

Yom Kippur ("Day of Atonement") Tishrei 10

Leading up to the day of atonement, Teshuvah

The ten days from Rosh HaShana to Yom Kippur are called the "Aseres Y'mai Teshuva," The Ten Days of Repentance or Days of Awe, a time of contemplation and accounting in which one withdraws from the physical world to reflect on their spiritual side. They used these special days that God sent aside to benefit and contemplate their progress, focusing on introspective questions like: Have we come closer to Him? Have our actions been increasingly righteous, or have we fallen further away from holiness?

It is the holiest day of the Jewish year. On this day, God sealed their fate for the coming year.

The entire day is spent fasting and praying to God for forgiveness and a good year. It is a day set aside to "afflict the soul," to atone for the sins of the past year. The judgment entered in these books is sealed. This day is, essentially, **your last appeal, your last chance to change the judgment**, to demonstrate your repentance and make amends.

Exo 23:16, 34:22

Yom Kippur atones only for sins between man and God, not for sins against another person. To atone for sins against another person, you must first seek reconciliation with that person, righting the wrongs you committed against them if possible. That would all be done before Yom Kippur. **Math 5:23-24**

Leviticus 23:26-32 It is the only commanded fast in the year.

25-hour fast beginning before sunset on the evening before Yom Kippur and ending after nightfall on the day of Yom Kippur.

Leviticus 16:29-31 It is to be observed forever.

The Bible does not make any definitive connection between Yom Kippur and any historic event, but one tradition holds that it was on the tenth of Tishri the **first Yom Kippur took place after Moses returned from his second trip to Mt. Sinai** with the replacement set of tablets containing the Ten Commandments. Moses successfully pleaded with God on their behalf, and on the first of Elul, he ascended the mountain, this time for a second set of tablets. In Moses' absence, the nation fasted from sunrise to sunset. **Moses descended the mountain on the tenth of Tishri.** Upon returning, Moses found the nation truly repentant and announced that God had forgiven them. He decreed that the tenth of Tishri would remain a day of atonement for all generations.

Leviticus 16:6 – 10 On the Day of Atonement, the priest shall conduct a special ceremony to purge defilement from the shrine and from the people. The heart of the ritual is that the high priest shall bring a **bull and two goats** as a special offering. First, the bull is sacrificed to purge the shrine from any defilement caused by misdeeds of the priest himself and of his household. Secondly, **one of the goats** is chosen by lot to be sacrificed to purge the shrine of any similar defilement stimulated by misdeeds of the whole Israelite people [**Leviticus 16:7-8**]. Finally, **the second goat** is sent away, not sacrificed, to cleanse the people themselves. The goat is marked for azazel and is sent away to wander in the wilderness [**Leviticus 16:10**]. Before the goat is sent out, the high priest lays both his hands upon its head and confesses over it all the iniquities and transgressions of the Israelites, whatever their misdeeds, and so putting them on the head of the goat. Thus, the Torah adds,

"The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness. (**Leviticus 16:22**)

Azazel: The Scapegoat. The sins of the people and thus the punishment of the people were laid upon azazel the scapegoat. He would bear the sins of the people and the punishment of the people would be upon him. azazel being sent into the wilderness is understood to be a picture of satan being cast into the lake of fire [**Revelation 19:20**].

In [Leviticus 16:8], the first lot said, "La Adonai" (To the Lord). The second lot said, "La Azazel" (To the scapegoat). **The high priest took the two golden lots**, a white one marked La Adonai and the other black one marked La Azazel, and placed one upon the head of each animal, sealing their fate. It was **considered a good omen if the lot marked La Adonai was drawn by the priest in the right hand**.

In the 3rd century B.C. there was a good High Priest who was called **Simon the Righteous**. During the 40 years of his Priesthood the "La Adonai" always came up in his right hand. Also every year for 40 years, when Simon went into the Most Holy Place, a crimson thread on his garment would turn white. When Simon the Righteous died, **he foretold them that he would die**. On every day of Atonement an old man, dressed in white, wrapped in white, would join me, entering the Holy of Holies and leaving it with me, but on the 40th Day (40 years) of Atonement I was joined by an old man, dressed in black, who entered but did not leave with me. After the festival of Tabernacles Simon was sick for seven days and then died."

For 40 years prior to the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D, the lot La Adonai was drawn by the priest on the left hand (Talmud, Yoma 39a). In any event, the sins of the people were laid upon the scapegoat [Leviticus 16:21-22]. For that same 40 years after Jesus' crucifixion, the Menorah's (Seven branched lamp stand) western lamp would go out every night, when the temple was off limits to people.

They tied a crimson sash around the goat and led it into the wilderness and threw it off a cliff. A portion of the crimson sash was attached to the door of the temple before the goat was sent into the wilderness. If the **sash turned from red to white** as the goat met its end, it signaled to the people that God had accepted their sacrifices and their sins were forgiven. **This was based upon [Isaiah 1:18 scarlet sins, white as snow]**. As stated earlier, the Mishnah tells us that 40 years before the destruction of the temple, the sash stopped turning white. (Jesus crucifixion)

MESSIANIC FULFILLMENT

Jesus during His first coming was a type of the goat marked La Adonai. Yeshua was a sin offering to us as God laid upon Him the sins of the whole world [1 Corinthians 15:3]; [1 John 2:2].

God gave this ceremony of the casting of lots during the Day of Atonement to teach us how He will judge the nations of the world prior to the Messianic age known as the Millennium. **The people of the world will be judged according to how they treated the Jewish (Christian) people.** Those nations who mistreated the Jews will be goat nations and they will go into the left hand. Those nations that stood beside the Jewish people will be sheep nations and will enter into the Messianic kingdom or the Millennium. Yeshua (Jesus) taught about this in (Matthew 25:31-46).

There are 3 elements of the Day of Atonement that apply directly to Christians:

1. Willing repentance on the part of those to be saved.

The first element is the fast itself. **Going 24 hours without food and water.** An Israelite's refusal to fast, which resulted in the offender being **cut off** from the community (Leviticus 23:29)

The Old Testament's equivalent of a New Testament Christian refusing to repent, which will result in the offender being **cut off from eternal life** (Luke 13:3). Fasting is outward proof that the person doing the fasting is serious about repentance, which is vital for forgiveness.

It's very significant that the **first Christians, including the apostle Paul himself repented and observed the fast** of the Day of Atonement as a Christian (Acts 27:9).

2. The completed sacrifice of Jesus Christ formally presented to God the Father to make atonement for the sins of humanity.

Only **once per year**, on the Day of Atonement, the **high priest** entered the Most Holy Place of The Tabernacle to offer ceremonial sacrifices for the forgiveness of the people (Hebrews 9:7).

That Old Testament observance was a **direct fore-shadow of Jesus Christ**, our High Priest (**Hebrews 9:11**), Who, after His Sacrifice, entered the very Throne Room of God The Father in heaven to make atonement for all humanity.

3. The final guilty verdict upon Satan as the source of all evil, and the sentencing of him to eternity in the abyss. The scapegoat **symbolized the condemnation of Satan** (see That Old Serpent) for the sins of all humanity, and his being put away in an eternal wilderness from which he will never return (**Revelation 20:10**). The sending of the azazel goat out into the wilderness as **done by the Old Testament high priest after he returned from inside The Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle** is a ceremonial "preview" of Jesus Christ sending Satan into the abyss which will be done after His Return from the Throne Room of God The Father.