly robes on the Day of Atonement. His first act would be to sacrifice a bull on the altar in the courtyard as an offering of dedication. He would then change into his white linen garments which he wore only on the Day of Atonement and sacrifice another bull, this time as an offering for his sins. He would choose by lot two goats and designate one to be sacrificed and the other, the scapegoat, to be released after the atonement was completed.

The high priest would then enter the Holy Place with incense and the coals from the altar and place them on the altar of incense. As the aroma filled the room, he would go back to the altar, collect some of the blood from the sacrifice and carry it into the Holy of Holies where he would sprinkle it seven times on the ground and on the mercy seat

which sat atop the ark of the covenant. Going back to the courtyard altar, the high priest would sacrifice the sacrificial goat and carry its blood back into the Holy of Holies where he would sprinkle it seven times on the ground and on the mercy seat.

After sprinkling the blood of the bull and the goat in the Holy of Holies, the priest would return to the courtyard. Placing his hand upon the scapegoat, he would symbolically transfer the people's sin to it, signifying the removal of the people's sin as it was released into the wilderness.

Finally, the high priest would pronounce the people "Forgiven" and the people would begin to celebrate. The people would wait in anticipation of this pronouncement. If the high priest had not properly purified himself, both internally and externally, he could have been struck down, in which case, the people's sins would not have been forgiven.

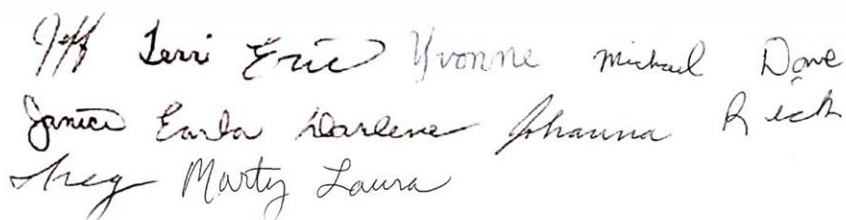
I hope I haven't lost you, but I needed to paint a picture of what atonement looked like under the old covenant. Praise God, we are under the new covenant consummated with the blood of Jesus. His sacrifice has made atonement for our sins. He is our High Priest, and he is a high priest forever!

Although Christ's atoning sacrifice took place at Passover instead of Yom Kippur, some have drawn a comparison to the Holy of Holies and Christ's tomb.

- The high priest entered the Holy of Holies dressed in a white linen garment just as Christ's body was wrapped in white linen.
- A veil separated the Holy of Holies from the people just as a stone sealed the tomb of Jesus. This veil was torn in two during an earthquake upon Christ's death just as the stone was rolled away by an angel during an earthquake.
- The mercy seat, adorned with two cherubim, was sprinkled with blood just as Christ's blood dripped from the bench upon which his body was laid. Two angels were seen seated at opposite sides of the bench (John 20:11-12) just like the cherubim on the mercy seat.

Finally, one point of contrast, the high priest would repeat the ceremony year after year. Whereas when Jesus' exited the tomb, conquering sin and death, and declared us "forgiven", it was Once and for All! Lift high the name of Jesus! Let all praises be to our Lord, God, and King!!

The FREE Prison Ministry team,



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Placing an Order

- Please provide the book number and a portion of the book title when ordering.
- You can receive up to five books per month subject to your institutional rules. Please provide alternate selections.
- You may receive only one Bible per order.
- Some categories are restricted to one book (see category name).
- You may receive only one copy of a purchased book.
- New books are restricted to two per order with some exceptions related to cost.
- You may enroll in a Light & Life Home Bible Study (see address below).
- Let us know your birthday if you would like a birthday card from us.

Mail your book requests to:

FREE Prison Ministry Inc
PO Box 999
Bloomington, IL 61702-0999

Mail your Bible Study material to:

Salem Church
Light & Life Home Bible Study
4925 E. 1250 North Road
Gridley, IL 61744