

ATONEMENT

A Guide for Christian Understanding and Celebration

COME JOIN US:
930 Harding Memorial Parkway
Marion, OH 43302
FRIDAY
OCTOBER 7,
2011
7:00 PM

Come Join Us...
Special
Planning Guide
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If We Say We Have No Sin, We Make Him a Liar...

JOHN 1: 10

ON THAT DAY YOU SHALL AFFLICT YOUR SOUL...

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT BEFORE CHRIST - SIN "PUSHED UNDER THE RUG"

Honest self-examination, communication with God, commitment to become a better person — all these are encouraged throughout the year, but there is one day on the Biblical calendar that is tailor-made for such activities: Yom Kippur.

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THE DAY OF ATONEMENT AT THE TIME OF CHRIST - SIN TAKEN AWAY

To be saved means to be cleansed, forgiven and to finally be in permanently right standing with the LORD. It means we have the signed and sealed right to approach God with careful confidence.

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THE DAY OF ATONEMENT IN THE FUTURE - ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED

It comes as no surprise to the Christian that the Lord Jesus Christ is going to return. What will happen when he returns is sometimes less clearly taught.

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*"It is the blood that makes atonement"
"...without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness."
(Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22)*

The primary items of the Day of Atonement are an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the people, humbling of hearts before the Lord for sins committed, and a sabbath day of rest.

“Thus the priest shall make atonement for him in regard to his sin, and he will be forgiven.”

LEVITICUS 4:26



THE DAY OF ATONEMENT BEFORE CHRIST - SIN "PUSHED UNDER THE RUG" (from pg. 1)

Yom Kippur, also called "The Day of Atonement" or "The Day of Judgement" in English, is described in Leviticus 23: 26-32 as a day of confession, humility, rest and reflection on one's life over the past year. Determination to identify and turn from sin, to improve one's walk with God is the goal of the day. This day was to be in the Hebrew month of Tishri, and exactly 10 days after the Day of Trumpets (the announcement Day to begin preparing oneself to come before the Lord). The Biblical text says: *"On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to the LORD. You shall not do any work on this same day, for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the LORD your God. If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people. As for any person who does any work on this same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall do no work at all. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. It is to be a sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble your souls; on the ninth of the month at evening, from evening until evening you shall keep your sabbath."* (Leviticus 23:26-32)

So the Lord prescribed for His people a day where they would humble themselves, admit their sin before him and be provided a method where that sin would be covered, so that it would not

prevent on the ongoing relationship between Him and them. The word "atonement" does not mean to take away sin but simply to cover it up. In following God's prescription for dealing with sin at that time, God's people were trusting Him to effectively take away their sin in a way He would later reveal. This way we now know to be through the sacrifice of His own Son, Jesus Christ. At that time, however, sin was "covered up" until a later time when Christ's sacrifice would actually take it away (John 1:29).

The ceremony for the day of atonement, of course, took place in the Temple. In the Temple, only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place where the Ark of the covenant (God's presence) was located. Before the priest entered, a series of sacrifices and cleansing procedures would be made first for the priest and then for the people of God. If all of these cleansing procedures were not carefully followed, the Scriptures say that the high priest would die upon entering the presence of God in that section of the Temple. Sacrifices were necessary for the high priest because he too was a normal, sinful man. It is impossible to come into the presence of God without being destroyed if even a little sin is still present. The complex process of cleansing from sin was to make sure the high priest was temporarily capable of entering the Most Holy Place in the temple. This process is described in Leviticus 16 and Numbers 29:7-11. Following the cleansing

procedure, the blood of the sacrifices that had been offered would be brought into the Most Holy Place where the Ark of the covenant was located. The high priest would sprinkle blood on the corners of the Ark so that when God looked down from heaven, He would see the cover of atoning blood, instead of the sin of His people. Through this process, God had graciously provided a means wherein sinful people could still maintain a relationship with a holy, sinless God. Without this system, sin could not be dealt with at that time. God states in Leviticus 17:11 that *"for the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement (covering) for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for your soul."* In Hebrews 9:22, Paul restates that *"without the shedding of blood there is no remission"* of sins. Prior to Christ, therefore, it was the job of the priests to offer sacrifices and come before God on behalf of the people in order to cleanse them of their past years sins. This would restore relationship with God and, while the sins were not actually taken away completely, they were covered until God would later reveal his plan to permanently remove them. They were "swept under the rug" and covered until they could later be fully paid for and swept away by Messiah. The priest's job, therefore, was to intercede for the people. The people's role in the Day of Atonement was to humble their hearts, do no work, and confess their individual sins.



