

The true exciting meaning of the azazel goat and Atonement

Does the azazel goat picture Christ or Satan?



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

SUMMARY: This teaching is all about praising Yeshua, our Messiah-Redeemer and how his life and sacrifice was a full and complete atoning of our sins. (This sermon was originally given in 2016) Everything about the day of Atonement is spotlighted right on Yeshua and on him alone. HE is our atonement. HE is our Redeemer. And HE is the one who takes all our sins upon himself. This message may be a major shift for some of you but I hope with the careful use of scriptural backing you will all end up praising Yeshua for his total and sole position as our Atonement in every respect. Learn how Satan has wormed his way into this most sacred of holydays and how we, God's children, must not be fooled by him.

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Warm welcome everyone! Welcome to all of you from the USA, Canada, Israel, Germany, Russia, Kenya, Philippines – wherever you are logging in from, welcome. Over 60-70 countries usually come to this website every month.

The Fall Feasts are nearly upon us. Some of you are keeping the feast a month earlier than others, though most will be keeping them in October, but either way I wanted to address the topic of the *azazel*/goat of Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement – and its purpose and identity. Soon we'll all be keeping or have kept the Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah), Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot.

So let's take another look at Yom Kippur/Atonement and the role of the "scapegoat" or the azazel goat on this day. This sermon will excite some of you and anger and frustrate some of you because what I'm about to say is what I believe all of scripture actually teaches us. But it won't be what some of you have long held as your belief. So today we dive into the topic of the azazel goat of the day of Atonement, translated "the scapegoat" in most of your Bibles.

To me, the truth about the azazel goat is SO exciting and praises our Lord and Saviour Yeshua, the Messiah. If you think it's about anyone else, please give this message

an open look and listen to what your heart says to you as you hear it. I've prayed and studied this topic extensively, as it's also a change from what I used to teach.

What you're about to hear is what I've held for the past 4-5 years or longer. Try to hear God's heart on this. I take this topic very seriously and hope you'll study this with me with an open heart and mind as we search the scriptures to see if what I tell you is what scripture says.

If you agree or disagree with my teaching on this, I'd love to hear from you. Just contact me via the website or if you have my private email already, email me. I'd love to hear from you.

I will praise Yeshua in this sermon, because all the Fall holydays are about Him in every aspect. The spring holydays focus on his first coming and the fall holydays focus on his 2nd coming – which we all hope is soon.

THE TRADITIONAL view of the “scapegoat” or azazel God among the sabbath keeping Church of God groups or even among many other groups including some Protestants is the following:

- There are 2 goats that are presented on the Day of Atonement. True. It's been often said that these 2 goats are identical, hence the need for lots to be cast to differentiate them and their roles. Nowhere are we told they are identical, however.
- The goat that is sacrificed and its blood shed represents Christ, and we all agree with that. It is said by this group that the other goat, the azazel goat – represents Satan. This is the core of the discussion today.
- Typically the name "azazel" (translated "scapegoat") is thought of as just another name for Satan, in the traditional view. I'll show how in the Bible, that's totally false.
- It is then taught that all the sins of humanity are placed on Satan's head sometime in the future, where it belongs, since he is the father of all sin and all sinners who don't repent. (This is because all of Israel's sins were placed on the head of azazel goat).
- A connection is often made between the azazel goat that is led into the wilderness by a fit man (Leviticus 16:20-22) and with Revelation 20:1-3 -- where Satan is bound and put away for the 1,000-year rule of Christ and then released.
- It's often said in these groups – and even I have said it years ago – that Christ pays the penalty of sin but Satan bears or carries the sins, and he takes the blame and is the one punished for the sins. But we'll examine if that's what scripture says!
- The focus then becomes like some sermon titles I've seen: "The Day of Atonement, picturing the putting away of Satan the Devil". Is that really what this day is all about? Another title: "The azazel goat and Satan". So the whole sermon time on

the day of Atonement ends up being about Satan. I won't do that. This sermon is about azazel – but as you'll see – it certainly is not about Satan!

But is all of the above correct? Many who believe as I've just described, have assumed so for decades. So let's examine it again and please try to go through all this with me, with scripture, without too many pre-conceived ideas that you won't re-examine. I'm encouraged that finally, more and more Church of God groups are seeing the light on this!

