

The Feast Day of Atonement

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I. Introduction.

During Biblical Times the Israelites celebrated a number of Feasts on a yearly basis. These are referred to as the Feasts of Israel. Within these feasts are the Feast of Passover, Feast of Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles. This study focuses on only one of these Feasts, the Day of Atonement.

On the Day of Atonement, which took place but once a year, the High Priest entered into the Holiest of All, within the veil, with the blood of the Lord's goat, the sin offering. Here he sprinkled the blood on the Mercy seat. The blood of the sin offering on the great Day of Atonement brought about the cleansing of all sin, all iniquity, and all transgression. The sanctuary and Israel as a nation experienced blood atonement, thus being reconciled to their God.

II. The Day of Atonement – Leviticus 23:26-32; 16:1-34

In these two passages of scripture we have a detailed description of all that the Day of Atonement represented for the nation of Israel. As mentioned above the Day of Atonement was a day of cleansing for all sin and speaks to us of the atoning work of Christ and all that He accomplished on the cross for us as God's Holy nation. The symbolic significances all point to the work of Christ historically and then to His work prophetically in His church.

There are several things we will be looking at in this study as to how the church relates to the actual fulfillment of the Day of Atonement, but let us keep in mind first of all the following truths:

1. We have not appropriated any real measure of the atonement, meaning, even though Jesus has made complete provision for us, we have not yet experienced the completion of our salvation or the full measure of the atonement in our lives.
2. The Church must enter into the experimental appropriation of it just as it has with the other Feasts.
3. As there is a historical and an experimental fulfillment with Passover and Pentecost so there must be with the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles.

4. The Church through the ages has never appropriated the full measure of deliverance from sin, but has appropriated some.
5. The sin and carnality of the Church's history must be taken away from her before she can enter into the fullness of the blessing and power of the Feast of Tabernacles.

III. Prophetic Passages Concerning the Day of Atonement.

There are many passages of scripture that actually refer to this great Day that is still yet ahead for the Church of Jesus Christ.

- **The prophet Zechariah prophesied of this great Day** when he said, "And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

Zechariah 3:9 *For behold, the stone That I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'And I will **remove the iniquity** of that land **in one day**.*

Proverbs 4:18 *But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the **perfect day**.*

The saints are to gather together and much more as they see "the Day approaching." (See Zephaniah 2:1-3 also).

Hebrews 10:25 *not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the **Day approaching**.*

Ephesians 4:30 *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the **day of redemption**.*

- **The Church shall come into the perfection of the measure of the stature of the Fullness of Christ before He returns.**

Ephesians 4:13 *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **perfect man**, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

Consistency of interpretation will show that as each of the Feast days were literal

24 hour days in Israel's history, so they are also in church history. But *of course*, once the initial day has been ushered in it remains open to all who will believe and enter into the Feast

Passover took place on a literal 24 hour day, yet this Feast has been open ever since to all who will believe. Pentecost took place on a literal 24 hour day and this Feast has been open ever since to all who will believe and enter into it. So it is the same with the Feast of Tabernacles, with the Day of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Tabernacles.

IV. Truths Related to the Day of Atonement

1. The Tenth Day of the Seventh Month

Leviticus 23:27 "Also the ***tenth day*** of this ***seventh month*** shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.

Leviticus 16:29-30 "This shall be a statute forever for you: In the ***seventh month***, on ***the tenth day*** of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. 30 "For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

The significance of numbers may be seen here in the fact that the Day of Atonement took place on the tenth day of the seventh month. This day brought the whole nation together at the Tabernacle door, at the Sanctuary of the Lord For the great cleansing and reconciliation.

- **The Symbolic Significance of the Number Seven.**
 - **Seven is the number of Fullness and completeness and perfection.** Thus the seventh month completed the Feasts of the Lord and the Sacred year in Israel.
 - **Seven is also the number of rest**, so this month brought Israel to the Fullness of rest through atonement.
 - **There are a number of incidents in scripture** that show us the symbolic significance of the number seven

Joshua & the Battle of Jericho: When Joshua went in to the Promised Land to take the city of Jericho (7) seven priests with the Ark of God in their midst marched around the wall of Jericho for six days. On the (7) seventh day they marched around (7) seven times. At the close of the march the trumpets were blown, the people shouted and God caused the walls of Jericho to collapse. The victory was complete. Therefore we have seven priests, seven days, seven times thus 777 the number of perfection and completion.

The Book of Revelation: seven angels blow seven trumpets, while at the blast from the seventh trumpet the Ark of God is seen in the heavenly Sanctuary and the mystery of God is completed. Seven seals, seven trumpets, seven vials thus 777 the number of perfection and completion.

- **The Symbolic Significance of the Number Ten.**

Ten is the number of testing, trial, law and order, and also responsibility before the Lord. The 10 days between the day of blowing of Trumpets and the day of Atonement were days of preparation, and all were responsible to be ready for this great day.

Tribulation for 10 days

Revelation 2:10 *"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have **tribulation ten days**. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

Daniel & Friends to be tested for 10 days.

Daniel 1:12 *"Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.*

Parable of the 10 Virgins (End time parable) – 10 is used to symbolize preparation and testing – Matthew 25:1-10.

Matthew 25:1 *"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.*

There is no doubt, therefore, that from now until the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement in the Church, God's people are going to be subjected to great times

of testing and trial -- with a view of perfecting them, and rewarding them as overcomers.

1 Peter 5:10 *But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*

2. It Was a Day of Holy Convocation & Solemn Rest - Leviticus 23:27-32

Like every other Feast Day, the Day of Atonement was a holy convocation, and a Sabbath rest. No servile work was to be done on this day. Israel had to cease from their own works and rest in the work of the atonement, the work of the High Priest in Sanctuary service.

We have a High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses, which enables us to receive mercy and help in time of trouble.

Hebrews 4:14-16 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

For the believer, there is a true rest in Christ's finished work. It is not by works of righteousness which we have done, but it is what Christ has done in His atoning work. In order for the believer to come into the fullness of His salvation he must come to complete rest in the Work of the faithful High Priest Jesus, whose blood atones for all of his sins.

Hebrews 2:17 *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

At the Day of Atonement we will cease from all of our spiritual work and rest completely in the Full atoning work of Christ and He will supernaturally perfect us through His atonement.

3. The Day of Atonement was a Day of Fasting and Affliction of the Soul – Leviticus 23:26-32

This day, although involved in the Feasts of Israel was really a fast day. In Acts 27:9 this day is called "**The Fast**". It was the only day of the Feasts of the Lord specifically set aside as a day of national fasting.

- **Jesus said His Disciples would be called to times of fasting.**

Matthew 9:15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

- **The chosen fast of the Lord shall involve the affliction of the soul and cause the perfected ministry of the Bride to come forth.**

Isaiah 58:5-9 Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD? ⁶ "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' "If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

As the Day of Atonement approaches for the Church, there will be greater times of affliction of the flesh and subduing the bodily appetites. The days are at hand when the disciples of the Lord will fast, because the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, is way.

The Day of Atonement was a day to afflict their souls. On this day the Israelites humbled themselves before the Lord in national repentance and humiliation as they sought the Lord.

This day was a time of "soul-affliction." Body and soul affliction were linked in this day of fasting and prayer.

- **God uses soul affliction to draw us to Himself.**

Psalms 119:67 *Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.
71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.*

- **Soul affliction speaks of judging ourselves so that we be not judged of the Lord.**

1 Corinthians 11:28-32 *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.*

Everyone needs to accept the dealings of God if they are to go into the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Church also may expect times or solemn assembly, when the Lord calls by the trumpet voice to affliction of soul to times and seasons of special prayer, intercession and fasting before Him so that His purposes may be fulfilled in and through the Church.

Joel 1:13-15 *Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; Wail, you who minister before the altar; Come, lie all night in sackcloth, You who minister to my God; For the grain offering and the drink offering are withheld from the house of your God. 14 Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD. 15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as destruction from the Almighty.*

4. The Sprinkling of the Blood by the High Priest - Leviticus 16:14-16

The sprinkling of the blood seven times on the Mercy seat was prophetic of perfect atonement that Christ would bring to His people. Thus the "Seven Times" sprinkling of blood becomes symbolic and prophetic of the perfections that the blood of Jesus will bring to His church in the end times and at His coming.

In Passover the blood was sprinkled upon the door. In Pentecost the blood was sprinkled on the people and the Covenant Book. In Tabernacles the blood was sprinkled seven times on the Mercy Seat.

The Day of Atonement in the Church will be the fullest manifestation of the power of the blood of Jesus. It will bring the Church to the fullness of the stature of

Christ, making an end of all sin, all iniquity, all transgressions and all sins or ignorance and all uncleanness.

Ephesians 4:13 *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

Jesus is going to sanctify and cleanse His Church through the word or God so that it can be presented to Him at His coming as a Glorious Church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. It will be a church that is Holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:26-27 *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

- **A Prophetic Picture of the Perfected Church.**

Isaiah 4:1-6 *And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, "We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; Only let us be called by your name, To take away our reproach." ² **In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious;** and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped. ³ And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy; everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. ⁴ **When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning,** ⁵ then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. ⁶ And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain.*

V. Concluding Remarks.

If we are to enter into the Feast of Tabernacles we must have an ear to hear what the trumpets are blowing, and how they are calling the people to afflict their souls in preparation for the Great Day of Atonement.

1 Peter 1:3-8 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through*

*the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for **salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.** 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,*

If the blood of Passover saved Israel from Egypt and the blood of our Passover, Jesus Christ has saved us from the world, what did the blood of atonement do for Israel that has not yet been experienced by the Church. This day took away all sins, of ignorance and otherwise. The blood of Jesus can make us perfect.

End Notes

This teaching was developed from sources and teachers such as Kevin Conner, W.W. Offiler and Dick Benjamin, who have influenced me greatly over the years through their writings and teachings.