“Behold the lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world.”

John 1:29

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT AT THE TIME OF CHRIST - SIN TAKEN AWAY *(from page 1)*

Salvation through faith in the Son of God is the epicenter of our faith--the central point that defines our relationship with God. The debt of our sin has been paid by Him. He has paid for our sin that was previously separating us from God. It has been permanently dealt with and removed, and we have been given eternal life right now and forever. On Yom Kippur, the high priest sacrificed a bull and a goat for sin offerings and carried their blood into the Holy of Holies. He did this because of the sins, transgressions and impurity of the people. These rituals remind us of the distance between man and God. If God does not close the distance for us, we are left outside His presence without the ability to bridge the gap.

The idea that we are generally a pretty decent people and that God isn't really that upset with our sins is corrected by the entire tone of Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur does not allow us to casually look at sin in our life, especially if we are without the Savior. The Bible teaches that God cannot be in the presence of sin. Know that all men are sinners, and therefore, all men are forced out of the presence of God on their own merit. Just like Adam and Eve, who were forced out of the Garden of Eden once a single sin was committed, we are all separated from God unless He presents to us a way whereby we may be forgiven.

Yom Kippur reminds us that we have a real problem and not to be casual about it. But it also shows us that God gracefully prescribed a solution that was temporary, and that an ultimate cure was eventually on its way. The Day of Atonement teaches that we cannot be good enough to merit salvation, to win God's favor or to earn a reprieve from punishment by doing more good than bad or by trying to undo the bad we have done in the past by now doing some good.

Our past sin is continually like uncleanness before Him. "When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" (Matthew 19:25). Yom Kippur teaches us that sin sticks to us without God providing a solution, that sin is dangerous and deadly and must be removed.

Salvation from sin and relationship with God depends on a person acknowledging that he cannot bridge the distance and that even the covering up of sin is even inadequate, because "there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed" (Luke 12:2-3). To be dealt with, our sin must be completely taken away. This is only possible in Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY

On Yom Kippur, the high priest set out to temporarily bridge the distance between us and God created by sin. The book of Hebrews teaches that, in the heavenly Temple, the blood sacrifice and resurrection of Messiah Jesus was superior to the high priest's entrance into the Holy of Holies on earth. "For Messiah did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, to appear in the presence of God for us. ... to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (Hebrews 9:24-26) God has made a lasting way of redemption for us through the death and resurrection of His own righteous Son, Jesus Christ. More than covering our sin, He offers to take sin away by placing it upon Himself. For everyone who places faith in Jesus Christ, there is lasting salvation and the eternal forgiveness of, and cleansing from, sin.

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.
As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
Just as a father has compassion on his children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.*

Psalms 103:11-13

And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

ZECHARIAH 12:9-10

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT IN THE FUTURE - ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED (from page 1)

The Hebrew and Apostolic Scriptures give us some answers about the Lord's return. In summary, we would teach that when Christ returns, he will do so at a time when it seems that Israel is on the brink of destruction. When he comes, the church, which has previously been raptured, will come with Him. Upon His second coming, along with the raptured believers, the angels will sound a trumpet which will summon believers from all over the world. Jesus Christ will enter the battle that would otherwise soundly defeat Israel and he will lead His collected army to defeat the opponents of God's people, Israel. At that point all Israel will recognize Jesus as their Messiah and Savior and will bitterly weep over the fact that they denied Him at His first coming. Because they acknowledge Him then as their Savior and Lord, all Israel will be saved. He will initiate his kingdom on earth and rule and reign from the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem.

