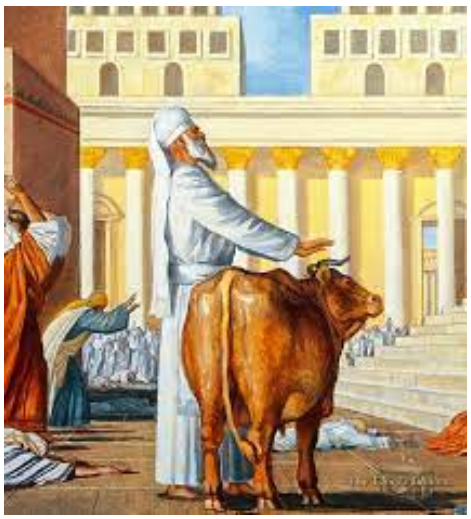
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Confessions Over the Bull
16: 6

Confessions over the bull DIG: Why do you think ADONAI chose animal sacrifices to reconcile the differences between unholy people and a holy God? Why wasn't it enough? Why is that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness for sin" (Hebrews 9:22)?

REFLECT: Is there anything that has become a "holy cow" in your life? How can you get back to worshiping the "holy Messiah?" What is the difference between external and internal cleansing in your life? Do you know someone who needs to hear this? Who can you help?

Aaron is to present the bull for the purification offering which is for himself
and make atonement for himself and his household.



In the morning of **the Day of Atonements** (**to see link click Cq – The Day of Atonements**), **the high priest** immersed **himself** in the mikveh for the first time. **He** put on the regular clothing of **the high priest (Exodus 28:6-38)**, and carried out the morning continual **'olah offering** (see **Ao – 'Olah Offering**). **He** then

immersed again and put on simple, **white linen garments**. After dressing, **he** laid **his** hands on **the bull** for **his purification offering** (see **AI – The Purification Offering**). **Aaron is to present the bull for the purification offering which is for himself and make atonement for himself and his household (16:6).** The sacrifice of **the bull** removed all hindrances between **the high priest** and **YHVH** so that **he** could perform **the offerings** on behalf of the people.

This is the first occurrence of the Hebrew verb *kaphar* in **Leviticus 16**. It is a verb from noun *kopher*, meaning to *cover over*, *pacify*, or *to make propitiation for*. *Propitiation* is the averting **God's** wrath by means of a vicarious (substitutionary) and efficacious (producing the desired effect) sacrifice (death), foreshadowing **the Messiah** (**the atonement**). It is the work of **Messiah** which satisfies every claim of **God's** holiness and justice so that **YHVH** is free to act on behalf of **sinners**.

The verb *kapher* can be seen in **Genesis 6:14** where **Ha'Shem** told **Noah to make an ark and cover it with pitch** (*kaphar*) **both outside and inside.** In addition, when **Moshe's mother Jochebed could not hide him any longer, she** and **her** husband defied **Pharaoh's** decree and **hid the baby (Acts 7:17-20). She got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch (2:3a).** The **Hebrew** word for **basket** used here is the same word translated **ark** in **Genesis 6:14. It was coated with tar and pitch** just like **Noah's ark** was and **it** was built for floating, just like **Noah's ark**. The **Hebrew** word for **pitch** is *kaphar,* and translated **atonement** elsewhere in the Bible**.**

According the Mishnah, while laying his hands on the head of the bull, he made the following prescribed confession, "I beg You, YHVH, forgive me now the wicked acts, rebellions and sins, for I have acted wickedly, rebelled and sinned before You, I and my household, as it is written in the Torah of Your servant Moses, 'For it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before YHVH (Yoma 3.8, quoting Leviticus 16:30). Other confessions of **sin** in the TaNaKh may be found in **Ezra 9; Nehemiah 1:5-11; Dani'el 9,** and **Psalm 106.**

In the Second Temple Jewish custom, the high priest's Yom Kippur confessions were the only time of the year that the Divine Name was pronounced audibly and clearly. The assembled worshippers in the Temple courts could prostrate themselves as they heard the Divine Name audibly uttered and they would exclaim together, "Blessed be the Name of the Glory of His Kingdom forever and ever" (Yoma 3.8).[276]

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, May your name be forever blessed! The gift **You** offered, redemption thru the blood of **Your Son**, was such a costly gift! **For if by the one man's transgression, death reigned through the one, how much more shall those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Messiah Yeshua (Romans 5:17).** May the great pain and shame that **You** suffered for us be branded on our minds that we do not take lightly your precious gift, but that we long with every thought to please **You** in all we think, say and do.*

*It is such a wonderful privilege to have **You** as our Heavenly **Father**, who is always by our side to help, protect and to guide us. **For God Himself has** said: **I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5c).** It is a joy to know that our eternal happiness in heaven cannot be compared with our temporary trials on this earth. **For I consider the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18).** Also, what comfort to know that as we surrender every detail of our lives to you, our wise and wonderful Heavenly **Father**, **You** work out all things in our lives out to bless us and to glorify **Your** great name. **Now we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28).** We delight in blessing **Your** great name by our worship and obedience! In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*