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# The Mo'edim: Yom Kippur

When learning about applying the whole Word of God, one of the first topics of interest always becomes the mo'edim, YHWH's appointed days, holy days or holidays if you will. These are the days our Creator gave us to celebrate Him, and to prophetically learn about what our Messiah did and still must do.

While there are many opinions held concerning the holy days, we want to do our best in presenting a general overview. We simply want to help give a better understanding to these important days in the eyes of Yahweh.

Many have looked at these days as just for the Jews. However, we know that the Jews do not represent all twelve tribes. Plus we know these were given to all who chose to follow YHWH, including Gentiles.

#### Numbers 15:15-16

The community is to have the same rules for you and for the alien living among you; this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. You and the alien shall be the same before (YHWH) the LORD: The same laws and regulations will apply both to you and to the alien living among you."

For more on how there is one law for all, please watch our teaching, "The Mixed Multitude"

In this teaching, we will present some basics on Yom Kippur. Some might be more familiar with this mo'ed as the Day of Atonement.

Yom Kippur is a mo'ed, or an appointed day, but it is not a feast day. As covered in the Passover teaching in this series, there are three feast days according to the Torah. All feast days are mo'edim, but not all mo'edim are feast days.

Leviticus 23 is the Torah hot spot for our Creator's holidays...so it makes sense to start there.

### **Leviticus 23:23-24**

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the Lord. And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a

Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God. For whoever is not afflicted on that very day shall be cut off from his people. And whoever does any work on that very day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall not do any work. It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. On the ninth day of the month beginning at evening, from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath."

# **Some quick points:**

- We are not to work on Yom Kippur because it is a day of atonement.
- If we don't rest, we are to be destroyed.
- It is a permanent regulation.
- It is to be obeyed no matter where we live.
- It is to be a Shabbat of complete rest.
- We are to deny ourselves.
- It is to be a complete day, from sunset to sunset.

It is also found in Numbers 29 related to the sacrifices:

# **Numbers 29:1-6**

On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation and afflict yourselves. You shall do no work, but you shall offer a burnt offering to the Lord, a pleasing aroma: one bull from the herd, one ram, seven male lambs a year old: see that they are without blemish. And their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil, three tenths of an ephah for the bull, two tenths for the one ram, a tenth for each of the seven lambs: also one male goat for a sin offering, besides the sin offering of atonement, and the regular burnt offering and its grain offering, and their drink offerings.

For this day, we are to rest, and we are to afflict ourselves, which we believe to be a reference back to the rest. Our teaching "<u>Is Yom Kippur a Day of Fasting</u>" explains our reasoning and we will allow that to serve in explanation of the details.

It should be noted that Yom Kippur is a permanent statute, contrary to any suggestion that Yom Kippur no longer applies today.

#### Leviticus 23:31

It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwelling places.

It is exactly ten days from the start Yom Teruah. As mentioned in the Yom Teruah teaching, Yom Teruah appears to begin a call to repentance, or teshuva, and it appears to culminate and lead into the purpose of Yom Kippur.

According to Jewish tradition, Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year. The reason for this is because the purpose of the existence of man is to turn back to His Creator and follow His instructions, (Ecclesiastes 12:13) thus Yom Kippur is the appointed day that highlights God's purpose for man.

In the Torah, Yom Kippur is actually written in the plural as Yom Ha-Kippurim. Perhaps the reason for this is because atonement is facilitated through the Levitical priesthood on Earth, but Yeshua became our High Priest and satisfied atonement on our behalf in the Heavenly tabernacle, thus demonstrating the plurality.

Kippurim has no literal equivalent in English. The root word, "kafar", is related to cleansing. "Kafar" likely derives from the word "kofer" which means "ransom." This is parallel to the word "redeem." (Psalm 49:7). The closest English word in meaning may be "reconciliation."

In English, it became the word atonement to incorporate the aspect of reconciliation, but more specifically, being at one with God.

The offering to YHWH on this day included an offering made by fire. Fire sacrifices were often for sins.

For example, Numbers Chapter 15 verses 27-31 says if an individual sins unintentionally, he is to offer a female goat in its first year as a sin offering. The priest will make atonement for him, and he will be forgiven - no matter whether he is a citizen of Israel or a foreigner living with them.

Yom Kippur is the only time the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies and call upon the name of YHWH to offer blood sacrifices for the sins of the people. This is a "life for a life" principle that is the foundation of the sacrificial system and marked the great day of intercession made by the High Priest of Israel.

The great majority of usages in the TANAKH concern "making an atonement" by the priestly ritual of sprinkling of sacrificial blood to remove sin or defilement.

