

THE DAY(S) OF ATONEMENT

What is the meaning?

In Leviticus 23:26-32, YHWH gives the mandate for the day of atonement - on the 10th day of the seventh moon (month). This mandate wasn't just an OT ritual bygone that has no meaning for us today or for the future. This said day is very significant in YHWH's plan of salvation.

The Hebrew word as we know it to be "Yom Kippur" translated as "atonement" is actually written in the plural in the Torah as Yom Ha-Kippurim. The name alludes to more than one great atonement given by YHWH. In my view, there is at least two great atonement events. And, they are both set to occur in the future; one, being in our lifetime.

Some of the messianics believe the first great atonement event is occurring right now. I somewhat agree, but not entirely. I have a different understanding of what is happening now which began after the resurrection of Christ, and its partly based upon Hebrews chapters nine and ten.

FIRSTLY, KNOW HOW THE STAGE WAS SET FOR WHAT IS OCCURRING NOW

There is a big difference between covering sins and taking away sins. The blood offering of bulls and goats (the animals specifically designated for sin offerings), could never take-away sins completely as like Hebrews 10:1-4 expressly says. The blood of these animals only covered sins. Only the blood of Christ can take-away the sins completely. The day of atonement pictures this said statement. Hebrews 9:6-15 paraphrased says: Yahushua the Christ is our High Priest who entered the Holy of Holies (which can only be entered on the day of atonement according to OT law) once and for all with His own blood. By doing so, we now have everlasting redemption. (Also ref: Romans 8:1-2)

Christ doesn't have to die every year, forever. His death in the first century is adequate for all time. For a person to fully comprehend the reason why Christ's blood can atone for sins forever, one must understand that Christ was the Personage who contracted with the Israelites in the OT. Why is this so?

The Israelites would have to remain in their graves forever if the One who contracted with them didn't die. Hebrews 9:15 reads, "...He (Christ) is the Mediator of a renewed covenant, so that, (Christ's) death having taken place for redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called might receive the promise of the everlasting inheritance."

The imposed penalty for breaking the commandments within the OT covenant/contract was/is death. (Ref: Deut 28:58-61, Romans 6:23, 8:2, Deut 30:15,17-18, but not limited to.) And, as history has shown us in scripture, the Israelites violated the laws and broke the contract many times over. The penalty for doing this was/is death! YHWH does not lie. Since YHWH cannot lie, how was it possible that YHWH was able to foretell the

resurrection of the Israelites? (Ref: Ezek 37:1-14) He could foretell His plan to bring the Israelites back to life without lying because the One who contracted with them was destined to die. Yahushua the Christ was the One who contracted with the OT Israelites and He died. Consequently, the ancient Israelites were set-free from the contract and it is now possible for them to live again. (Ref: Romans 7:1-4)

Please read Zechariah 11:7-14. This passage describes the time when Christ hung on the cross. And, verse 10-11 says, YHWH broke the covenant (*the contract*) with all the people on THAT day. Which day? The day Christ died. (Additional Ref: Hebrews 9:16) This is the day when the OT contracts became null and void. If you are not convinced just yet, consider Isaiah 28:14-29. Firstly, the Israelite rulers understood that they had a death covenant in verse 14. And, YHWH didn't deny it. In fact, YHWH confirmed it by saying in verse 18, "And **your covenant of death shall be annulled**, and your vision of the grave shall not stand. /..." The FACT is, all of the OT covenants were null and void at the death of Christ. The only reason why Abraham's bestowal wasn't broken is because scriptures expressly say that it was based upon a promise by YHWH, not a contract. There is a big difference.

Before anyone reader of this study starts jumping up and down and yelling, "*the law hasn't been done away with!*"....I'll say, "I agree." Please understand the difference between a contract and a law. A contract and a law are not the same thing. A law is just that. A contract is an agreement between two parties. A law can be established outside of a contract or it can be included in a contract.

There are laws that were already established before the contract/covenant was given in the desert. Although; most - if not all - of these laws were placed inside of the OT contract/covenant, it does not mean that the laws instituted beforehand are now null and void. Consider and read Genesis 4:4-8. In verse 7, YHWH warns Cain against "sin" because he held hatred toward his brother, Abel. The very mention of "sin" in Genesis 4:7 automatically necessitates a previous mandated law; because, sin is the transgression of a law. (Ref: 1-John 3:4) Hence, the commandment "*Thou shalt not murder*" was already established before Cain became wroth with his brother.

If you, the reader, research the book of Genesis, you'll find demonstrations of all ten commandments, plus the Holy days. We just don't have a nice concise list in the book of Genesis. The establishment of the Holy days can be found in Genesis 1:14. The establishment of the seventh day Sabbath is also an easy one to locate. I won't take the time to delineate all of them. That's a different study. But, its important to understand that the critical laws for salvation and at-one-ment with YHWH were established at the beginning of creation. These laws remain in effect and are now within the NT contract.

Summary and conclusion of this section...

The stage was set during the first century. Christ, the Personage who contracted with the ancient Israelites, died so that the Israelites could live again at a later time designated by YHWH. When Christ died, the contracts - which imposed death penalties - that He made with the ancient peoples, became null and void. This includes Adam. It was the Personage

that became Christ who contracted with Adam too. Consequently, Christ's death made the way for all mankind to arise again at a later time. Due to this fact, the day of Atonement has become enacted for those people who have *truly* repented of their sins. (Ref: Heb chapters 9 & 10) [Before one's sins are taken away completely (which at-one-ment represents), repentance must occur first. (Ref: Acts 2:38 and more).]

The people who have *truly* repented during this time period and have been baptized are the saints. Their sins have been completely taken away, and they will arise and meet Christ in the air at His return. (Ref: Matt 24:30-31) Although; in my view and current understanding, the saints are a small group relative to the number of people who have ever lived. (Ref: Rev 14:1-3) Therefore, I don't believe that this current time period represents one of the GREAT atonement events due to the relatively small number of people who are redeemed from the earth at Christ second coming.

I should add here that *some* (not all) of the messianic believers think that the great atoning is occurring now because they also believe that ethnic Israelites are coming together now as like a revival. I do not believe this to be true. (Ref: Ez 37:15-17)

THE TWO GREAT ATONEMENT EVENTS

The first great atonement event (that I personally see) is the reestablishment of ethnic Israel, the physical remnant of people who are left after YHWH's great wrath on earth. Isaiah 10:20-22 reads, "And in that day it shall be that the remnant of Israel, and those who have escaped of the house of Jacob, never again lean upon him who defeated them, but shall lean upon YHWH, the Set-apart One of Israel, in truth. A remnant shall return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty El. For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return - a decisive end, overflowing with righteousness." (Additional refs: Isaiah 1:9, 11:11-12,16, Jer 23:3-6, Jer 32:37, but not limited to.)

Joel 2:1-16 describes YHWH's wrath. Afterwards, He calls for repentance and a fast. Since the day of atonement is a commanded fast day, this time period set in Joel is descriptive of an at-one-ment event.

The second great atonement event will occur after the second resurrection. (Ref: Ez 37:1-14, but not limited to.) This group is a huge multitude. They will stand before the throne of judgement, and the books will be opened to them. (Ref: Hebrews 9:27, Rev 20:11-12, Matt 11:22, 12:41-42 and more.)

THE TWO GOATS

Every year during the seventh month, on the tenth day, the High Priest would perform a special ceremony to purge defilement from the Tabernacle or Temple as well as from the people of Israel (see Leviticus 16 for the details). In particular, in addition to the regular daily offerings, he would bring a bull and two goats as a special offering. The bull would be sacrificed to purge the Tabernacle or Temple from the defilements caused by misdeeds of the priests and their households (Ref: Leviticus 16:6). He would sprinkle the blood of the bull inside the veil of the Holy of Holies upon the kapporet (i.e., the cover of the Ark of the

Covenant). Then he would draw lots and select one of the two goats to be a sin offering on behalf of the people (this goat was designated “to YHWH”). He would likewise enter the Holy of Holies, sprinkle the blood of the goat upon the kapporet. Finally, the High Priest would lay both hands upon the head of the second goat (designated “for Azazel”) while confessing all of the transgressions of the people. This goat was then driven away into the wilderness, bearing “all their iniquities unto a land cutoff” (Lev. 16:22). [According to the Talmud, a scarlet cord was tied around the neck of the scapegoat that was reported to have turned white as the goat was led away from city. However, for the last forty years before the Temple was destroyed (in AD 70), the scarlet cord failed to change color. (Reference John 9:41)]

The goat which was designated “for YHWH” and lost its life in place of the Israelites, represented Christ. However; the second goat, known as the scapegoat which bore the sins of all the people, also represented Christ. Hebrews 9:28 says our sins were laid upon Christ. (Also Ref: 2 Cor. 5:21) No where does scripture say that our sins were laid upon Satan as like many believe. I suspect that this idea was derived in light of Revelation 20:1-5. Satan, the great dragon of old will be seized and bound-up for the thousand year reign after Christ returns. Although; this is true, it doesn’t make Satan the “scapegoat.” It was mere speculation to think that Satan was the scapegoat. We need to stick with what scripture actually says. And, it says that our sins were laid on Christ.

Both of the goats of the Yom Kippurim ritual constituted a single offering made to God (i.e., Lev. 16:5 states “he [Aaron] shall take ... two male goats for a (singular) sin offering”), so the sacrifice of Yahushua the Christ represents two aspects of a single offering before God. The blood of the first goat was given “to YHWH” for atonement, but the exile of the second goat was given to banish sins from the Divine Presence forever. Yahushua the Christ served as both our atoning sacrifice before the Father and as our “scapegoat” who “carries away our sins” (Isa. 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:17; 1-Pet. 2:24).

CONCLUSION

Because of Christ’s sacrifice, the people who repent and become baptized (whether now or in the future), sins are put away “as far as the east is from the west” and are forever buried in the bottom of the sea, never to be remembered again (Psalm 103:12; Mic. 7:19; Isa. 38:17; Jer 31:34). Yahushua the Christ is both our “sin offering” whose blood replaced ours and is our “Scapegoat” who forever banishes our sins from God’s holy Presence.

The first phase of at-one-ment is occurring now with the saints who arise at the coming of Christ. But, there are two greater atonement events yet to occur. The first greater one occurs after Christ’s return when He gathers the remnant of Israel together from the four corners of the earth and returns them to the promised land. The second, but the greatest atonement event occurs after the second resurrection. This resurrection will be comprised of everyone whoever lived. They will stand before the Judgement Throne when the books will be opened to them. This is when the Holy Spirit will be offered to them and life eternal.