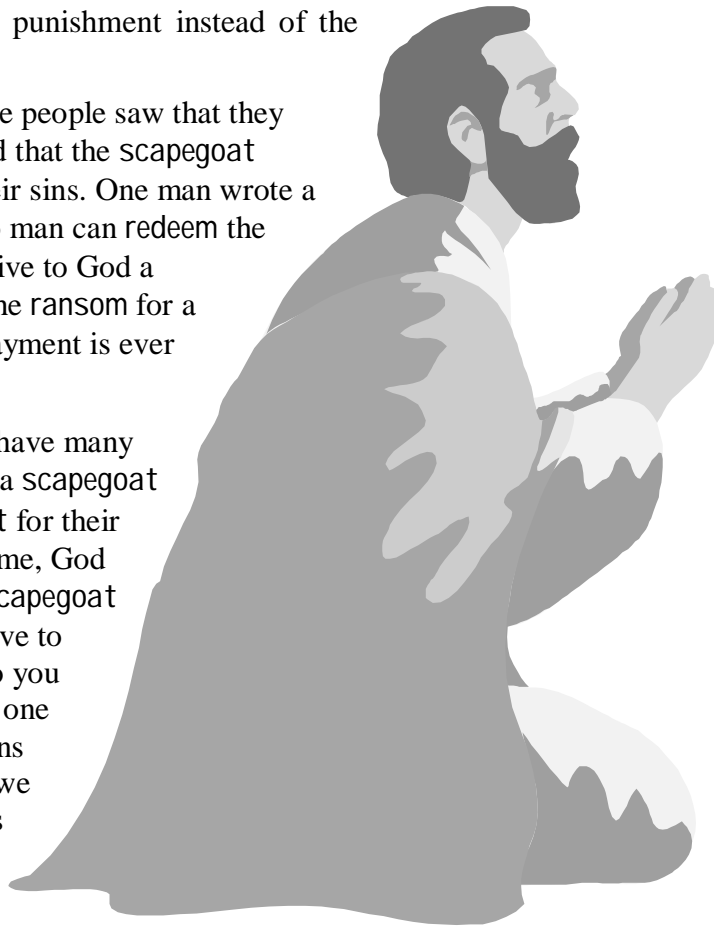


16. The Scapegoat

Long ago God told the people to do something very strange. He said, "Every year you must take two goats and a ram and make atonement for your sins. I will choose one man who must kill the goat and the ram for the sins of the people. The other goat must be a scapegoat. The man must put his hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the sins of the people. He must then send the goat away into the desert. The goat will carry on itself the sins of all the people." In this way the people could get rid of their sins. The scapegoat got the punishment instead of the people.

As time went by the people saw that they have many sins and that the scapegoat cannot carry all their sins. One man wrote a song that said, "No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him. The ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough..."

Today people still have many sins and they need a scapegoat to make atonement for their sins. At the right time, God gave us a perfect scapegoat so that we don't have to die for our sins. Do you know who was the one who took all our sins on himself so that we can be clean? Jesus said: "I came to give my life as a ransom for many."



Vocabulary

goat	แพะ	Goats like to eat anything.
ram	แกะผู้	A ram is a male sheep.
atonement	การลบมลทินบาป	If he can make atonement for his wrongs, we will forgive him.
scapegoat	คนที่รับกรรมแทนผู้อื่น	They made me the scapegoat for the financial scandal.
to confess	สารภาพ	We must confess our sins.
to get rid of	กำจัด	I want to get rid of this old shirt. Do you want it?
to redeem	ไถ่ตัว	Do you have enough money to redeem your debt?
ransom	ค่าไถ่	If you want to live, you've got to pay the full ransom.
costly	แพง	It is very costly to go for a holiday in the USA.

The Bible says

God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us.

2 Cor 5:21

เพราะว่าพระเจ้าได้ทรงกระทำพระองค์ผู้ทรงไม่มีบาป ให้บาป เพราะเห็นแก่เรา เพื่อเราจะได้เป็นคนชอบธรรมของพระเจ้าทางพระองค์

Comprehension

1. What is a scapegoat?
2. Why was the scapegoat not good enough?
3. What will happen if we don't have a scapegoat?