

PARASHAT
HA'AZINU

פרשת האזינו

Deuteronomy 32:1-52

by
Ya'acov Natan Lawrence
& his kids

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 32:1 The Song of Moses
- 32:10 Elohim's Kindness to Israel
- 32:16 Prosperity Brings Spiritual Backsliding and Elohim's Punishment
- 32:27 The False Notions of Israel's Conquerors and Their Foolish Conceit Against Israel
- 32:36 YHVH Comforts His People and Avenges Them of Their Enemies
- 32:48 YHVH Commands Moses to Ascend Mount Nebo to View the Promised Land and to Die There

Exploring This Week's Parashah

We're going to do something a little different this week. Since the fall holy or set-apart days (divine appointments or moedim) are now upon us, we will continue to offer you a brief discussion on each of these special biblical holidays. Though they do not directly relate to the Torah portions at the end of Deuteronomy, they specifically relate to the season of the year in which we find ourselves. Today we will discuss Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement.

1 An Overview of the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

This fifth of the seven set-apart annual Sabbaths of YHVH occurs ten days after Yom Teruah, which is the Day of the Awakening Blast/Shofar Blowing/Shouting, and on the biblical calendar is on the tenth day of the seventh month (Leviticus 23:27).

Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement pictures the time in the future when the end of the age (at the end of man's 6000 years upon earth to live in sin and rebellion against YHVH) will come to a completion. This will be the time when YHVH pours out his final judgment (called the wrath of Elohim, or the great and terrible day of YHVH) upon the wicked and godless sinners who



have refused to repent of their sins and follow the God/Elohim of the Bible and his Son, Messiah Yeshua. This period will culminate with the Battle of Armageddon at which time Yeshua the Messiah, who is the Conquering King, will return to earth accompanied by his saints to defeat his enemies. After this, he will set up his kingdom upon the earth for 1000 years. All men will follow Torah and worship YHVH-Elohim or be punished. During this time, Satan will be captured and cast into the bottomless pit.

Yom Kippur is mentioned in Leviticus 23:27-32. In ancient Israel, some very interesting ceremonies occurred on Yom Kippur. You can read about them in Leviticus 16 (the entire chapter).

2 Let's Explore Yom Kippur a Little More

-  (a) When is the Day of Atonement? (Read Leviticus 23:27.) How many days after Yom Teruah is Yom Kippur? (Compare Leviticus 23:27 and 24.)
-  (b) What are YHVH's people commanded to do on this day? (Read verses 27 and 28.)

The Day of Atonement is like a regular weekly Sabbath (although it can fall on any day of the week) in that on this day we do no work and we are commanded to gather together with like-minded believers for a set-apart meeting or assembly. But there is something that makes this day very special—maybe even seem a little difficult.

-  (c) What special thing does YHVH command his people to do on Yom Kippur? (You will find the answer in the last part of verse 27 and again in verses 29 and 32.)

What does it mean to "afflict/humble your souls"? This is a Hebraic or biblical expression that means to go without food and water. YIKES! Yes, YHVH wants us literally to go without food and water for an entire day. Trust me, you're not going to die—although it may feel like it by the end of the day! YHVH wouldn't ask us to do something that was harmful to us. Hey, you might even lose a couple of extra pounds of weight, and just think how great that food will taste when you get to eat again after the Day of Atonement!

Why does YHVH ask us to go without food and water on this day? What is the point of this? Let's answer this question by asking another question: How do you feel after you have skipped a meal or two? Strong or weak? Not only that, how much time do you spend each day preparing for food and then eating it? Now what would happen if you took that time, and instead of preparing food and eating it you spent the time seeking YHVH, getting closer to him, and repenting of your sins? Perhaps if you were a little hungry, you might feel weaker and more humble before YHVH

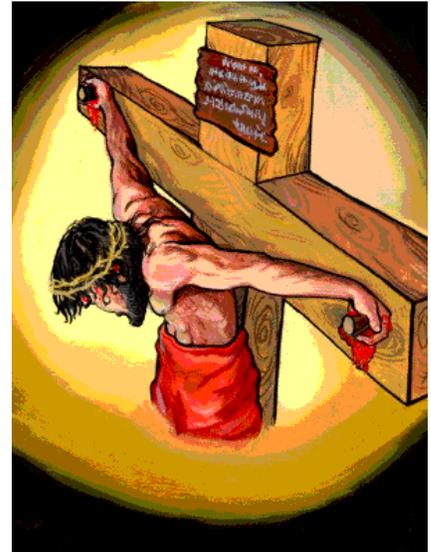


Yom Kipur is a time to humble oneself before YHVH.



and better able to identify your sins, then acknowledge them, and then confess and repent of them. You see, when our flesh man is strong, fat, happy and full of food it is easy to overlook our sins and pass by them as if they weren't there. But on the Day of Atonement, YHVH wants us to stop and reflect on our sins and repent of them and to get clean and right with him.

