

## The Meaning of The Day of Atonement

God's total plan for mankind from redemption to ruling and reigning is found in **The Feast Days** mentioned in the Bible in Leviticus the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

There are **seven Feast Days** that God told the Israelites to observe. These Feast all have prophetic implications for all God's people including the church.

The first **four Feast Days** are: They have all been fulfilled.

1. Passover
2. Days of Unleavened Bread
3. First Fruits
4. Pentecost.

The last 3 Feast Days have yet to be totally fulfilled. These three are:

5. Feast of Trumpets
6. Day of Atonement
7. Feast of Tabernacles

From #1 - **Passover** to the #7 - **Feast of Tabernacles** God reveals his wonderful plan for mankind to be restored and to rule and reign with him.

The period of time between the Feast of trumpets and Day of Atonement is referred to as "The ten days of awe." This time is for self-examination and repentance. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is the tenth day of the seventh month (Tishrei) and is regarded as the "Sabbath of Sabbaths, It's considered to be the holiest day of the year for the Jews. The simple meaning of the word atonement means cleaning or covering.

*Lev. 23:26-28, 32 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 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, (Fast) and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord. 28 And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God... 32 It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."*

On the Day of Atonement, the high priest first washed his whole body and put on a simple white linen garment. When the priest would go into the holy of holies his robes would have bells and pomegranates attached to the helm.

Bells is a new testament type of - testimony and praise, Pomegranates - Godly character, the fruit of the spirit.

Every believer should have sound and fruit.

*Two goats were also used for sacrifice on this day. –*

*Lev 16:7-10 He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 8 Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering. 10 But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness.*

*First, The High Preist sacrificed a bull and carried the bull's blood into the Holy of Holies, where he poured it over the Ark of the Covenant for his own sins.*

The high priest cast lots over two other Goats, one to be slain and the other he would lay his hands on the other goat and confess the sins of Israel, and that goat was taken away. The name for this goat is Azazel, the scapegoat or the goat of removal.

### **Jesus our sacrificial Lamb and scapegoat.**

**The lamb-** The priest would sacrifice a lamb for the Lord and its blood was poured out on the altar for the whole nation of Israel. This was a shadow of the blood of Christ, the sacrificial Lamb of God that was poured out during the crucifixion on behalf of the world.

Christ is the complete atonement for our sins. In many ways, He embodies each aspect of the Day of Atonement. We are told that He is our great High Priest (**Hebrews 4:14**).

He is also the ***“Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world”*** (**Revelation 13:8**) as a sacrifice for our sins.

After He sacrificed His life Jesus had to take and get his blood inspected for purity of Life. Because the bible says that life is in the blood. ***Lev. 17:14...for the life of all flesh is its blood...***

According to ***Heb. 9:11-15***, Jesus offered up His blood on the altar of Heaven for total salvation. ***11 (NIV) When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! 15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.***

Christ Blood is applied for our lives in five different ways:

- As the Passover blood that protects us from the judgment of God as it falls on the godless ones of the world.
- As the blood of appeasement that cancels the debt of condemnation and guilt incurred because of our sins.
- As the blood of deliverance and restoration,
  1. through which the Holy Spirit of God is enabled to remove the tendencies and repair the consequences of the sin in us,
  2. to give us the strength to resist sin, and
  3. to fill us with the indestructible resurrection Life of Christ so we are lifted above the realm where sin abounds.
- As the blood of the grace covenant, that established the favor of God on us.

*This is the blood that we drink when we receive the body and blood of Christ in the Communion Service. The New Covenant is in the blood with better promises.*

- As the blood of union with Christ so we live by Him, in Him as He lives by the Father.

**Scapegoat-** After the sins were laid on the scapegoat, it was considered unclean and driven into the wilderness.

In essence, the goat was cast out. This is why Jesus (our scapegoat) was crucified outside of the city. ***Isaiah 53:3a, 12*** ***“He was despised and rejected by men ... 12 He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”*** Jesus embodied what the scapegoat represented – the removal of sins from the offenders.

*When the scapegoat was taken/driven into the wilderness, it was symbolic of all the sin being placed on Jesus; then Him going to hell, letting satan know that he not only paid the price for the sins of mankind, but he removed them also spiritually.*

This gave Jesus the right to the keys of hell, death, and the grave. It also let satan know that he had no right to accuse mankind anymore because He became sin for us as mentioned in ***2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5 21*** ***“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”***

*Jesus became a sinner for us. He gave up His state of righteousness so we could become righteous.*

Our sins were laid on Christ – He bore our sins just as the scapegoat bore the sins of the Israelites. ***Isaiah 53:6*** prophesies Christ’s acceptance of the sin burden: ***“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”***

*Iniquity deal with more than just acts, but nature, character, and motives.*

So, we see sin is still in the flesh, our old nature. While sin is in our old nature Christ died for us to have a new nature, His nature. Now we have a choice. We can choose not to walk in the old sinful nature but in the nature of the spirit where there are no sinful desires. ***Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.***

Sins however will not be totally erased until after the 1000-year millennial reign of Jesus Christ and the saints. ***Rev. 21:1-4*** ***Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”***

Even though Jesus willing became the sacrificial lamb for us and allow all of the sins of the world and the effects of those sins to be placed upon Him on the cross, not everyone will take advantage of what God the Father and His Son did. Because of their defiance, the only alternative is the wrath of God. Wrath is defined as “the emotional response to perceived wrong and injustice,” often translated as “anger,” “indignation,” “vexation,” or “irritation.” All of the wrong and injustice done that people did not allow Christ to appease will have to be dealt with by the wrath of God because no sin can be left unpunished.

God’s wrath is holy and always justified’. This wrath will come to full fruition in **Revelation** chapters **14-16** God’s wrath against sin and disobedience is perfectly justified because His plan for mankind is holy and perfect, just as God Himself is holy and perfect. God provided a way to gain divine favor—repentance—which turns God’s wrath away from mankind. The Day of Atonement is a clear picture of how the Father and Jesus dealt with sin. To reject that perfect plan of salvation through Jesus Christ is to reject God’s love, mercy, grace, and favor and to incur His righteous wrath.

The New Testament also supports the concept of God as a God of wrath who judges sin. The story of the rich man and Lazarus speaks of the judgment of God and serious consequences for the unrepentant sinner (**Luke 16:19–31**).

***John 3:36*** says, “***Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on Him.***” The one who believes in the Son will not suffer God’s wrath for his sin, because the Son took God’s wrath upon Himself when He died in our place on the cross (**Romans 5:6–11**). Those who do not believe in the Son, who do not receive Him as Savior, will be judged on the day of wrath (**Romans 2:5–6**).

To realize freedom from the domination of wrath, the believer needs the Holy Spirit to sanctify and cleanse their heart of feelings of wrath and anger. **Romans 8** shows victory over sin in the life of one who is living in the Spirit (**Romans 8:5-8**). **Philippians 4:4-7** tells us that the mind controlled by the Spirit is filled with peace.

The wrath of God is a fearsome and terrifying thing. Only those who have been covered by the blood that Christ shed for us on the cross, can be assured that God’s wrath will never fall on them. ***Romans 5:9*** “***Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through Him!***”.

Understand there are different levels of God's wrath, the greatness level is the lake of fire.