



1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought unto the priest: 3 And the priest shall go forth out of the camp; and the priest shall look, and, behold, if the plague of leprosy be healed in the leper; 4 Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop: 5 And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water: 6 As for the living bird, he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water: 7 And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field. (Lev 14:1-7)

5 And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. 6 And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house. 7 And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. 10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness. (Lev 16:5-10)

The Word of God is filled with wonderful mysteries that need searching out - mysteries that will remain so until effort is made to understand them. As we learn more and more of the mysteries of God, a pattern of God's prescience and will begin to emerge to our consciences that make the intricate design He has woven even more wonderful for its cohesiveness and continuity. Truly, our Lord Jesus Christ is the Word from Alpha to Omega, and everything in between. This truth continually reveals itself as the petals of a rose at its blooming.

We have often compared the deadly and degenerative disease of leprosy to sin in man's heart. Leprosy is a gradual and progressively debilitating disease. It is, like sin, a

blood disease. It separates its victim from loved ones and polite society. It is shameful and humiliating for the victim is considered UNCLEAN. So are all sinners! Its progress begins as an innocent appearing white patch on some part of the body. The leper may attempt to hide the disease for a time until it progresses to an unmanageable point at which the sores and stink of rotting flesh can no longer be concealed. Sin, too, is progressive. The sinner stinks among the righteous and cannot cover his sins. The leper must be brought to the priest for ritual cleansing; so the sinner must be brought to Christ (our High Priest) for cleansing by water and the blood.

The leper needs searching out by the priest just as the sinner needs searching out by the Holy Ghost. "*He shall be brought unto the priest:*" for confirmation of healing. Once as the leper has been pronounced clean by the priest, as the sinner by Christ, he will bring an offering of two birds to the priest. The leper is poor and unable to buy a more suitable sacrifice, but he can, by trick or trapping, acquire two birds for the purpose which he brings to the priest. Even so, a sparrow would be very economical to purchase if he has a penny at all. *Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.* (Matt 10:29)

Please search for the markings of Christ in the next passage: *4 Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop: 5 And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water: 6 As for the living bird, he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water: 7 And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field.* There are symbols of great import found herein. The cedar wood represents the imputed righteousness of Christ which the born-again believer is granted. *The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.* (Psalm 92:12) The Scarlet Thread is woven throughout Scripture representing salvation by the Blood of Christ. It also represents the Seed of Promise. It is the Ark of Christ as was demonstrated by Rachab: *Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.* (Josh 2:18) Just as the entire household of Noah were saved, so was those of Rachab. The hyssop represents the internal cleansing of the heart.

Here is beauty untold: The bird sacrificed represents Christ and His crucifixion for us. The running water is the Living Word of God, and the blood of the bird is the sacrificial death of Christ in our Redemption. The living bird represents the resurrected Christ. Though He tastes of death (dipped in the blood of the sacrifice bird) He rises to eternal life and liberty *shall let the living bird loose into the open field.* Remember Naaman who dipped himself in the Jordan seven times for cleansing of leprosy? *And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean.* Now, the blood and fresh water have communal applications, I believe. The living water mixed with the blood is a symbol of the Word of God - the blood to forgive *7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.* (Eph 1:7), and the water to cleanse *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.* (Eph 5:26) *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.* (John 15:3) Perhaps we mix water (the Word) with the Wine (Blood) at our Holy Communion Service for this reason.

The matter of the Scapegoat has been a source of contention among many theologians, but, since I am no "theologian," I have the liberty of depending upon the plain Word of God in such matters. You will note that two goats were taken for the sin offering - *two kids of the goats for a sin offering.* The same truth is illustrated by this

process as the two birds above; however, even more gems of beauty pointing to Christ may be discovered here. By the way, Aaron also took a ram unto himself to sacrifice for his own behalf prior to priestly duties. That, to me, represents the sacrifice of the Father in sending His only Begotten Son to die in atonement for our sins.

*And (Aaron) he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. Where does Aaron present the two goats? At the DOOR of the Tabernacle! None can enter without a valid sacrifice. We have that sacrifice in our Lord Jesus Christ for He is the Door! **Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.** (John 10:7) But wait - we have further signs and symbols of Christ here! *And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.* Does this sound familiar? ***They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.*** (Psalm 22:18) *And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.* (Matt 27:35)*

Two Goats

One of the Lord, and the other as Scapegoat.

One of the goats will be sacrificed, but which? *And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD.* No one can be saved without the Blood of our Lord as remittance for our sins. *And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.* Had Christ not arisen from the Tomb, we would have profited nothing from His death. But His death was unto LIFE for us. The Lord's goat (representing Christ) was offered up at the DOOR of the Tabernacle.

What of the Scapegoat? This goat also represents the RISEN Christ: *But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.* Christ was presented alive before the Father as a full remission of sin.

Both Goats represent Christ - the first, the crucified Christ; the second (Scapegoat), the risen Lord.

Unless I miss my guess, you may have thought today's subject would be boring, but I believe you may have a different opinion now. Do you?