The theological consequences of those traditional views above I've just stated, would be these:

- The azazel goat becomes just another name for Satan in that explanation. With this explanation all of a sudden one of the "props" in understanding salvation – in this case a goat – no longer pictures Christ, as all other "props" do (like all the sacrifices, all the Furniture, the altar, the table of showbread, the menorah, the tapestries and curtains, the priesthood, everything else pictures Christ – but somehow not this one animal?)
- **Ministers can end up speaking more about Satan (who is assumed to be the azazel goat) than about Yeshua** or God's atoning sacrifice -- on this most sacred and holy of holydays.
- **Satan, in that explanation, has a role in the redemption of man**, according to this plan, and all sin is placed on *his* head, according to this view, as the one who causes all sin.
- On the most holy and solemn day that pictures all mankind beginning to be reconciled back to the one true God after Christ's return -- Satan is seen as having a role in *our reconciliation with God*. But once again, we end up talking about Satan via the *azazel* goat ("scapegoat"), more than talking about Yeshua/Jesus.
- **That azazel pictured Satan may have originated from old Jewish Cabalist teaching. In some Jewish Cabalist thought, the "scapegoat" or azazel goat was actually being sent into the wilderness to appease a wilderness demon called Azazel.**

But brethren, since when would God instruct Aaron and Moses to offer a sacrificial goat to a demon!? This is preposterous. But that old cabalist teaching may have influenced the teaching by some that azazel goat = Satan, which I will disprove.

But is that the way it should be?

WHY do we need to know? WHY is this so important?

- For right doctrine. **One side or the other is teaching pretty serious wrong doctrine.** So this is not just a minor doctrinal issue in my view. So believe me, I don't take this message lightly. Teachers will be judged much more severely (James 3:1) – and I know that!

- One side is ascribing to Satan what should be ascribed to Christ – and the other side is ascribing to Christ what really should be ascribed to Satan. Which is it? How huge of a difference is *that*? Do you see how serious this is? Let's let scripture tell us which is right. To get this topic wrong can actually amount to unintentional blasphemy!
- You will actually have biblical "experts" from the sabbath keepers and from Protestantism taking both sides of this discussion. Some Protestants say the azazel is Satan, and some say it pictures what its name "azazel" means: departure, taken away; pictured by Christ taking away our sins. So taking the stance that *azazel*/is NOT about Satan but about the other part of Christ's role - is not a matter of becoming "more protestant" – as Protestant teachers can teach it both ways.

HIGH OVERVIEW OF WHAT SCRIPTURE ACTUALLY SAYS ABOUT AZAZEL

First a high overview then we'll get down to details.

- The Day of Atonement is really about *a lot of atonements* or coverings going on. The Hebrew original for that word "atonement" is "kapar" or "kippur" meaning covering. It's a day of coverings, atonements – plural – **Kippurim** --as you can clearly see especially in **Leviticus 23:27-28 and Numbers 29:7-11** in the original Hebrew. There was covering ("atonement") for the priest, for the holy sanctuary, for the tabernacle, the altar, the priests and the people (Lev 16:32-34).

Leviticus 16:29-30

"This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, **you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all**, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. 30 For on that day **the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins** before YHVH".

The passage in Numbers 29:7-11 lists all kinds of sacrifices and offerings that were made on this day – not just the two goats that most people were familiar with. One goat was slain as a sin offering and its blood used to cleanse the altar and Holy of Holies (Numbers 29:11), and the other goat – the *azazel* goat of departure – was sent away from the camp having had all the sins of the nation placed on its head. Keep in mind, the azazel goat was an innocent creature on whom all sins were placed. Hmm, could Satan even remotely be thought of as "an innocent"?

Besides that, there were other sacrifices in Num 29:7-11: at least one bull and a ram and 7 lambs were also sacrificed for the sweet smelling burnt offering, plus grain offerings and drink offerings. So it's a Day of Atonements – plural in the Hebrew – as Kippurim. It's about covering sin, being covered by blood that pointed to Christ's sacrifice. Do we really believe Satan has a part in atoning for us and to CLEANSE US, "that you may be clean from all your sins" (Lev 16:30).

