

The Feast of Yom Kippur

The Appointments with God

1. The Holy Days were given to us by God as appointments between Himself and His people.
2. The holy days look backwards and forwards.
3. These are the “Lord's feasts” and so should be celebrated by all people who belong to Him.

“Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.’”
- Leviticus 23:2

The Command to Celebrate the Feast of Yom Kippur

²⁶“The LORD said to Moses, ²⁷“The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present an offering made to the LORD by fire. ²⁸Do no work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the LORD your God. ²⁹Anyone who does not deny himself on that day must be cut off from his people. ³⁰I will destroy from among his people anyone who does any work on that day. ³¹You shall do no work at all. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live. ³²It is a sabbath of rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your sabbath.”

- Leviticus 23:26-32

Some General Thoughts About Yom Kippur

1. It is the peak of the high holy days.
2. It is the end of the ‘Awesome Days;’ ‘10 Days of Repentance.’
3. These preparation days begin with the service of Tashlikh.
4. A *Day of Atonement* is necessary because of God’s judgment.
“...the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.” - II Peter 3:7
5. Kippur (atonement) comes from ‘kapper’ which means, “to cover.”
“There is no atonement except with blood.” - The Talmud, Yoma 5a
“Without the shedding of blood there is no payment for sins.” - Hebrews 9:22
6. On Yom Kippur God seals the books of accounting which were opened on Rosh Hashanah, including the book of life.
“May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.”
- Psalm 69:28

Yom Kippur in Israel

(see Leviticus 16)

1. The people were to deny themselves, especially through fasting.
2. Everyone assembled at the tabernacle or temple.
3. The High Priest prepared himself for seven days in several ways.
4. Sacrifices included a goat, a bull and a red heifer.
5. A second, lucky goat is released as the scapegoat (azazel).
6. The High Priest entered the Most Holy Place through the veil.
7. He sprinkled blood on the atonement cover (mercy seat) to ask God to forgive all the forgotten sins of the people.
8. If God accepted the sacrifice, the priest didn’t die (to great relief!).

Yom Kippur Today

Without a temple, Jews today seek atonement through a focus on:

1. The day itself.
2. Kapporoth (sacrifice of a rooster or hen for each person).
3. Repentance (includes reparation of wrong and fasting).
4. Prayer (‘slihoth,’ prayers for forgiveness, last a month)
5. Charity (also the modern day word for righteousness).
6. “Kol Nidrei,” is chanted; a most solemn prayer releasing ‘All Vows,’ expressing a deep consciousness of the inability of man to keep his vows, promises, bonds and obligations in relation to God.

Yom Kippur and Christ

(see Hebrews 9 & 10)

1. Jesus is the Judge.
“Jesus said, ‘For judgment I have come into this world...’ - John 9:39
“...the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son.” - John 5:22
2. At the cross, Jesus became both the High Priest and the sacrifice.
3. Jesus death didn’t just cover our sin, it took it away!
“It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” - Hebrews 10:4
“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” - John 1:29
4. Jesus’ sacrifice demonstrates that God is serious about judgment, but our sins are forgiven through faith in Jesus’ blood sacrifice.
“God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice.” - Romans 3:25
5. The ‘book of life’ has become the “Lamb’s Book of Life.”
“Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”
- Revelation 21:27

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