

Who WORKED hard on the Day of Atonement And WHY must everyone else rest? Who was the azazel goat?

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Summary: The Day of Atonement(s) (Yom Kippurim) is a most solemn and sacred day on which NO work whatsoever is to be done. **But one man worked, and worked hard.** Who was he, and what does it mean? WHY was he exempted? **Why did everyone else have to REST on Atonement?** And did we not have our sins atoned for at Passover? So why are sins being atoned for again? How does that apply to us today? And later on, a 2nd man did some work. It has everything to do with us today. And who did the azazel (Scapegoat) point to? *If you think Satan is depicted on this day... please definitely listen to this sermon.* This day is NOT about Satan. This day is about the One who did take all our sins upon himself – and that surely was not Satan. It was the Son of God.

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Greetings, brothers and sisters, and welcome to Light on the Rock. This is Philip Shields, your brother in Orlando, Florida bringing you some GOOD news of what our Messiah has done-- and continues to do --as we prepare to be part of the Kingdom of God. Welcome, from wherever you are hearing or reading this from anywhere in the world.

I pray you will receive the anointing of God's spirit during this message, because it's a very important topic to understand.

We're talking about the meaning of the Day of Atonement today. I'm covering it from a different perspective today. It will be controversial to some of you, but if so – please contact me with your comments and questions, but first study the scriptures that I use in the sermon.

As I record this, we are now well into the 7th Hebrew month called *Tishri* – which usually falls mid-Sept to mid-October most years. **The DATE for this day of total fasting, of humbling of ourselves and acknowledging our need for our Creator in all things – and for HIS reconciliation with the world ... the date for Atonement in 2015:**

- For those following the rabbinic calendar - Atonement is **Wed Oct 9, 2019**
- I realize some kept this day and the fall holydays a month ago. May Yeshua come soon and clear up once and for all the disagreements on God's calendar.

The feasts of YHVH (**Leviticus 23:1-2**) – not Jewish holidays – reveal Yah's plan of eternal life and salvation offered to all who will accept it. **His plan is revealed in the harvests in the Promised Land.** Those being called first – those who form the Body of Christ -- are depicted by the spring/early summer barley-wheat harvests. [That's also ONE reason why I believe the first resurrection happens on or near Pentecost, pictured by the 2 leavened loaves raised to heaven.]

Then Yeshua lands on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem (**Zechariah 14:3-6**), after he first destroys the armies assembled to fight him. He will welcome all who will come to him after that – to be part of the family of God. That time is pictured by the Day of Atonement, then the feast of Tabernacles, or *Sukkot* in Hebrew – the Festival of Booths or “tabernacles”.

Booths are temporary structures – as are our physical bodies. When those of us who are being called first are changed at the last trump, our temporary bodies will be changed to eternal spirit bodies. That's all explained at the end of **1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**.

TODAY I want to address some questions:

- **Why is the Day of Atonement even necessary?** Did we not already have our sins atoned for at the Passover? Hmm. So what would you say to that?
- Why is everyone told to do **NO WORK on this day**. None at all. WHY? The BIG reason behind it is crucial to understand.
- But we'll see **ONE person worked hard on this day**. Who was he, and WHY did he – by himself – work so hard on this day. Then later a 2nd man did some work as well.
- **The 2 goats presented** on this day (besides the bull and ram): Why is one called the "scapegoat" or the azazel in Hebrew? Today I'm going to say something quite different from what most COG groups would say about this. I hope you'll listen carefully. **Is one really to picture Christ and one to picture Satan? Really?** *I taught it that way myself for many years, but today I have to present it correctly.*

Fasting on the Day of Atonement

This is also a day of total fasting. THAT part of this day is not my focus in THIS message, but I've addressed it before. I'll just say this much about fasting for starters:

- **Please read Isaiah 58**, which tells us the purpose of fasting. *We are not to just go a day without food, be hungry and have a headache. There should be a focus and point to our fasting. According to Isaiah 58, it should result in DEEP repentance that produces changes in our lives. Otherwise fasting is pointless.*
- *When we fast, we realize if we don't eat – at some point we die. So it reminds us of how vulnerable and reliant we are on the Almighty to keep us breathing and providing us with basic necessities like food and water. Fasting humbles us and shows us we need a merciful Provider God.*
- *It also **makes us focus on YHVH and Yeshua, the SON of God** -- HE is our Salvation. HE is the one who cleanses us. HE is the one IS our atonement and reconciliation. HE is the one who took on himself all the wrath of all sin ever committed or will be committed – no himself, so those who believe on him, accept him as their King and Savior can be saved.*

We're not our own savior. We can't cleanse ourselves – without Christ. HE is the one who removes the spots and blemishes on his bride and presents her without spot or wrinkle or blemish (Ephesians 5:26-32) –v 26 –that HE might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the WORD..."

So please, on your own, review Isaiah 58 and remember fasting is very important. Don't become someone who fasts only on the day of Atonement. If we would fast more often to ask God to intervene in others' lives - we'll see more healing (Isaiah 58:8; David did this – Psalm 35:11-14).

But today I need to spend the time on why One worked so hard - and everyone else RESTS when it comes to atoning for our sins. And I need to correct what I – and others – have said about the azazel goat.

After TRUMPETS/YOM TERUAH – THEN WHAT?

So after the Feast of Trumpets – picturing the return of Christ to the earth with his saints and angels ... now what? There's this day of Atonement and then the Feast of Tabernacles and then the 8th day. But – before the Feast can begin – before the celebrations and the parties can happen – the world, which has been alienated from YHVH by their sins and uncleanness -- has to be reconciled to God. (And I realize some believe Yeshua returns on Mt of Olives on Atonement.)

The first fruit Bride of Christ is already atoned for/reconciled

The church of God – certainly the Bride of Christ -- those called out believers in Christ who have repented and accepted His forgiveness, *have already been reconciled*. But the rest of humanity have not accepted Christ's atoning sacrifice yet or been reconciled to God – so far.

And of course Satan and his demons have to be bound and put into the bottomless pit – away from being able to influence mankind on the earth after Christ's return. "Cast out the mocker and strife shall cease" – Proverbs 22:10. So that also happens (Revelation 20:1-3).

For scriptures on how we in the Body of Christ today, have already been reconciled, we've already received the atonement of Christ's life and death over us – you can study these: **Romans 5:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18, 20; Colossians 1:19-21; 1 John 1:7, 9.**

Romans 5:9-11

"Much more then, having now **been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from WRATH through HIM.** For if when we were enemies **we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,** much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *we have now received the reconciliation.* "

So it's real important to understand that it requires blood (Hebrews 9:22), *the shed blood* of Christ, to reconcile us and atone for our sins. Sin – all of us are sinners – demands the death penalty, so when Christ offered to die for us, and we accepted that, it covered us. It took away the wrath that sin incurs. God's righteous justice was satisfied. Romans 5:9.

The shed blood of an innocent person dying for us is what forgives and reconciles us. We had been alienated from God, but now "brought near by the blood of Christ" –Ephesians 2:13. That blood also made PEACE between us and God (**Colossians 1:20**). This allows us to enter into the holiest place in the universe "by the blood of Jesus" (Hebrews 10:19).

OK – that's us. Those being called first. We're under and covered and washed by His blood.

Now – how about the REST of the world?

Now we come to the rest of the world. *The day of Atonement is mostly about THEIR reconciliation with God.* We've had OURS already. The Day of Atonement is NOT – in my view and understanding – is NOT about cleansing, atoning, or reconciling *the saints*, the Bride of Christ to Yeshua or YHVH. That all happened for us at Passover already. And **our**

High Priest SAT DOWN, having completed his atoning work for us already. But the world has not accepted it or Him yet.

Hebrews 10:11-14

“And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which *can never take away sins*. 12 But this Man, after He had offered **ONE sacrifice for sins forever, sat down** at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified [set apart for holy use].”**

So this is about offering reconciliation now for the rest of the world!

