



יום הכּפּוּרִים

YOM KIPPUR — A DAY, BUT IS THERE ATONEMENT FOR THE JEWISH SOUL?



By Jon Lieberman, Carmel, IN

ATONEMENT? What is it, why does a Jewish person need it, and how does one receive it? The probing question is this — “What does God require of the Jewish person **before** God can forgive the individual’s sins and be able, then, to inscribe his or her name in the Book of Life?”

The Jewish community will celebrate, beginning Sunday evening, September 27, what the Jewish Bible (the Tanach) calls **Yom Kippur, The Day of Atonement**. Jewish tradition teaches that God writes the name of **every repentant Jew** in this legendary divine record book.

Does the Jewish Bible, which is the only divine authority for Jewish belief, confirm such a practice? To answer that question we must turn to the ancient Jewish Scriptures themselves.

The Scriptures state that Aaron, Israel’s Kohen Ha-Gadol, (the Great High Priest) was commanded to kill **once** a year a goat and then sprinkle its blood upon an altar in a sacred area of the Temple called **The Holy of Holies**. (The Kiddush Kiddushim). The Bible emphatically states the reason, **“It is the blood that makes atonement for the soul”** (Lev. 17:11). No fasting, or time of prayer, or charitable gift could replace the need for this sacrificial blood!

The Bible also instructed Aaron to lay hands upon a **living** goat (called the scapegoat), confess Israel’s sins over that goat, and then send it off into the wilderness to die.

We learn 4 things from this ritual:

1. Aaron made atonement **for** the people, indicating that the people needed a **mediator** to represent them before God.
2. An innocent victim, in this case an animal, had to be killed for them — represented by the sprinkled blood.
3. A scapegoat was designated to symbolically **take away** their sins.
4. Each Jewish person had to **put their faith** in this procedure in order to receive atonement. (Read Leviticus, Chapters 16 & 17).

I pose two simple questions to my people —

“Where is the blood today?” and **“Who represents as a mediator my Jewish people to God?”** The usual answer is that in 70 C.E. the Romans destroyed the 2nd Temple and the Rabbis decided to restructure Judaism **without a sacrificial system** and thus arbitrarily substituted fasting, prayer, charity, and repentance to take the place of the blood sacrifice.

But has God abandoned substitutionary sacrificial atonement as the only basis upon which a Jew can receive forgiveness of sins? **Isaiah, a Jewish prophet writing about 720 B.C.E.**, predicted that a **suffering servant** would one day die for Israel’s sins. Isaiah wrote:

“...he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our

iniquities...we all, like sheep, have gone astray and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all...he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors” (See **Isaiah, Chapter 53**).

The Rabbis have debated for centuries the identity of this servant. The prophet Jeremiah (600 B.C.E.) even predicted that this Messiah/servant would establish a **new covenant** with Israel. (**Jer. 31:31-34**)

2000 years ago a humble Jewish rabbi stunned Israel claiming to be that servant and literally fulfilled that prophecy! He carried out God’s eternal plan and became the atoning sacrifice by dying for the sins of His people. He was the Kohen Ha-Gadol who mediates redemption to the Jewish soul. **He claimed both divinity and that He was the Messiah of Israel**. He performed miracles of healing on thousands of Jewish people. Three days after his death He was miraculously **raised up from the dead** (revealing the visible nail wounds in his hands) and appeared **ALIVE** to hundreds of Jewish people. This same Jesus promised to return a second time to this world! His **Hebrew name** is:

“Yeshua HaMashiach” (Jesus the Messiah)

ישועה המשיח

Why speculate any more about whether **your name** has been inscribed in The Book of Life? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob really loves **you** and offers the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and entrance into heaven **only** to those who trust that Jesus’ death was the **final** Yom Kippur, the **last** Day of Atonement. Jesus said, **“I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.”** Won’t you come to Him **today** and receive ETERNAL LIFE?

You can say this prayer to God and ask for forgiveness and God will hear you:

“DEAR GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC & JACOB, I know that I have sinned and need Your forgiveness. I believe that I can’t find acceptance before YOU based on my good works (mitzvot). I can’t earn my way to heaven. I did not realize until now that Yeshua is my Jewish Messiah and suffered and made atonement for me 2000 years ago. I believe that Yeshua died for my sins, in my place, on that tree. I believe that he physically rose from the dead. The Tanakh says that If I call upon the name of the Lord, I will be saved and delivered from God’s judgment. I want to experience today this transforming new life in the Messiah. With a sincere heart I do call out to You now to forgive me, to welcome me into your kingdom. I receive by faith the gift of eternal life now, and I surrender the control of my life over to You from this moment on. Thank you God. Amen.”



If you would like to receive a **free booklet** on how to personally know God and experience this supernatural life, please email your request or call Jon at:

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He attended the **Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation** as a youth. Jon graduated from Indiana University in 1970 with a degree in Business Administration and was a member of the **Zeta Beta Tau fraternity**. He received a M.A. in Theological Studies from **Wheaton Graduate School** in 1981.

Jon writes and speaks on **Messianic Jewish theology** and issues related to **the Jewish people and Jesus**. He explains the Hebrew texts in the Jewish Bible that show that **Jesus is the Jewish Messiah**. He also does **“Messiah in the Passover”** Seders explaining the amazing connection between the Passover and Jesus’ Last Supper.

Jon attends **Grace Community Church** located in the Carmel area. His **personal testimony** that tells the story of his search for the truth about **GOD, ATONEMENT, and the MEANING OF LIFE** appears at **www.TheMessiah.org**.