- The day of Atonement is about Yeshua and HE should be the focus of our discussion on this day and absolutely NOT be on Satan. In recent years I've heard entire sermons on the Day of Atonement where 70-100% of the sermon time was spent on Satan – on the very day that pictures ATONEMENT of all things!
- **EVERYTHING in scripture about salvation, the tabernacle and temple point to Yeshua.** Everything. Every sacrificed animal and their type, every piece of "furniture" or items like the altar, the table of showbread, the menorah, the curtains, the colors used, the high priest, the garments of the priesthood, the water, the blood, every type of animal that was sacrificed – EVERYTHING pointed to Christ. But we're led to believe on this most sacred day that – oops – one goat points to Satan instead. I can no longer believe that and we'll see WHY shortly, in detail.
- **VERY LITTLE is even said about azazel goat except in Leviticus 16**, but even there most of the chapter is devoted to other topics and discussions and other sacrifices. And the azazel goat is not even mentioned in the other chapters that discuss this holyday, so why do so many ministers spend whole sermons on it on Atonement – and end up talking about Satan!? *I'm talking about Yeshua in this sermon!* And I'm giving this one to clarify how WRONG it is to say azazel is Satan.
- **The book of Hebrews, which talks a LOT about the day of Atonement** and how the High Priest alone could enter the Holy of Holies on just one day – the day of Atonement – never once, not a single time, ever mentions Satan in all the descriptions and teachings in the book of Hebrews. Not a single time. Reason? The process of salvation is not shared with Satan! Satan has NO part in being a co-redeemer or one who helps us be reconciled back to GOD. NONE.

So what's the big fuss about this azazel? And what was the azazel?

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TWO GOATS

There were also 2 goats. Let's focus on those 2 goats and especially the azazel goat now.

IMPORTANT: BOTH GOATS were considered a sin offering, though ultimately just one was killed and spilled its blood... and I'll fully explain all that.

Leviticus 16:5

"And he [the High Priest] shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel **two kids of the goats as a sin offering,** and one ram as a burnt offering."

Lev 16:6 – the bull was offered by Aaron first for himself.

V 7 – the two kids of goats were presented before YHVH

v. 8 – Aaron casts lots – one lot for YHVH and one lot for azazel ("departure") to determine which goat was to do which function.

KEY: The word "azazel" is a WORD, not a NAME. It means "departure" or "sending away". The word azazel is not the name of the goat or the name of a being. It is a Hebrew word that means "departure". This is KEY! Several

translations use the word "scapegoat" – but originally that came from the term "escape goat" and eventually became "scapegoat" – which has a totally different meaning.

Some Jewish rabbis even came to wrongly believe "azazel" was the name of a place about 12 miles east from Jerusalem in the wilderness over there. But these instructions were given to Israel long, long before they came into the promised land, so that idea that it means a place – is ridiculous. The Hebrew word "azazel" means "departure" or "separation".

v. 9- the one for YHVH was offered as a sin offering, for its blood to point to the blood of Christ in the future. No one contests that.

The nation of Israel, including all the Gentiles living among them, were fasting and repenting on this day. To receive atonement we have to repent and turn from our evil ways. **Leviticus 16:29** makes it clear that this day of fasting and no work at all applied to whether you were a native Israelite or a stranger dwelling among them. This pictures the future when God opened the way to salvation and the promises to Abraham to all peoples – not just Israel. See the last few verses of Galatians 3 and Romans 2.

Atonement is offered to the repentant, not to the unrepentant. The unrepentant have to atone for their own sins by their own death and their own blood. **John 3:18, 36** make it clear that God's judgment and wrath remain on those who will not believe in Yeshua, to whom all these sacrifices pointed. We'll read those later.

Now, look at Leviticus 16:10:

v. 10- the azazel goat is presented alive before YHVH, "TO MAKE ATONEMENT UPON IT" and to "let it go as the azazel (goat of departure) into the wilderness."

So the goat that was killed as the sin offering was for YHVH and atonement. We all get that. We don't all get that verse 10 clearly says the LIVE goat, the other goat, the azazel goat, was ALSO for atonement as it was presented before YHVH.

Why oh why would anyone assume that Satan has ANY part in the atonement of our sins? NO SCRIPTURE says any such thing! Atonement is purely the realm of what Yeshua does and did. He and he alone is our Redeemer! (1 Peter 1:18; Rev 5:9). We don't have TWO redeemers (Jesus and Satan, no way) and the act of redemption is NOT going shared with the Devil – which is what happens when we say "azazel refers to Satan"!!