There is but one way to be reconciled: their sins have to be forgiven and atoned for through the same process we went through. That’s why we fast on this day – to show that the world will humble themselves in deep repentance in the future, over time.

So the Spring-summer holydays picture the FIRST stage of God saving humanity – those being called first -- the firstfruits, the bride of Christ (**2 Cor. 11:2; Ephesians 5:26-32**), the early harvest. The focus and the glory is always to Yeshua and God our Father, not primarily on us.

The Fall holydays picture God’s plan of finishing his work of saving humanity – the rest of the world and all those who have ever lived and died. Many of them never even heard of their Savior. **That’s** pictured by the massive FALL harvest of all the fruits and vegetables and everything else. By the time we get through the meaning of the 8th day festival after the 7 day Feast of Tabernacles, everyone who has ever lived will have come to know who Yeshua is, and to be offered salvation. Most will. Some won’t – and those who won’t will have to die the 2nd death. The penalty of sin is DEATH – not eternal life cut off from God, but true death. (Romans 6:23).

The Fall holydays begin with the Feast of Trumpets/blasts, then the Day of Atonement, then the Feast of Tabernacles and the 8th day. They all have deep meaning and reveal the “game plan” of God.

YOM KIPPUR OR KIPPURIM – DAY OF COVERINGS

The day of Atonement comes from the Hebrew “*kippur*” – meaning expiation, from the root Hebrew word “to cover”. It’s related to the Hebrew word “*kapporeth*” for the solid gold LID or COVER of the sacred Ark, what we know as “the Mercy Seat”. In Hebrew, the lid simply meant “covering”. But the translators called it the Mercy Seat. Inside the ark were the 2 tablets of the 10 commandments, the covenant (hence called the Ark of the Covenant), which witnessed against the people, for all had sinned. But on the day of Atonement, blood was sprinkled on top the golden lid, the mercy seat, which covered the condemning testimony and gave reconciliation between God and his people once a year. That’s the quick overview!

Passover was more focused on *the individual coming with his family before God* and putting the blood on their own door post. The Day of Atonement is when God begins the process of reconciling the whole world now to him through the work of the High Priest – not the family.

Remember, Paul speaks of these holydays in the New Testament. The NT church in fact started on a holyday, when they were meeting on Pentecost (Shavuot) . And later Paul speaks of Passover, being unleavened, and all that (1 Cor. 5:7). So we still keep the holydays, but now with New Covenant understanding.

Leviticus 23:26-32

And YHVH spoke to Moses, saying: "**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 [a day of fasting], and offer an offering made by fire to YHVH.

28 And YOU shall do NO work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement FOR you before YHVH your God.

29 For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. 30 And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. 31 You shall do NO manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 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."

MY FOCUS TODAY: WHY – on the day depicting God’s atonement and reconciliation – do the people REST, and are told several times to do NO WORK? But who DID work, and why? The people were to do nothing on this day except to meet in a holy convocation and to be fasting all day. That was it!

The entire nation of Israel watched and relied on ONE person’s work, not theirs– so their sins could be covered up for another year, until the next day of Atonement the next year. Of course we know now that when Yeshua offered himself, from that moment on – ALL SIN that is given to God for forgiveness – is atoned for, for forever and ever. The sins are not just covered – but ERASED. Paid for.

So the Day of Atonement is to remind us that ONE works for atonement but the people REST and watch him work the atoning work. It sounds to me that God wants us to understand something: **having sins atoned for is NOT your work or my work.** **Leviticus 23:28 says atonement is made FOR us.** We have to accept God’s work of atoning for sin, but only the High Priest, picturing Yeshua, is the only one working.

Believe it or not, this is fundamentally one of the hardest things for people to accept.

Like it or not, most of us and most of the world, for that matter, have grown up with the notion that when it’s all said and done, *if all our life is putting on a weigh scale, if we did more good than bad, we’re OK.* That’s fundamentally what’s in Judaism and frankly most religions.

