

and was known to be a symbolic act by all intelligent Hebrew worshippers. It was simply an outward ceremony with which atonement or forgiveness was associated. It symbolized a reconciled relation between Jehovah and those who had fulfilled their lawful obligations to him.

The symbolism of the sacrifices on the great day of atonement, though very significant, is also very simple. The sprinkling upon the altar of the blood of a bullock, slain by the high priest as a sin offering for himself and his household, symbolized that Jehovah had graciously accepted their sacrifice, and forgiven their sins. "The life of the flesh is in the blood," Leviticus 17:11 teaches; and the blood was supposed to be an atonement, or a covering of sin, by the soul of the worshipper being voluntarily dedicated to God.

When the act of atoning for the priesthood was completed, the act of atoning for the people was commenced. Two goats were presented at the door of the tabernacle, and, since it was immaterial which one was selected, lots were cast to determine which of them should be slain. These animals were regarded as constituting but one offering, because each had its own part to bear in the solemnity. The one which was put to death indicated that the life of those present belonged thenceforth to God, and the one which was sent away indicated that their sins were thus removed from all connection with