Let's read verse 10 from various translations.

Young's Literal translation:

Leviticus 16:10

'And the goat on which the lot for a goat of departure [azazel in Hebrew] hath gone up is caused to stand living before Jehovah to make atonement by it, to send it away for a goat of departure into the wilderness."

You see – azazel is not a name of a being, but the word for its FUNCTION – the goat for sending away the sins of the people. "Scapegoat" is such a horrible mistranslation.

Leviticus 16:10

But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat [azazel], shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat [azazel] into the wilderness"

Leviticus 16:10 NEW CENTURY VERSION Interesting recounting....

"*The other goat, which was chosen by lot to remove the sin, must be brought alive before Yehovah. The priest will use it to perform the acts that remove Israel's sin (for atonement) so they (Israel) will belong to YHVH. Then this goat will be sent out into the desert as a goat that removes sin.*"

Let me say again and again:

- Nowhere does any scripture say Satan takes or removes our sin. It's not there.
- He CANNOT, because he cannot take anyone's sin for them, at best, he can only "die" for his own sins.
- Nor does Scripture say anywhere that Satan takes our sin far away.
- Nowhere does it say our sins are put on Satan's head. But several clear scriptures tell us Christ removes our sin, Yeshua take on himself our sin and becomes sin for us, Yeshua takes on himself the wrath that our sin brought.

Yeshua, who was very God-made-man (John 1:14), sinless and holy, was and is the only Being who could have accepted all humanity's sins placed on him, as his life is worth more than all humanity put together. So the sin offering goat and the azazel goat can BOTH only point to Christ – who really is the only one who could have done both functions?

HOW GREAT IS THAT? !!! PRAISE YOU, YESHUA!!

The azazel GOAT IN MORE DETAIL NOW

Then what? But first, realize that all of verses 11-19 are all about the bull and the sprinkling of the blood of the bull and the sacrificial goat. The first goat was slain by the priest as a sin offering and its blood used to atone for sin. But that act was seen and done by the priest alone.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Leviticus 16:20-22 NKJV

"And when he [the High Priest] has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring **the live goat**. 21 *Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it ALL the iniquities of the children of Israel, and ALL their transgressions, concerning ALL their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man.* 22 **The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities** to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness."

So the first goat was to show the need for blood of atonement of an innocent – in the same way the azazel goat was now to show how Christ's sacrifice now totally removes our sin and takes it away – as John the Baptist says in John 1:29. How comforting that is.

John 1:29—“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.”

God wanted all Israel to SEE their sins were not only forgiven – but completely cast out, far away from them and they were now seen as cleansed and free from all sin – at least for another year until the next day of Atonement. So it was a very powerful VISUAL when all Israel with their families watched the fit man take this other goat upon whom all their sins had been placed – and all of them watched as this goat was taken out of their camp! They could see the sins literally going out from their presence. What a wonderful picture of what our Messiah does for us. This is NOT what Satan does for us, folks, but what our wonderful Messiah does for us.

But we've polluted that beautiful picture by ascribing much of this to Satan. The goat of separation pictured the rest of the atoning work of Christ and how when he died for us ALL our sins are taken away. **It takes 2 goats to get the full VISUAL of the beautiful and complete atoning work of our Savior.**

Verse 22 – the azazel – the goat of departure – bears on itself all our iniquities. Show me a single verse where we're told that Satan bears on himself all of our sins. Just a single verse. **In fact scripture is clear who bears our sins and what he does with them.**

WHO ACTUALLY HAS SIN PUT ON HIS HEAD

This is what your Bible says about who bore all sin – and it wasn't Satan, folks! That's why I say if we get this wrong, it's such a heresy, and maybe even blasphemous to say Satan bears our sins! Turn to Isaiah 53, the prophecy about Messiah and notice how explicit scripture is about who has all sin put on HIS head (as pictured by what was done to the azazel goat):

Isaiah 53:4-6

“Surely HE has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And YHVH has laid on HIM the iniquity of us all.”

Isaiah 53:10-12

“Yet it pleased YHVH to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.

When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed,

He shall prolong His days,
And the pleasure of YHVH shall prosper in His hand.
11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.
By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,
For HE shall bear their iniquities.
12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And HE bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors."

