

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 16: 1 - 34

Memory Verse: Leviticus 23:27

The Holy Days of Leviticus 23 have a special connotation. They provide a continuous, overall plan of how the True Worshiper may find everlasting salvation. Follow closely as we scrutinize this chapter and notice how the observance of Yahweh's Holy Days marks our journey toward eternal salvation.

The Day of Atonement is more correctly translated "Day of Covering." It signifies a sacred time when we remember the blood covering Almighty Yahweh has provided for our sins. Sin separates Yahweh and humankind, (Isaiah 59: 20). When Yahshua's blood is applied to the hearts of the repentant people, once again an **at-one-ment** between Yahweh and humankind can occur. Atonement was when Israel made a special effort to repent of all their sins and to be in as near as possible a state of spiritual perfection before Yahweh.

While the Day of Atonement typifies the marriage supper of the Lamb, it is a day when we become fully joined with Him. It is also a day when we shall finally become one with the Heavenly Father and receive the adoption into the Elohim family whose name means **eternal life**. Our conversion process from sinner to saint will then be complete!

It was really less a feast than a fast, as the distinctive character and purpose of the day was to bring the collective sin of the whole year to remembrance, so that it might earnestly be dealt with and atoned for. On this day the high priest confessed all the sins of the community, and entered on their behalf into the most holy place with the blood of reconciliation. It was a solemn occasion, when Yahweh's people through sorrow and atonement for sin entered into the rest of Yahweh's mercy and favor, so that as partakers of His forgiveness they might rejoice before Him and carry out His commandments.

After this, the high priest would go out into the court of the tabernacle (or temple) and lay his hands over the head of the scapegoat, confessing over it and let go. This symbolized the removal of the sins from the people. According to the Talmud, a scarlet cord was tied around the neck of the scapegoat. This cord was reported to have turned white as the goat was led away from city. Following this, the priest would go back into the tabernacle to change out of the special white clothes to put his usual priestly attire.

Questions

1. Was the Fast mentioned in Acts 9:27 the Day of Atonement?
2. Was the Fast of Atonement just for Israel of old? Leviticus 23:31
3. Who did the two goats represent? Leviticus 16:7-10
4. If one did not keep the Day of Atonement, what would happen to that person? Leviticus 23:29-30
5. How many times did Yahshua enter into the holy place to atone for us?
Hebrews 10:11-14