
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 3

The Case of the Man in the Middle *Leviticus 6,16; Matthew 27; Hebrews 1-5,9,10,18*

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. The Day of Atonement was the most important day of the year for God's people, long ago. "Atonement" means "paying for sins so we can be God's people." Without atonement, the people couldn't stay God's people. And nothing was more important than staying God's people!
2. You see, God is all good. He's holy. But just like us, God's people, long ago, were sinners. They disobeyed God and broke their friendship with Him. They didn't deserve to be His people. They deserved to be forgotten by God, not loved, or helped by Him. They deserved His punishment.
3. That's why they could only be God's people through atonement --special worship gifts given to God for their sins. And these gifts were SO SPECIAL, they could only be given in a very special way by the high priest, in the Tabernacle, the place of God's special presence here on earth.
4. The high priest had to do things just right, if he were to meet with God and his worship gifts be accepted. He washed, then went into the Tabernacle and put on the pure, white Atonement Day clothes, worn only to make these worship gifts, this one day of the year. Now, he was ready.
5. The high priest took the gift for his own sin, then the gift for the people's sins and went behind the cherubim-covered curtain into the Most Holy Place --the place of God's special presence on earth. He offered the worship gifts and asked God's forgiveness for their sins.
6. Then, the high priest put his regular clothes back on and went out to the fiery, bronze altar to make two more worship gifts-- one for himself, and one for the people. The people watched as he prayed for them and offered the gifts. And it was done! Atonement was made for another year.
7. God's people saw one high priest after another bring worship gifts to make atonement, year after year. Why couldn't a priest just go in once and make one, big worship gift for the people for all time? Because none of the high priests or their gifts were good enough.
8. By God's law, only a PERFECT high priest, with NO SIN, bringing a PERFECT worship gift would be good enough for God to forgive sins and answer his prayers for the people. Would there ever be a high priest who could do this? Yes, there would! God's perfect Son, Jesus!
9. Because Jesus was perfect, He could be the perfect high priest --the final Middle Man. He could present the worship gift for the sins of God's people that would last forever. And what did Jesus give as that perfect worship gift? He gave Himself, as He died on the cross for them.
10. And, while the other high priests took their worship gifts into the Tabernacle, behind the cherubim curtain, here on earth, Jesus took His worship gift to heaven. He presented His life before the real cherubim and God, His Father, as the final, perfect worship gift for God's people.
11. Ripppppp! The curtain in front of the Most Holy Place split in two when Jesus died. The perfect high priest had made the final atonement! God and His people could be together forever now. On Day Three, Jesus proved it when He rose from dead. God had accepted Jesus' perfect worship gift.
12. Then, Jesus rose up to heaven to rule. He's there, even now. And He still is the Man in the Middle, the perfect high priest, for all of God's people. Jesus is always interceding (praying) for them. And God, the Father, is always answering Jesus' prayers for them with a YES!