So who bears our sins? To whom does the azazel point? It's real clear, isn't it?

Is Satan the one who makes intercession or bears our sins or takes away our sins? NO, NO, NO, Brethren! There's not a single verse in the entire Bible that says all our sins are placed on Satan's head and that HE makes atonement for us. Not a single one – no matter how strongly your pastor may teach that false teaching, it's not in the Bible that way. In my view now, that borders on BLASPHEMY. Satan has NO part in my or your atonement and NO part in reconciling us to God and NO part in taking our sins far away. NONE! To those who challenge me on this: just show me ONE scripture that says our sins are placed on Satan's head. Just one. But there are so many that say Christ takes on himself all our sins! And takes them away! (John 1:29).

The azazel had put on his head all our sins and then that goat was marched out of camp in the view of all Israel so they could literally see their sins all being taken out of the camp! Does Satan take away the sins of the world? What does scripture say? The azazel goat, the goat of separation/departure – the goat that had all the sins put on its head TOOK AWAY the sins of the nation out of the camp.

Aaron as high priest was also a foreshadow of Jesus Christ. WHAT was written on the High Priest's forehead and what did the High Priest depict as far as sin goes? See January 2014 sermon "What Yeshua is doing as our High Priest".

Exodus 28:36-38

"You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO YHVH.

37 And you shall put it on a blue cord, that it may be on the turban; it shall be on the front of the turban. 38 So it shall be on Aaron's forehead, **that AARON may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts;** and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before YHVH".

There is not a SINGLE verse in the Bible that says Satan takes on himself all our sins for us to be atoned. Why? That's the role of holy, perfect, innocent, righteous Jesus/Yeshua and his role alone. Satan can't do it because Satan himself is terribly evil.

Important point: especially since they didn't know which goat would be doing which function, BOTH goats -the atoning sacrificed goat and the azazel – both goats had to be inspected as flawless and innocent. Satan IS NOT innocent or flawless. He could not represent either goat! Remember again, even the azazel was presented FOR ATONEMENT (Lev 16:10).

How, oh how, could Satan ever be presented for ATONEMENT (Lev 16:10)? You can try to reason it, - but show me one scripture, even just one, that says Satan becomes YOUR and my atonement, ever. Just one verse.

So WHO reconciles us to God the Father? And how did he do it?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of **God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them**, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God**.

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of GOD in Him"

Just as our sins were imputed to Him who had known no sin – to Christ – in the same way, the righteousness of GOD is imputed or credited to us who really knew no righteousness before that time. BY taking on himself our sins, the wrath of God that was upon us was also taken away – by and in Christ, who himself bore all the wrath of God for our sins, for us (Romans 5:9). It takes someone who is/was sinless to be able to do all that, and great enough to cover all our sins. Neither could ever apply to Satan.

Satan CANNOT atone for the world's sins – because he has been THE chief sinner of all. The MAIN atonement is from picturing an innocent lamb or kid goat dying for the guilty nation. And then the second goat pictured our sins being sent away, instead of all of us being sent away from Gods presence like Adam and Eve were.

Peter backs this up too:

1 Peter 3:18

"For Christ also suffered ONCE for sins, the just for the unjust, that **HE** might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit...."

Satan is never mentioned in all of these scriptures about atonement. Never.

Now maybe some of you might **feel better** if you could have put all your sins on to evil/Satan who tempted you to sin and then have him cast out... but that would mean he would have a part in your atonement and redemption. No folks – we have ONE atonement, ONE Redeemer and only one. That role is not being shared – and certainly not with Satan.

WHO and WHO ALONE takes away our sins as the azazel goat pictured?

The azazel – goat of departure. WHO did that goat picture?

John 1:29 – John the Baptist speaking:

"....Behold **the Lamb of God, WHO takes away the sins of the world.**"

Any question on that? Could that be any clearer? And it's NOT Satan.

Psalms 103:1-5, 11-14

Bless YHVH, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

2 Bless YHVH, O my soul, and forget not ALL His benefits:

3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,

4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with
lovingkindness and tender mercies,

5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like
the eagle's.

Now jumping to verses 11-14.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,

So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

12 As far as the east is from the west,

So far has HE [and HE ALONE!] REMOVED our transgressions from us.

