



Daily Verse and Comment

Leviticus 16:29

(29) And it shall be a statute forever to you: in the seventh month, on the tenth of the month, you shall afflict your souls and do no work at all, *whether it be* one of your own country or a stranger who is living among you,

Leviticus 23:28-31

(28) And you shall do no work in that same day, for it *is* the Day of Atonement, in order to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God, (29) For whoever is not afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. (30) And whoever does any work in that same day, the same one will I destroy from among his people. (31) You shall do no manner of work. *It shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Numbers 29:7

(7) And you shall have a holy convocation on the tenth day of this seventh month. And you shall afflict your souls. You shall not do any work *therein*.

A Faithful Version

On the [Day of Atonement](#), [God](#) requires that absolutely no work be performed ([Leviticus 16:29](#); [23:28-31](#); [Numbers 29:7](#)), symbolizing that human effort is completely useless in making the proper atonement needed to keep living after [sin](#). The Israelites could do nothing but observe what occurred at the Tabernacle, watching as the young goat was led away with all their sins. Likewise, we can do absolutely nothing to add to Christ's atoning work. Thus, it is a day without work for us as well.

Israel's works nearly condemned the nation to obliteration. In particular, the Golden Calf was a work of Aaron's hands ([Exodus 32:4-5](#)). No matter how he tried to pass it off, he deliberately fashioned an idol out of gold, something he had to work at. Similarly, the work of Nadab's and Abihu's hands included offering profane fire ([Leviticus 10:1](#)). In [Haggai 2:14](#), God remarks on Israel's spoiling of everything she puts her hands to: “‘So is this people, and so is this nation before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘and so is *every work of their hands*; and what they offer there is unclean.’” The works of men always contain defilement, so on the day when God removes the filth, no work can be done, lest more corruption be introduced.

The only work permitted on the Day of Atonement was performed by the high priest and by the man who led the [azazel](#) away, and both had to have an atonement made for them. For us, it is a day of solemn remembrance of the perfect work of our High Priest, who gave us precious access to the Father and removed our sins.

Atonement is also a day of afflicting one's soul. This requirement could serve as a reminder of the fasting [Moses](#) did during his interactions with God. There is overwhelming gravity in all that was involved when he fasted for forty days on back-to-back-to-back occasions. Two of those times involved meeting directly with God, receiving a pattern for life from His incomparable mind. The middle period of fasting reflects how seriously God regarded the sins and the enormity of what was at stake due to Aaron's and the nation's transgressions.

— David C. Grabbe

To learn more, see:

[Who Fulfills the Azazel Goat— Satan or Christ? \(Part Four\)](#)

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