The life blood of the sacrificial animal was required in exchange for the life blood of the worshipper (the symbolic expression of innocent life given for guilty life). This symbolism is further clarified by the action of the worshipper in placing his hands on the head of the sacrifice and confessing his sins over the animal (Leviticus 16:21; 1:4; 4:4, etc.) which was then killed or sent out as a scapegoat.

On Yom Kippur, the High Priest would bring a bull and two goats as a special offering, and the bull would be sacrificed to purge the temple for the defilements caused by the misdeeds of the priests and their households (Leviticus 16:6).

The blood of the bull would be sprinkled inside the veil of the Holy of Holies, upon the cover of the Ark of the Covenant.

Lots would be drawn to select one of two goats to be a sin offering on behalf of the people. The High Priest would lay both hands upon the head of the second goat while confessing all of the sins of the people. This goat was then driven away into the wilderness, carrying on it "all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited (Leviticus 16:22).

So, Yom Teruah appears to start the alarm or call to repentance, and Yom Kippur provides the means for reconciliation or atonement with Him.

Messiah Yeshua became our High Priest who offered atonement for our sins by offering His own blood in the Holy of Holies made without hands.

The Talmud even recognizes the principle that at nement is through the shedding of blood.

#### Yoma 5a

"There is no atonement without blood."

Yeshua offered up His own body to be the perfect sacrifice for sins. By his shed blood we are given complete atonement before YHWH.

### 2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Levitical system of animal sacrifice, including the elaborate Yom Kippur ritual, was meant to foreshadow the sacrifice of Yeshua as the means of our reconciliation with our Creator.

This is actually what the whole Book of Hebrews is about.

### Hebrews 9:23-28

"It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a manmade sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year [on Yom Kippur] with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared ONCE FOR ALL at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him".

It is about how Yeshua became our High Priest, and He fulfills Yom Kippur in the heavenlies on our behalf.

According to Jewish rabbis, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the third month, seven weeks after the Exodus, Moses first ascended Sinai to receive the Torah (on Shavuot). Just forty days later, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the fourth month, the tablets were broken. Moses then interceded for Israel for another forty days until he was called back up to Sinai on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the sixth month and received the revelation of the name YHWH (Exodus 34:4-8). Keep in mind that First Fruits and Shavuot do not always fall on the exact same day. This is how it simply may have occurred for Moses that particular year, according to Jewish speculation. For more on this, please see our teaching, *How to Calculate First Fruits*.

After this, he was given the second tablets and returned to the camp on 10<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month, which was called Yom Kippur. Moses' face was shining with radiance in wonder of the coming new Covenant which was prefigured in the rituals of the Day of Atonement (Exodus 34.10).

This explains why Orthodox Jews begin the "Season of Teshuvah" beginning with 1<sup>st</sup> day of the sixth month and continuing through to the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month – for the 40 days that Moses was upon the mountain receiving the second set of tablets.

Here we also find the first mention of the Book of Life, when Moses asked to be stricken from "the Book you have written" if God would not make an atonement for his people (Exodus 32:32-33). The willingness of Moses to be "stricken from the book" on the people's behalf is a powerful image of the

mediating role of Yeshua our Messiah (Hebrews 9:15).

# The Day of Judgment

The whole future prophetic lesson of the Day of Atonement is twofold:

First, judgment is coming to Israel. As Peter wrote,

### 1 Peter 4:17-19

For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, 'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?' So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

This great day of judgment will begin shortly after the second coming of the Messiah.

## **Revelation 14:14-16**

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped".

All Israel will be judged, according to their works.

### **Ecclesiastes 12:14**

For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

But in that coming judgment, there is forgiveness and mercy and grace through Yeshua the Messiah our Lord and Savior, who died for those of us of Israel on the tree, who gave his life as ransom for us.

#### Romans 5:1-2-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Messiah Yeshua), through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. Since we [Israelites] have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Messiah Yeshua), through whom we have now received reconciliation

What about you?

Where do you stand?

Yom Kippur represents forgiveness and pardon for Israel -- and wrath and eternal judgment for others.

Do you stand with the righteous of Israel?

Or with the wicked?

Are your sins covered by the blood of Yeshua, the Messiah and Redeemer? Or are you still covered with the scars and sins of rebellion and wickedness?

Have you had your own personal "Yom Kippur" yet?

Have you made peace with YHWH?

Do you believe upon Messiah Yeshua and follow Him as the living Word of God?

If not, no time is better than now.

We hope that this teaching has blessed you,

and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at <a href="https://www.testeverything.net">www.testeverything.net</a>

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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