**5.17.15 Sunday Service: “Hello Leviticus: The God Who Ritualizes our Scapegoating Schtick to Redirect it and Eventually End it”: Study Guide for Part 4 in the Leviticus Series**

**(Based on the sermon delivered by Rev. Ken Wilson;**

**Study guide generated by Rob Hampton)**

**Main Points:**

1. **In the book of Leviticus, *God adopts and adapts the scapegoat mechanism* so that He can end it.**

-**The scapegoat mechanism** is a process whereby a community chooses a victim toblame for all its ills.

-Scapegoating involves **projection** – blaming our own faults on something or someone else.

-**God adapts this in Leviticus by making the scapegoat an actual goat**, not a person or group of people.

-By confessing the sins of the group before sending away the goat, **the priest unmasks the element of projection** in the scapegoat mechanism.

1. **God does not need a scapegoat to forgive us.**

-**It is our own dark side** that demands this.

1. **In Jesus, *God becomes the scapegoat*, to end our need for scapegoats.**

-**Jesus represents every scapegoated person** throughout history.

-When we scapegoat people, **we are actually driving God out of our community**.

1. **Jesus’ rising from the dead is the promise of triumph for every scapegoated person.**

-Just like Jesus, all who are rejected or excluded will one day rise again.

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. How does God **adapt the scapegoat mechanism**? Why is this important?
2. If God doesn’t need a scapegoat to forgive us, **why did Jesus have to die**?
3. What does it mean to say that in Jesus, **God became the scapegoat**?
4. **Have you ever been scapegoated**? If so, does the death and resurrection of Jesus speak to you?