This brings us to the next important thing about Yom Kippur, and that is the meaning of the name "kippur" and how it relates to fasting and repenting. "Kippur" is a Hebrew word meaning "to make an atonement, make reconciliation, and purge." Kippur comes from a Hebrew word that means "to cover." YHVH wants us to confess and repent of our sins on this day and get them out of our lives so that he can then cover our sins in the blood of Yeshua the Lamb of YHVH who died and shed his blood at the cross to pay the penalty for the sins we have committed.



 (d) Read James 4:10. What does it say? This short verse is the summation of the purpose of Yom Kippur. YHVH has great things in store for his children. He wants to give them eternal life and great rewards and blessings in his forever heaven-on-earth kingdom, but he can't do that until we humble ourselves, repent of and turn from our sins. Only then can he lift us up to a high and exalted place of honor before him.

 (e) Now read Ephesians 2:6. This is what YHVH has in store for you if you will humble yourself before him!

Let's look back to the beginning of the year. You see, Passover is the first appointed time of YHVH's seven yearly appointed times (holy/set-apart days or feasts) that YHVH requires his saints to observe or celebrate. This represents the step in YHVH's plan of salvation of the believer coming out of the world (spiritual Egypt), repenting of their sins, and placing their trust in YHVH's "Lamb," Yeshua, who shed his blood to pay for our sins. Now the Day of Atonement (or covering) is kind of like Passover in that it's about Yeshua's shed blood covering our sins, but there are a couple of important points where Atonement differs from Passover. First, Atonement teaches us that even though we are already saved (our sins are covered by the blood of Yeshua as pictured by Passover), we need to stay under the blood of Yeshua and never forget—as we're going down the road of our lives—to be continually confessing our sins and asking YHVH to cover us in Yeshua's blood. If you read Leviticus 16, you will see that the ceremony the high priest did where he sprinkled on the mercy seat (or place of atonement) of the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies the blood of the two sacrificed goats and the blood of the sacrificed bull is a picture of Yeshua's blood covering our sins.



The second important point that makes Atonement special is that it occurs in the fall of the year just before the Feast of Tabernacles, which pictures Yeshua setting up his kingdom on this earth for a thousand years (after he

has defeated all his enemies). This is called the Millennium or Messianic Age. The period just before Atonement pictures Israel, the people of YHVH, getting ready to meet their Messiah. In order to meet their great Heavenly King who is totally righteous and without even a spot of sin, they must make preparations.

What if tomorrow you got in the mail a fancy invitation on parchment paper and gold lettering stating that the President of the United States or the Queen of England was going to visit your home in a week? What would you do to prepare yourself and your home? Well, it's not an earthly president or queen who is coming for you, but YHVH-Yeshua, the mighty King of Eternity, the Sovereign Creator of all things that is coming FOR YOU. Are you ready to meet him? The Day of Atonement is about getting ready through confessing and repenting of our sins, getting into a heart attitude of worship, prayer and humbling ourselves and getting ready to meet him.

-  (f) Look at Leviticus 16:4 where it talks about the special white clothing the high priest had to put on before coming into the Presence of YHVH in the tabernacle. Now read Revelation 19:7-9. Especially notice the part about the saints being dressed in white robes (a picture of spiritual cleanliness or righteousness) in verse 8. Now go to 1Peter 2:9 and compare this with what Yeshua said that his saints would become in his millennial kingdom in Revelation 1:6; 5:10 and 20:6. Based on these verses, what should you be doing to get ready to meet Yeshua when he comes for you?

The bottom-line message of Yom Kippur is that YHVH is preparing a righteous priesthood to rule and reign with him in his forever kingdom. That priesthood must be clean and spotless and without any sin. YHVH will cover over the uncleanness of all of our sins if we will only humble ourselves before him, confess our sins, repent of them and begin walking in righteousness (obedience to his Torah). He wants to cover our sins with the blood of Yeshua, but he can't do this until we repent (turn away from our sin) and trust in Yeshua.

The Day of Atonement is a day when Yeshua will return to this earth. He will judge all those on the earth who have not turned to him and will destroy many of them at his second coming. But those who love him and obey him he will reward them and make them kings and priests in his kingdom. The choice is ours as to which group we will be in: the righteous or the wicked.