Several scriptures form the prophecies mentioned here and relate to the future fulfillment of the Day of Atonement as it applies specifically to Israel as the "chosen people" of God. These same Scriptures describe Christ coming to judge the world with righteousness and justice with a strong outstretched arm against the nations

that oppose Him and His people. Paul writes on this in Romans, chapter 11. Other prophets of old write of this as well:

"I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity. It will come about in that day," declares the LORD of hosts, "that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land." (Zechariah 12:10, 13:1-2, 8-9)

Jesus referred to the fulfillment of this future Day of Atonement and His return to earth when He said:

"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT

TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other." (Matthew 24:29-31)

John then writes in the book of Revelation:

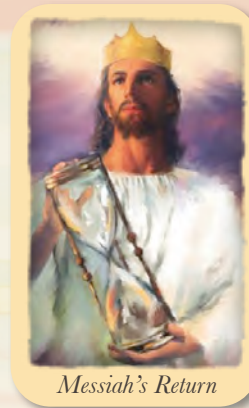
"BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen." (Rev 1:7)

Also, John writes:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (Revelation 19:11-16)

Christ will return for His people, Israel, and we will be there at His side.



Messiah's Return

Christ is My Atonement, So Why Do I Need a Day?

Human beings don't usually repent when all is going well for them or when the consequence of careless or bad behavior is removed. Since we are forgiven in Christ, many Christians incorrectly assume that regular times of accounting for and turning from sin is no longer necessary because we are forgiven. The Bible would disagree and would challenge us to quickly and importantly rethink this incorrect notion.

The Day of Atonement is not a means of forgiveness for the Jew or the Christian. It never was. As mentioned earlier, it was a way for sins to be managed and dealt with until such a time as God took them away in the death and resurrection of Messiah as predicted in Isaiah 53. Because it is not a means of salvation, but rather a means of regularly identifying and turning from sin, it had the same purpose in the life of the believer then as it does today. The writer of the book of Hebrews says that *"in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year"* (Hebrews 10:11, but read all of Hebrews 10). This is written in the present tense, not the past tense, indicating that we are to continue to celebrate the Day of Atonement as a reminder to identify and deal with our sin. We are reminded that, while sin is a decreasing reality in our lives, confession and repentance is still important, even after forgiveness has been received through our faith in Christ. Though your spiritual house was declared clean when you were saved, we still need to tidy up from time to time. Dirt in the house is no longer deadly, but it can make you sick. Sin in the life of a believer can make you sick and needs to be located and purged regularly. The Day of Atonement is an opportunity to make an extra-thorough cleaning once yearly.

So, in addition to the reasons given above, why is the Day of Atonement still to be practiced by the Christian? The Scriptures state that the commandment to remember this day is an "eternal statute". As well, Jesus clarifies in Matthew 5: 17-19 that things written for us to do before He came are not abolished in His coming. *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I*

say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Our Lord directs us that we are to find in Him the full work of God in taking away our sin, but that the continued practice of the Day of Atonement as well as all other commandments are still necessary to practice as long as we live this side of heaven. Not only is the Day of Atonement an important time of confession and cleansing, it is a great reminder of the completed work Christ did to save us. Both aspects of the Day may be celebrated by believers in the Savior: Permanent Atonement and continued confession and cleansing.

Though not exclusive to the Day of Atonement, the apostle John writes in 1John 1:8-10, *"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."* The Day of Atonement is a day of confession for the Christian placed upon a sweet backdrop of assurance of forgiveness because of His payment on our behalf. Let us not turn aside from this opportunity to walk more closely with the Lord by using it as an opportunity to identify and shed anything that hinders our walk with Him (Romans 6, Hebrews 10: 26-31).

One aspect of the Christian life that keeps many believers from entering God's rest is their lack of regular repentance. When we fail to live up to his moral perfection, we must humble ourselves, repent of our sins, and seek his mercy even though we have been saved. The Day of Atonement is a visual aid teaching us the importance of keeping our walk in Christ clean. To do less would trample on his kindness and not do justice to the call He places on us as his sons and daughters to carefully walk in his ways.