13 As a father pities his children, So YHVH pities those who fear Him.

14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Verse 12 again: it can't be any clearer, can it? It's GOD who removes our sins. The word azazel refers to removal.

But WHAT ABOUT REVELATION 20:1-3**Revelation 20:1-3**

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, **who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit**, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. **But after these things he must be released for a little while.**

There's no mention whatsoever here that all the sins of humanity are placed on the dragon's head. No, because all the sins are placed on

Yeshua's head. Yeshua is the one who takes our sins upon HIS head and no one other – unless you refuse him, then the sins remain with you and you remain in God's wrath (John 3:18, 35).

Also, the azazel goat was sent into the wilderness and was not to be brought back in. If Revelation 20 was about azazel, the story line in Leviticus 16 should say the fit man was supposed to bring the goat back after a week or so, but it doesn't say that. Traditions say sometimes it did wander back in on its own, but certainly nobody ever went out to untie it or to BRING it back in to the camp. But that's what happens to Satan after the thousand years.

Perhaps you're seeing it now – but just in case – here are some other FALSE statements and assumptions often made about azazel:

- “**Azazel is Satan, or at least a very bad demon**”. **This was** largely first stated by the Babylonian-captivity Jews and in the book of Enoch. But the so-called Book of Enoch wasn't written until 200 or 300 years before Christ appeared as Yeshua/Jesus. It was NOT written by Enoch. But even in the book of Enoch, the leading Watcher or fallen spirit was someone else – not Satan, not Azazyal or azazel. But scripture tells us Satan is the leader of his fallen angels.
 - **The fact is though:** “azazel” refers to the **FUNCTION** of the goat – separated, goat of departure. **It was NOT a NAME of a powerful angelic being. It was describing a FUNCTION.**
- “**The wilderness is the abode of Satan**”. So is that why God brought Israel into the wilderness to give them his law/torah and to marry them? And apparently will do it again? And wasn't the wilderness where prophets routinely went to get closer to God – as did Paul in Arabia, Moses to the same place, Elijah while he hid for a while as he was fed by crows, John the Baptist's ministry was in the desert, Yeshua himself often went to wilderness areas for some contemplative time and even when he fasted 40 days, and others? Does that make sense? Yes, I know Yeshua also went there “to be tempted (tried/tested) of the devil”.

So no, I can't subscribe to this statement either.

- “**The two goats were identical in appearance and the lots cast were to show which one pictured Christ and which one pictured Satan**”.
But I can find nowhere where that is stated that way as such. Can you? Is that another assumption and premise upon which whole doctrines are based? The lots were to show which goat would perform which important function.
- “**The Azazel goat was so filthy that the fit man who led it into the wilderness had to wash himself first before he could come back into the camp.**” Lev 16:26

- **The azazel was filthy because all the sins of Israel were pronounced on its head.** So it carried the most vile of thoughts and deeds. Christ also became sin for us and took all the wrath of God on himself up to the point where he could finally shout in victory – ‘FINISHED!’ -- and “into your hands I commit my spirit”
- But needing to be washed is also true of Aaron who handled the other goat for YHVH that was slain for a sin offering. Sin offerings were not a sweet smelling savor as the burnt offering was. BOTH represented different facets of sin and so a washing afterwards was required of BOTH goats. **See Lev 16:23-28.** (Note: I now say “Yehovah” instead of “Yahweh” as I did in 2016; all the evidence in recent years from ancient manuscripts that were found to have the vowel points in them -- points to that pronunciation).
- **“The azazel goat pictures stubborn, sinful man, as goats are stubborn”.** Folks, the sacrifice for the sin offering, that one that was killed, was also a goat, and goats also pictured Christ, as did lambs and bulls and doves. So that argument is baseless.
- Other statements I hear, which I feel are so false, are: “Satan is the one who makes final atonement.... Christ will not forever carry all the sins of the world on himself. Christ will not forever be sin for us as 2 Cor 5:21 says.”

REALLY? “Christ will not forever carry all the sins of the world upon himself?” What scripture says that?

But there are clear scriptures which clearly say the sacrifice of Christ was strong enough and big enough to cover ALL of us who repent once and for all time.

Hebrews 9:26-28---IS VERY CLEAR: Christ offered himself ONCE for sin, for all time.

Hebrews 10:10-14 also (read all thru v 22 on your own though)
“By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE.

