



# Leviticus: The Way of Holiness

A Bible Study with the Francis Asbury Society

## SESSION 8

*Leviticus 16-17*

Background: Luther coined (in German) the term translated into English as “mercy seat” for the Hebrew word that seems to mean “place of atonement.” As I have said previously in class, the meaning of the three consonants **kpr** seems to be “to cover.” Most of the occurrences of words with this root are metaphorical (cover over sin; thus, atone). So the noun here, **kiporet**, seems to mean something like “the covering” or “place of atoning.”

The term translated “scapegoat” (16:8, etc.) is actually “Azazel.” No one knows what that term means.

1. The “covenant box” (“ark” is 1611 English for “box”) is sometimes said to be the throne of God. What does the text say (16:2)? Check several translations. Why do you think he chooses to appear here?
2. Compare 16:3–4 to the ordination ceremony in chapter 9. Similarities?
3. Make a list of the actions specified in 16:3–28 (on the back of this sheet). What are your observations?
4. Note the reference to making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting, and the altar (16:20). Why was this necessary? Weren’t they holy in themselves? Why not?
5. Notice especially the ritual concerning the scapegoat. How does it differ from the ritual concerning other sacrifices?
6. What does 17:1–11 say about sacrifices? Why?

7. Why must blood not be consumed (17:12–14)?
  
8. What is the special provision of 17:15–16? What does clothes-washing and bathing have to do with it?