Atonement Attitudes:

- ◆ Admit You Sin
- ◆ Admit It's Serious
- ◆ Don't Make Excuses
- ◆ Be Willing to Change
- ◆ Ask Forgiveness
- ◆ Turn away from sin
- ◆ Turn toward God's Commandments
- ◆ Receive His Forgiveness

For the Holiday - Psalm 51

A Contrite Sinner's Prayer for Pardon. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he was adulterously involved with Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot
out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my
iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I
sinned and done what is evil in your
sight, so that you may be justified in
your words and blameless in your
judgment.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in
iniquity, and in sin did my mother
conceive me.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in
the inward being, and you teach me
wisdom in the secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall
be clean; wash me, and I shall be
whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let
the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins, and
blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O
God, and renew a right spirit within
me.

11 Cast me not away from your
presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your
salvation, and uphold me with a willing
spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors
your ways, and sinners will return to
you.

14 Deliver me from sin, O God of
my salvation, and my tongue will sing
aloud of your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my
mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you will not delight in
sacrifice, or I would give it; you will
not be pleased with a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a
broken spirit; a broken and contrite
heart, O God, you will not despise.



PLANNING GUIDE FOR THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

October 7th, 7:00PM (Friday Night) - Day of Atonement service. The next day, Saturday, October 8th is a Sabbath and a very serious one at that. This is a day we reconsider our ways, asking forgiveness and having sorrow for our sins of the last year (See Lev 23: 26-32 and 1John 1:6-10). The church will be open all day for prayer, so consider spending some lengthy time there to pray personally and to take part in the reading of certain Scriptures and liturgical prayers. Of all the days on the Biblical holidays calendar, this is one where you want to obey (read Leviticus 23:29-32): **NO WORK, NO FOOD** (if acceptable medically for you), **TAKE TIME TO PRAY** and **CONSIDER AND MEND YOUR WAYS**. You will personally benefit from this time of reflection.

October 8th, 10AM - 3PM (Saturday) - The church will be open for private and corporate prayer with the following schedule. Each Prayer, reading and brief discussion will last approximately 10 minutes.

- 10AM - Opening Prayers
- 11AM - Reading of Joel
- Noon - Noon Prayer and Reading of Jonah
- 1PM - Afternoon Prayers
- 2PM - Reading of Luke 15:11-32, 18:9-17
- 3PM - Closing Prayer
- 4PM - Regular prayer meeting
- 5PM - Bible Study
- 6PM - Worship
- 7PM - Breaking the Fast, Fellowship Meal

So, What Do We Do On The Day of Atonement?

We would teach at **Marion Bible Fellowship** that we should not see doing anything on the Day of Atonement as the reason we are forgiven of our sin. Ultimately, faith in Christ's sacrifice alone is our means of forgiveness. The Scriptures do, however, call us to consider our walk, admit our sin and ask forgiveness by confessing our sins to the Lord in prayer. We recommend the following:

- "Afflict your soul", meaning to humble your heart for 24 hours and seek to identify where you are not faithful to the Lord, confess the sin and resolve to change (repent).
- "Fast" meaning, if medically safe for you, give up food for the day. This is a form of denying the flesh what it wishes, similar to not giving into your other desires. See Ezra 8:21. With each hunger pang...pray.
- Take the day off work and do no work around the house. Read the Bible and pray, visit the church to pray aloud or silently with others.
- Make the day last from sunset to sunset.
- Attend the Day of Atonement services.

2011 Atonement Service

Friday, October 7, 2011

7:00 PM

Saturday, October 8, 2011

Prayer and readings throughout the day

Location:

Marion Bible Fellowship ("A" on Map)

930 Harding Memorial Parkway

Marion, OH 43302



Marion Bible Fellowship



*“Proclaiming Jesus as Savior, Messiah and Lord
and the Bible as the Rule for Life.”*

***The Fall Feasts
Educational Issue***

**ATONEMENT/
YOM KIPPUR**

The Sixth Feast
of the Lord

FROM:

MARION BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
930 Harding Memorial Parkway
Marion, OH 43302

Issue No. Four