**9. “EMPOWERED FOR DESTINY”**

**Section III:** THE PLAN ORGANIZED

**Biblical Basis:** Leviticus

**Objective:** That each class member will recognize from the book of Leviticus that atonement was God’s provision to empower a sinful Israel to fulfill the blessing she was destined to be.

**INTRODUCTION**

Israel was on her way to fulfill her God-ordained destiny to be a blessing to all people. Through able leadership she was organized and disciplined. The Lord provided for her and helped her to remember her past as well as her purpose. But sin and evil was as much a part of the Israelite experience as that of non-Godly people. Evil was real; Satan’s power was real! Being God’s chosen people did not exclude Israel from the temptations and wickedness of sin.

If Israel became preoccupied with her own guilt and broken relationship with Almighty God, how then could she be used to meet the needs of the world about her? How would God deal with Israel’s sin? Among all the factors which the Lord introduced to help Israel toward a “realized destiny,” nothing was more significant than the institution of atonement. The atonement was designed by God to empower Israel to deal with her own shortcomings and sins in order that she might “be a blessing.”

**I. ISRAEL’S CALL TO FULFILL A DESTINY**

 A. The problem of the ages.

 1. Review once again Genesis 3:6,7,24. What was the problem that faced all humanity?

 2. What promise did God make that gave hope to mankind? (Gen 3:15)

 B. The plan of the ages.

 1. How did that promise begin to take on historical reality toward its fulfillment?

 (Gen 12:1-3; Acts 3:25-26)

 2. What did God do to designate Israel as the instrument whereby the world will be blessed? (Gen 17:1-8; 26:3-5)

**II. ISRAEL’S THREAT TO FULFILL HER DESTINY**

 A. The reality of sin.

 1. How did scripture show that “being God’s chosen people” did not exclude them from the power or presence of evil? (Ex 32:1-3; Num 13:31-14:3; 21:4-5)

 2. Israel was weak. As evil exerted its pressure upon her, she yielded. How did Israel become the victim of sin in much the same way as Adam had?

 (Num 14:20-23; 32:23)

 B. The realization of Israel’s destiny

 1. According to Exodus 19:5-6, what had God called Israel to be?

 2. Until Israel’s burden was lifted, she would be ill-prepared to lift the burdens of others. The consequences of her sinfulness must be resolved if she was to play her designated role upon the earth. Israel was so involved in taking care of her own burdens that she was not free to minister to the needs of others.

 What did God expect of Israel in terms of her character? (Lev 20:26)

**III. GOD’S ANSWER TO EMPOWER ISRAEL FOR DESTINY**

 The book of Leviticus shows how redeemed sinners might live before a Holy God.

A. Access to a Holy God. (Lev 1 – 15)

 1. How did God describe Himself in relationship to His people? (Lev 11:44-45; 19:1-2)

 2. What was significant about the command that sin offerings be brought to the tent of meeting? (Lev 1:3-4; 3:12; 4:4,14; 9:5; 17:1-7; 17:8-9)

 3. What was important for a person to live in the presence of Holy God?

 (Lev 5:5-6)

 4. Who was designated to stand as mediator between a Holy God and sinful man?

 (Lev 1:4; 2:2; 3:2; 4:4-5,16)

 B. Atonement for a sinful people. (Lev 16-17)

 1. What made it possible for the people’s sins to be forgiven and blotted out?

 (Lev 16:15-16)

 2. What was the priest to do with the blood of the goat and what did it symbolize?

 (Lev 16:17-19)

 3. What do you think is meant by the statements made in Leviticus 17:11 and Deuteronomy 12:23?

 4. How does the writer of Hebrews explain that Jesus in the fulfillment of the atonement sacrifice? (Heb 10:3-18)

 C. Actions of people responding to a Holy God. (Lev 18 – 26)

 1. What did God expect of His people? (Lev 19:1-2)

 a. Define holiness.

 b. What was the basis or motivation for holiness? (Lev 18:1-5; 20:22-26)

 To be holy, what areas of living must we submit to the Lord?

 2. Chapters 23 – 26 give instructions of how to rejoice in God’s salvation.

 a. Read the appendix “the feasts of Israel” and note the significance of the celebration of these feasts.

 b. Why is it important for Christians to understand these feasts?

**CONCLUSION**

God has also called us as Christians to a destiny. What is our call? (I Cor 6:19-20; II Cor 6:16 – 7:1) How does sin threaten our witness? What is God’s answer to our dilemma? (I John 1:9) What about you, are you responding as a “holy people” to a Holy God?