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, **after He had offered one sacrifice for sins FOREVER [i.e., for ETERNITY], sat down at the right hand of God,** 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 ***For by ONE offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.***

What about those who don't repent?

What about those who don't repent? They bear their own sin. They have no atonement. They have to die for their own sin. Satan's not going to take their sin either.

John 3:18

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but **he who does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Who is the one condemned? The one who refuses to believe in the Son of God when he is shown this truth. I pray for Jews that they will come to love their Jewish Messiah who came 2000 years ago but Jews back then were blinded from seeing him. Satan does not take that condemnation for you. *The unbeliever takes it himself for himself.* Satan IS NOT a redeemer, is not a savior, is not a reconciler, is not any of those things. He cannot be.

John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, **but the wrath of God abides on him.**"

Look who took the wrath for sins for those who believe in God's son and have faith in him:

Romans 5:8-9

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, **we shall be saved from wrath [HOW?] through Him.**"

CONCLUSION

So – there you have it. azazel is the goat of departure. It cannot represent Satan because all our sins are not placed on Satan's head but on Christ's head as Isaiah 53 says. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). That's Christ's job, not Satan's job. Christ is the one who casts our sins as far away as the east is from the west.

What a beautiful picture of our **Messiah** – showing the other part of his atoning work:

- The first half is pictured by the kid goat that is killed and its blood sprinkled in the Holy of Holies and on the altar. Our sins are covered, atoned for, but only the Priest saw the sprinkling going on. And it covers only the repenting, repentant sinners.

The 2nd goat, the goat of departure – azazel in Hebrew – pictures the result of what Christ does for us: our sins are taken away by him, far from us. HE takes on HIS head the sins we committed, as I've shown and exactly what scripture says. There's not a single verse I know of that says our sins are put on Satan's head and that HE atones for us or our sins. NONE. That's Yeshua's job. Let's not DARE give that over to the Adversary!

- willing to incur the wrath of God on himself so you won't have to bear any wrath (Romans 5:9)
- The holy perfect son of God was willing to become Sin for us, so your sin is gone (2 Cor 5:21) as far as the east is from the west, and forgotten forever.
- This pictures the perfect High Priest bearing on himself the iniquities of the nation (Exodus 28:38)

Redemption and atonement: That's all Yeshua's work, and hallelu yah!

If you still think Satan has a part in your atonement, boy I sure hope you will fast and pray about that. I want nothing to do with Satan or him to do with me. Christ is my atonement. Christ is the one who takes upon his head all my sins and takes them away from me. HE is my salvation and Satan has no part in it.

Let's STOP talking about Satan on the Day of Atonement, of all days! When I give my full sermon on the full meaning of Yom Kippur or Kippurim, the Day of Coverings/Atonements, I will be focused entirely on Christ. I just wanted to be sure you all understand WHY when you hear that sermon.

The Day of Atonement is all about Yeshua. Period. Him and no one else.

And that is also why on the day of Atonement, nobody was allowed to do any work at all –except one person: the High Priest. That was because we are saved not by works, but by FAITH in the saving Sacrifice of Christ and that it pictured the total removal of our sins far, far away from us – by him, pictured in the TWO goats, both picturing different aspects of the atonement.

And I remind you again: BOTH goats were for a sin offering – Lev 16:5, and BOTH goats were for atonement before YHVH (Lev 16:9-10). Satan has nothing to do with atonement and reconciliation and redemption. Have I said that enough times now? And supported it with scripture?

ONLY the High Priest did a lot of work on this day. The High priest pictured Messiah. HE is the One who brings atonement to us. And ONLY he.

Praise you YHVH. PRAISE you Yeshua. Come quickly, come soon.

Closing prayer.

BONUS SCRIPTURES**Hebrews 9:12-15**

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, **14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?** 15 And for this reason HE is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."

Hebrews 9:25-28

"....not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another [day of ATONEMENT]— 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; **but now, ONCE at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.** 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so **Christ was offered ONCE to bear the sins of many.** To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Hebrews 10:11-22

"And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, **after He had offered one sacrifice for sins FOREVER [i.e., for ETERNITY], sat down at the right hand of God,** 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 **For by ONE offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,
16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says Yehovah: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," 17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest [day of ATONEMENT being referenced here] by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."