



## Goating Over the Cliff

Excerpts from Vayikra

Vayikra 16 [Translation from Sefaria.org]	ויקרא טז
<sup>1</sup> God spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron who died when they drew too close to the presence of God.	<sup>א</sup> וַיִּדְבֹּר יי אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אַחֲרֵי מוֹת שְׁנֵי בָנָיו אֲהֲרֹן בְּקִרְבָּתָם לִפְנֵי־יי וַיָּמָתוּ:
<sup>2</sup> God said to Moses: Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come at will into the Shrine behind the curtain, in front of the cover that is upon the ark, lest he die; for I appear in the cloud over the cover.	<sup>ב</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר יי אֶל־מֹשֶׁה דַּבֵּר אֶל־אַהֲרֹן אַחִיךָ וְאַל־יָבֹא בְּכָל־עֵת אֶל־הַקֹּדֶשׁ מִבַּיִת לִפְרֹכֶת אֶל־פְּנֵי הַכַּפֹּרֶת אֲשֶׁר עַל־הָאָרֹן וְלֹא יָמוּת כִּי בָעֲנָן אֶרְאֶה עַל־הַכַּפֹּרֶת:
<sup>3</sup> Thus only shall Aaron enter the Shrine: with a bull of the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.—	<sup>ג</sup> כִּזָּאת יָבֹא אַהֲרֹן אֶל־הַקֹּדֶשׁ בְּפָר כֶּן־ בָּקָר לְחֹטָאת וְאֵיל לְעֹלָה:
<sup>4</sup> He shall be dressed in a sacral linen tunic, with linen breeches next to his flesh, and be girt with a linen sash, and he shall wear a linen turban. They are sacral vestments; he shall bathe his body in water and then put them on.—	<sup>ד</sup> תְּתַנֵּת־בֹּד קֹדֶשׁ יִלְבָּשׁ וּמִכְנָסִי־בֹד יִהְיֶה עַל־בָּשָׂרוֹ וּבִאֲכָנֹט בֹּד יַחְגֹּר וּבִמְצָנֹפֶת בֹּד יִצְנֹף בְּגָדֵי־קֹדֶשׁ הֵם וְרַחֵץ בַּמַּיִם אֶת־בָּשָׂרוֹ וּלְבָשָׁם:
<sup>5</sup> And from the Israelite community he shall take two he-goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.	<sup>ה</sup> וַיִּמָּאֵת עֹדֶת בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יֶקַח שְׁנֵי־ שְׁעִירֵי עִזִּים לְחֹטָאת וְאֵיל אֶחָד לְעֹלָה:
<sup>6</sup> Aaron is to offer his own bull of sin offering, to make expiation for himself and for his household.	<sup>ו</sup> וַהֲקָרִיב אַהֲרֹן אֶת־פָּר הַחֹטָאת אֲשֶׁר־ לוֹ וּכְפָר בְּעֹדוֹ וּבְעַד בֵּיתוֹ:
<sup>7</sup> Aaron shall take the two he-goats and let them stand before God at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting;	<sup>ז</sup> וַיִּלְקַח אֶת־שְׁנֵי הַשְּׁעִירִם וַהֲעָמִיד אֹתָם לִפְנֵי יי פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד:
<sup>8</sup> and he shall place lots upon the two goats, one marked for God and the other marked for Azazel.	<sup>ח</sup> וַיִּנָּתֵן אַהֲרֹן עַל־שְׁנֵי הַשְּׁעִירִם גּוּרְלוֹת גּוּרֹל אֶחָד לַיי וּגּוּרֹל אֶחָד לְעִזָּאֵזֶל:
<sup>9</sup> Aaron shall bring forward the goat designated by lot for God, which he is to offer as a sin offering;	<sup>ט</sup> וַהֲקָרִיב אַהֲרֹן אֶת־הַשְּׁעִיר אֲשֶׁר עָלָה עָלָיו הַגּוּרֹל לַיי וַעֲשֶׂהוּ חֹטָאת:



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<sup>10</sup> while the goat designated by lot for Azazel shall be left standing alive before God, to make expiation with it and to send it off to the wilderness for Azazel.	וְהַשְׁעִיר אֲשֶׁר עָלָה עָלָיו הַגּוֹרֵל לְעִזָּאֵל יַעֲמֶדְחִי לִפְנֵי יְיָ לְכַפֵּר עָלָיו לְשַׁלַּח אֹתוֹ לְעִזָּאֵל הַמִּדְבָּרָה:
<sup>11</sup> Aaron shall then offer his bull of sin offering, to make expiation for himself and his household. He shall slaughter his bull of sin offering	יִהְיֶה קָרִיב אֵהָרֵן אֶת־פֶּר הַחֹטֹאת אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וְכֹפֵר בַּעֲדוֹ וּבַעֲד בֵּיתוֹ וְשַׁחַט אֶת־פֶּר הַחֹטֹאת אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ:
<sup>12</sup> and he shall take a panful of glowing coals scooped from the altar before God, and two handfuls of finely ground aromatic incense, and bring this behind the curtain.	יִלָּקַח מִלֹּא־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ גִּחְלֵי־אֵשׁ מֵעַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִלִּפְנֵי יְיָ וּמִלֹּא חֲפָנָיו קִטְרֶת סָמִים וְדָקָה וְהֵבִיא מִבֵּית לְפָרֹכֶת:
<sup>13</sup> He shall put the incense on the fire before God, so that the cloud from the incense screens the cover that is over [the Ark of] the Pact, lest he die.	וְנָתַן אֶת־הַקִּטְרֶת עַל־הָאֵשׁ לִפְנֵי יְיָ וְכֹסֶה עֵנַן הַקִּטְרֶת אֶת־הַכִּפֹּרֶת אֲשֶׁר עַל־הָעֵדוּת וְלֹא יָמוּת:
<sup>14</sup> He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger over the cover on the east side; and in front of the cover he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.	וְיִלָּקַח מִדָּם הַפָּר וְהִזָּה בְּאֶצְבָּעוֹ עַל־לִפְנֵי הַכִּפֹּרֶת קִדְמָה וְלִפְנֵי הַכִּפֹּרֶת יִזָּה שִׁבְעַ־פְּעָמִים מִן־הַדָּם בְּאֶצְבָּעוֹ:
<sup>15</sup> He shall then slaughter the people's goat of sin offering, bring its blood behind the curtain, and do with its blood as he has done with the blood of the bull: he shall sprinkle it over the cover and in front of the cover.	וְשַׁחַט אֶת־שְׁעִיר הַחֹטֹאת אֲשֶׁר לָעָם וְהֵבִיא אֶת־דָּמוֹ אֶל־מִבֵּית לְפָרֹכֶת וַעֲשֵׂה אֶת־דָּמוֹ כְּאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְדָם הַפָּר וְהִזָּה אֹתוֹ עַל־הַכִּפֹּרֶת וְלִפְנֵי הַכִּפֹּרֶת:
<sup>16</sup> Thus he shall purge the Shrine of the uncleanness and transgression of the Israelites, whatever their sins; and he shall do the same for the Tent of Meeting, which abides with them in the midst of their uncleanness.	וְיִכָּפֹר עַל־הַקֹּדֶשׁ מִטְּמֵאת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּמִפְּשָׁעֵיהֶם לְכָל־חַטֹּאתֵם וְכֵן יַעֲשֵׂה לְאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד הַשֹּׁכֵן אִתְּם בְּתוֹךְ טְמֵאתֵם:
<sup>17</sup> When he goes in to make expiation in the Shrine, nobody else shall be in the Tent of Meeting until he comes out. When he has made expiation for himself and his household, and for the whole congregation of Israel,	וְכָל־אָדָם לֹא־יִהְיֶה בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד בְּכֹאֵן לְכַפֵּר בְּקֹדֶשׁ עַד־צֵאתוֹ וְכֹפֵר בַּעֲדוֹ וּבַעֲד בֵּיתוֹ וּבַעֲד כָּל־קְהָל יִשְׂרָאֵל:



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<sup>18</sup> he shall go out to the altar that is before God and purge it: he shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the goat and apply it to each of the horns of the altar;	<sup>יח</sup> וַיֵּצֵא אֶל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אֲשֶׁר לִפְנֵי-יְיָ וַיִּכָּפֶר עָלָיו וַלְקַח מִדָּם הַפָּר וּמִדָּם הַשְּׂעִיר וַיָּנִתֵן עַל-קַרְנוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ סָבִיב:
<sup>19</sup> and the rest of the blood he shall sprinkle on it with his finger seven times. Thus he shall cleanse it of the uncleanness of the Israelites and consecrate it.	<sup>יט</sup> וְהִזָּה עָלָיו מִן-הַדָּם בְּאֶצְבָּעוֹ שִׁבְעַת פְּעָמִים וְטָהָרוּ וַיְקַדְּשׁוּ מִטְמְאֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
<sup>20</sup> When he has finished purging the Shrine, the Tent of Meeting, and the altar, the live goat shall be brought forward.	<sup>כ</sup> וְכֹלָה מִכָּפֹר אֶת-הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְאֶת-אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְאֶת-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְהִקְרִיב אֶת-הַשְּׂעִיר הַחַי:
<sup>21</sup> Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities and transgressions of the Israelites, whatever their sins, putting them on the head of the goat; and it shall be sent off to the wilderness through a designated man.	<sup>כא</sup> וְסָמַךְ אֹהֶרֶן אֶת-שְׁתֵּי יָדָיו [וַיְדִין] עַל רֹאשׁ הַשְּׂעִיר הַחַי וְהִתְוַדָּה עָלָיו אֶת-כָּל- עֲוֹנוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת-כָּל-פְּשָׁעֵיהֶם לְכָל-חַטָּאתָם וַיָּנִתֵן אֹתָם עַל-רֹאשׁ הַשְּׂעִיר וְשָׁלַח בְּיַד-אִישׁ עֲתִי הַמִּדְבָּרָה:
<sup>22</sup> Thus the goat shall carry on it all their iniquities to an inaccessible region; and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.	<sup>כב</sup> וְנָשָׂא הַשְּׂעִיר עָלָיו אֶת-כָּל-עֲוֹנוֹתָם אֶל-אֶרֶץ גְּזֵרָה וְשָׁלַח אֶת-הַשְּׂעִיר בַּמִּדְבָּר:
<sup>23</sup> And Aaron shall go into the Tent of Meeting, take off the linen vestments that he put on when he entered the Shrine, and leave them there.	<sup>כג</sup> וַיָּבֹא אֹהֶרֶן אֶל-אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וּפָנַשׁט אֶת- בְּגָדֵי הַכֹּדֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר לָבַשׁ בָּבֹאוֹ אֶל-הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְהִנִּיחָם שָׁם:
<sup>24</sup> He shall bathe his body in water in the holy precinct and put on his vestments; then he shall come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people, making expiation for himself and for the people.	<sup>כד</sup> וַיְרַחֵץ אֶת-בְּשָׁרוֹ בַּמַּיִם בְּמִקְוֹם קֹדֶשׁ וַלָּבַשׁ אֶת-בְּגָדָיו וַיֵּצֵא וַעֲשֶׂה אֶת-עֹלֹתוֹ וְאֶת-עֹלֹת הָעָם וַיִּכָּפֶר בְּעֵדוֹ וּבְעֵד הָעָם:
<sup>25</sup> The fat of the sin offering he shall turn into smoke on the altar.	<sup>כה</sup> וְאֵת חֵלֶב הַחַטָּאת יִקְטִיר הַמִּזְבֵּחַה:



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<sup>26</sup> He who set the Azazel-goat free shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water; after that he may reenter the camp.	<sup>כ"ו</sup> וְהִמְשַׁלַּח אֶת־הַשְּׂעִיר לְעִזָּאזֵל יִכָּבֵס בְּגָדָיו וְרֹחַץ אֶת־בְּשָׁרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יָבוֹא אֶל־הַמִּחֲנֶה:
<sup>27</sup> The bull of sin offering and the goat of sin offering whose blood was brought in to purge the Shrine shall be taken outside the camp; and their hides, flesh, and dung shall be consumed in fire.	<sup>כ"ז</sup> וְאֵת פֶּר הַחֲטָאת וְאֵת שְׂעִיר הַחֲטָאת אֲשֶׁר הוּבָא אֶת־דָּמָם לְכַפֵּר בַּקֹּדֶשׁ יוֹצִיא אֶל־מִחוּץ לַמִּחֲנֶה וְשָׂרְפוּ בָאֵשׁ אֶת־עוֹרָתָם וְאֶת־בְּשָׂרָם וְאֶת־פְּרִשָׁם:
<sup>28</sup> He who burned them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water; after that he may re-enter the camp.	<sup>כ"ח</sup> וְהַשְּׂרֹף אֹתָם יִכָּבֵס בְּגָדָיו וְרֹחַץ אֶת־בְּשָׁרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יָבוֹא אֶל־הַמִּחֲנֶה:
<sup>29</sup> And this shall be to you a law for all time: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall practice self-denial; and you shall do no manner of work, neither the citizen nor the alien who resides among you.	<sup>כ"ט</sup> וְהִיְתָה לָכֶם לְחֻקַּת עוֹלָם בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּעֶשְׂרִי לַחֹדֶשׁ תַּעֲנּוּ אֶת־נַפְשֹׁתֵיכֶם וְכָל־מְלָאכָה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ הָאֶזְרַח וְהָגֵר הָגֵר בְּתוֹכְכֶם:
<sup>30</sup> For on this day atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you of all your sins; you shall be clean before God.	<sup>ל'</sup> כִּי־בַיּוֹם הַזֶּה יִכָּפֵר עֲלֵיכֶם לְטָהָר אֶתְכֶם מִכָּל חַטֹּאתֵיכֶם לִפְנֵי יי תִּטְהָרוּ:
<sup>31</sup> It shall be a sabbath of complete rest for you, and you shall practice self-denial; it is a law for all time.	<sup>לא</sup> שַׁבַּת שְׁבֵתוֹן הִיא לָכֶם וְעֲנִיתֶם אֶת־נַפְשֹׁתֵיכֶם חֻקַּת עוֹלָם:
<sup>32</sup> The priest who has been anointed and ordained to serve as priest in place of his father shall make expiation. He shall put on the linen vestments, the sacral vestments.	<sup>לב</sup> וְכֹהֵן הַכֹּהֵן אֲשֶׁר־יִמָּשַׁח אֹתוֹ וְאֲשֶׁר יִמְלֹא אֹת־יָדָיו לְכַהֵן תַּחַת אָבִיו וְלִבְשׁ אֶת־בְּגָדֵי הַבָּד בְּגָדֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ:
<sup>33</sup> He shall purge the innermost Shrine; he shall purge the Tent of Meeting and the altar; and he shall make expiation for the priests and for all the people of the congregation.	<sup>לג</sup> וְכֹהֵן אֶת־מִקְדָּשׁ הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְאֶת־אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְאֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ יִכָּפֵר וְעַל הַכֹּהֲנִים וְעַל־כָּל־עַם הַקֵּהָל יִכָּפֵר:
<sup>34</sup> This shall be to you a law for all time: to make atonement for the Israelites for all their sins once a year. And Moses did as God had commanded him.	<sup>לד</sup> וְהִיְתָה־זֹאת לָכֶם לְחֻקַּת עוֹלָם לְכַפֵּר עַל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִכָּל־חַטֹּאתֵם אַחַת בַּשָּׁנָה וַיַּעַשׂ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יי אֶת־מֹשֶׁה: