



DAY OF ATONEMENT / YOM KIPPUR

Atonement is central to God's plan of redemption, restoring the relationship between Him and His people. In the Old Testament, the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) was a solemn day of *fasting*, repentance, and sacrifice. The High Priest entered the Holy of Holies, offering blood for the nation's sins. This yearly ritual pointed to the need for a greater, permanent sacrifice.

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of atonement. Unlike the temporary sacrifices of the Old Covenant, His death on the cross was the once-for-all sacrifice that removes sin completely. Through His blood, we are reconciled to God, freed from guilt, and granted eternal redemption. The Feast of Atonement foreshadows Christ's work and deepens our understanding of God's mercy, justice, and desire to dwell with His people.

Key Scripture:

Leviticus 16:1-34, Hebrews 9:7-14

Other Scripture References: Leviticus 23:26-32, Exodus 25:17-22, Isaiah 53:5-6, Psalm 103:12, John 1:29, Romans 3:25, Hebrews 9:22, Hebrews 10:10-12, Hebrews 9:25-26, Hebrews 10:19-22, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Matthew 24:42-44, Revelation 11:15, 2 Peter 3:11-12, Acts 17:30-31, Revelation 19:16, Romans 10:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:52, Romans 12:1

Accompanying Book References: *The Seven Feasts of Israel* by Zola Levitt pages 15-17.

1. THE BIBLICAL ROOTS OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

The Day of Atonement was the holiest day of the year, a solemn time of repentance, fasting, and sacrifice. The High Priest entered the Holy of Holies, offering blood for the nation's sins. This sacred day emphasized God's holiness, the seriousness of sin, and the need for a perfect atoning sacrifice.

THE INSTITUTION OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

(**Leviticus 16:29-34**) God instituted the Day of Atonement as a divine appointment for Israel's national cleansing (Leviticus 16:29-34). Observed annually, it required the High Priest to enter the Holy of Holies, sprinkling blood on the Mercy Seat to atone for the people's sins. This solemn day emphasized repentance, substitutionary sacrifice, and God's mercy, foreshadowing Christ's ultimate atonement.

God's Command

God commanded it as a day of fasting, repentance, and sacrifice, requiring the High Priest to enter the Holy of Holies and make atonement for the people's sins. No work was permitted, emphasizing the solemnity and total dependence on God's mercy for forgiveness.

The Significance of the Day of Atonement

This day symbolized God's holiness, the seriousness of sin, and the necessity of atonement through blood sacrifice. The annual ritual pointed to the ultimate redemption through Jesus Christ, whose once-for-all sacrifice replaced the temporary atonements of the Old Covenant. The two goats—the sacrificial goat and the scapegoat—foreshadowed Christ's work in both bearing God's wrath and removing our sin.

THE RITUALS OF ATONEMENT IN THE OLD COVENANT

(**Leviticus 16, Hebrews 9:7-14**) The Rituals of Atonement in the Old Covenant were established by God to provide temporary cleansing for Israel's sins. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest followed a strict process, including ceremonial washings, sacrifices, and the sprinkling of blood on the Mercy Seat. These rituals symbolized substitution and purification, pointing to the need for a greater, permanent atonement—fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The High Priest's Role

(**Hebrews 9:11-12**) The High Priest's role on the Day of Atonement was crucial for Israel's forgiveness

(Leviticus 16). He alone entered the Holy of Holies, first offering a sin sacrifice for himself, then for the nation. He sprinkled blood on the Mercy Seat, symbolizing atonement and reconciliation with God. This sacred duty pointed to Jesus, our perfect High Priest, who offered His own blood for our eternal redemption.

The Two Goats

(Isaiah 53:5-6; John 1:29) The two goats in the Day of Atonement symbolized substitution and removal of sin (Leviticus 16:7-10). The first goat was sacrificed, its blood making atonement for the people. The scapegoat was sent into the wilderness, carrying away Israel's sins. This powerful imagery pointed to Jesus Christ, who both shed His blood for our sins and removed them forever.

The Significance of the Mercy Seat

(Exodus 25:17-22, Leviticus 16:15-16, Romans 3:25, Hebrews 9:11-12) The Mercy Seat, located atop the Ark of the Covenant, was the place where God's presence met with His people. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest sprinkled blood on the Mercy Seat, symbolizing atonement and divine forgiveness. This foreshadowed Jesus Christ, whose blood secured our eternal redemption, making Him the true and final Mercy Seat.

The Day of Atonement was God's appointed time for national cleansing, a profound display of His holiness, justice, and mercy. It underscored the gravity of sin and the necessity of atonement through blood. The High Priest's intercession and the two goats—one sacrificed, one sent away—powerfully foreshadowed Christ's complete work of redemption. Jesus, our perfect High Priest, not only bore our punishment but also removed our sins forever, securing eternal reconciliation with God.

2. THE DAY OF ATONEMENT POINTS TO CHRIST

(Hebrews 9:11-12) The Day of Atonement was more than a ritual—it was a prophetic picture of Christ's redemptive work. The High Priest, the sacrificial blood, and the scapegoat all pointed to Jesus as the ultimate atonement for sin. Unlike the repeated sacrifices of the Old Covenant, Christ's sacrifice was once for all, fully satisfying God's justice and mercy, granting eternal redemption to those who believe.

A PROPHETIC PICTURE

(Hebrews 9:11-12) The Day of Atonement was not merely a ritual for Israel's cleansing but a prophetic picture of Christ's ultimate sacrifice. Every element of the ceremony pointed to Jesus' atoning work. The High Priest foreshadowed Christ as our mediator, the sacrificial blood prefigured His death on the cross, and the scapegoat symbolized Jesus bearing and removing our sins. This sacred day anticipated the once-for-all redemption found in Christ.

THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST POINTS TO CHRIST

(Hebrews 9:11-12) The High Priest's role on the Day of Atonement foreshadowed Jesus Christ as our eternal High Priest. The priest alone entered the Holy of Holies, interceding for the people through the blood of sacrifice. Likewise, Jesus entered the true heavenly sanctuary, offering His own blood for our redemption. Unlike earthly priests, He required no sacrifice for Himself, securing eternal atonement for all who believe.

THE SACRIFICIAL BLOOD SYMBOLIZES CHRIST'S PAYMENT FOR SIN

(Hebrews 9:22, 10:10-12) The sacrificial blood on the Day of Atonement symbolized the payment for sin, pointing to Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. The High Priest sprinkled blood on the Mercy Seat, temporarily covering Israel's sins. This foreshadowed Christ's blood, which does not just cover sin but completely removes it. His once-for-all sacrifice fulfilled what

animal sacrifices could not—true and eternal atonement.

THE SCAPEGOAT SYMBOLIZES CHRIST REMOVING OUR SIN

(**Leviticus 16:21-22, Psalm 103:12, John 1:29**) The scapegoat on the Day of Atonement powerfully symbolized Christ removing our sin. The High Priest laid hands on the goat, confessing Israel's sins, before sending it into the wilderness, carrying their guilt away. This foreshadowed Jesus, who bore our sins and took them as far as the east is from the west, providing complete forgiveness and freedom.

CHRIST'S ATONEMENT IS SUPERIOR TO THE OLD COVENANT

(**Hebrews 10:10-12**) Christ's atonement is far superior to the Old Covenant because His sacrifice was once for all, unlike the repeated sacrifices of the Day of Atonement (Hebrews 9:25-26). The Old Covenant required animal blood that could only temporarily cover sin, but Jesus' perfect sacrifice completely removes sin and grants eternal redemption. His atonement fully satisfies God's justice and mercy, securing salvation for all who believe.

The Day of Atonement was a prophetic shadow of Christ's perfect and final atonement. As our eternal High Priest, Jesus entered heaven's Holy of Holies, offering His own blood, not for temporary covering, but for complete forgiveness. The sacrificial blood and scapegoat foreshadowed His payment for sin and removal of guilt. Unlike the Old Covenant's repeated sacrifices, Christ's once-for-all atonement fully satisfies God's justice, granting eternal redemption.

3. SIGNIFICANCE FOR BELIEVERS TODAY

The Day of Atonement's fulfillment in Christ holds deep significance for believers today. His once-for-all sacrifice secures forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12). No longer reliant on temporary rituals, we now approach God

with confidence, knowing our sins are fully removed (Hebrews 10:19-22). This calls us to live in gratitude, repentance, and worship, embracing the grace and mercy Christ freely gives.

TRUST FULLY IN CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

(**Hebrews 9:12**) Trust Fully in Christ's Atonement means resting in His finished work rather than relying on good deeds or religious rituals for salvation. Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice secured complete forgiveness, removing the need for repeated offerings. We are fully reconciled to God, not by our efforts but by His grace. Believing this truth frees us from guilt and striving, allowing us to live in peace, joy, and confidence in Christ.

APPROACH GOD WITH CONFIDENCE

(**Hebrews 10:19-22**) Approach God with Confidence by drawing near to Him in prayer and worship, knowing that Jesus' sacrifice grants you direct access. You no longer need a human mediator—Christ has made the way. Reject fear, doubt, and condemnation, for you are redeemed, accepted, and loved. As a child of God, stand boldly in His presence, trusting in His grace and walking in the freedom of His forgiveness.

LIVE IN GRATITUDE, REPENTANCE, AND WORSHIP

(**Romans 12:1**) Live in Gratitude, Repentance, and Worship by responding to Christ's sacrifice with a thankful heart and a life of obedience. True faith leads to daily repentance—turning from sin, knowing that God's grace empowers you to live righteously. Worship isn't just for Sundays; it's a way of life. Honor God in your words, actions, and choices, reflecting His love and holiness in all you do.

The Day of Atonement's fulfillment in Christ transforms how believers live today. His once-for-all sacrifice secures forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal redemption, freeing us from striving for salvation. We now approach God with confidence as redeemed and accepted children. In response, we are called to live in gratitude, daily repentance, and wholehearted worship, honoring Christ in all we do.

4. SUMMARY

The Day of Atonement was a powerful foreshadowing of Christ's redemptive work, revealing God's holiness, justice, and mercy. The High Priest, the sacrificial blood, and the scapegoat symbolized the need for a perfect, permanent atonement. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as our eternal High Priest, offering His own blood to fully remove sin, granting forgiveness and reconciliation with God for all who believe.

For believers today, Christ's once-for-all sacrifice replaces the temporary rituals of the Old Covenant, allowing us to approach God with confidence. No longer striving for atonement, we now live in the freedom of grace, called to daily repentance, gratitude, and worship. Jesus' finished work not only cleanses us from sin but also invites us into a deeper relationship with God, transforming our lives forever.

Visit www.MinuteWithMike.com for more reference downloads on **The Seven Feasts of Israel**.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. How does Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice as our High Priest in **Hebrews 9:11-12** compare to the repeated sacrifices on the Day of Atonement, and how does this change your relationship with God?
2. Since the scapegoat carried away Israel's sins in **Leviticus 16:21-22**, how does this foreshadow Christ's work on the cross, and what does it mean for you to know that Jesus has fully removed your sin?
3. What does it mean to approach God with confidence in **Hebrews 10:19-22**, knowing that Christ's sacrifice has cleansed us from sin, and how does this truth shape your daily walk?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

4. Christ's sacrifice was once-for-all. If Why do some believers still struggle with guilt and feel the need to "make up" for their sins? How can we fully embrace the freedom He offers?
5. The scapegoat carried away Israel's sins, yet many still wrestle with shame and regret. What does it truly mean to have our sins removed "as far as the east is from the west," and how should that shape how we see ourselves?
6. We are to approach God with confidence, yet many hesitate due to fear, doubt, or feelings of unworthiness. What are some barriers that keep believers from fully trusting in God's mercy, and how can we overcome them?

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

HOW DOES THIS ALL APPLY TODAY?

7. What is one way you can live in the freedom of Christ's atonement instead of holding onto guilt or trying to earn God's forgiveness?

8. How can you remind yourself daily that your sins are fully removed, and how should that change the way you live and interact with others?

9. What specific steps can you take to approach God with greater confidence in prayer, worship, and your daily walk with Him?

BONUS CHALLENGE QUESTION (OPTIONAL):

Leviticus 16:21-22 shows that the Day of Atonement required both a sacrifice for sin and the removal of sin through the scapegoat, how do you see these aspects at work in your own life? How does **Hebrews 9:11-12** deepen your understanding of Christ's sacrifice and shape your daily walk with Him?