But in the teaching of scripture, “mostly good” is not good enough. There is only ONE righteousness that can be “good enough” – and that is perfection -- flawless, sinless righteousness. And you and I have never had that, nor will we – in our lives or lifetime – EVER be able to claim we have been flawless or are flawless now by our own work and efforts.

Even WITH the Holy Spirit helping us you will never be able to say that your own life is flawless for more than a few hours or a few days at most. Even spirit-filled apostle Paul – admitted many years after being baptized in the Holy Spirit --that he still did things he didn’t

want to do. That's very clear in **Romans 7:14-24**, which I've covered many times before. "That which I hate, I do" – he admits.

If Paul had to admit that he still fell short of perfection, even *with* God's spirit powerfully present in him, surely you and I would have to admit the same.

The full story of this day in Leviticus 16

So on the day of Atonement, one man – only the HIGH PRIEST, *Cohen HaGadol*, came before the holy *Shekinah* Presence of the Almighty in the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle or temple – on behalf of the nation – to have ALL their sins covered up for another year. I recommend you hear my sermon given *January 2014* "*What Yeshua is doing as our High Priest*". That sermon has a lot in it.

On your own time, please carefully read all of Leviticus 16 straight through

On this day, the High Priest dressed very simply – in pure white linen tunic or robe – the garments of an ordinary priest. He was not allowed to dress in his full high priestly regalia and all his colorful clothing until the very end – but simply the white linen tunic and sash and turban of a common priest. And he came barefoot. He first would wash himself carefully and then put on the set-apart (holy) garments (Lev 16:2-4) – before beginning the very hard work of multiple very bloody sacrifices. His white tunic looked completely blood spattered by the time he was done. (Remember he pictured Yeshua – Jesus Christ – our King Messiah).

Leviticus 16:1-10

Now YHVH spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered profane fire before YHVH, and died; 2 and YHVH said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.

3 "Thus Aaron shall **come into the Holy Place: with the blood of a young bull as a sin offering, and of a ram as a burnt offering.** 4 He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These are holy garments. Therefore he shall wash his body in water, and put them on.

5 And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel **two kids of the goats as a sin offering**, and one ram as a burnt offering.

I want you to notice that BOTH goats are considered different aspects of ONE sin offering. "Two kids of the goats as A SIN offering." Had you noticed that before? (I did not point this out in the audio, but should have!) Next, Aaron has to atone first for his own sins.

6 "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house. 7 He shall take the two goats and present them before YHVH at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 8 Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for YHVH and the other lot for the **scapegoat** [azazel – meaning "removal" or dismissal"]. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat on which YHVH's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering.

10 But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat (goat of removal) shall be presented alive before YHVH, **to make atonement upon it**, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness.”

I'll come back and discuss in detail what this azazel goat – the scapegoat – goat of dismissal/removal was all about in a few minutes. It will be CRUCIAL for us to fully understand this goat upon which atonement for sin is made. For now, Just be sure you get two points about this goat:

- All the sins of Israel will be put on its head (verses 20-22)
- The live goat makes atonement for the sins (v. 10) of Israel
- This live goat – and all the sins of Israel –are going to be taken far away from the camp of Israel

A LOT OF WORK on the day of ATONEMENT

Let's grasp the HUGE amount of work being done by this one man – the High priest, by himself, without the help of a lot of other priests or men. ONLY the high priest could work on this day. ONLY his work – and the blood from the sacrifices he was bringing –could bring peace and atonement and reconciliation between the sinful nation and their holy God.

Killing live animals is hard work. **If you've ever killed a goat or a ram or a young bull** – you'd understand that is not easy even for one man to do by himself. It's not easy even with others helping to tie it down and hold it down first. Let alone trying to kill a bull and bleed it out completely. Usually today they stun the animal first with a hammer, or shoot it. But for the rules on bleeding the animal fully, I doubt they did back then. The sacrificial animal has a sense it's going to be a bad time for it and it will fight hard, kick, try to get away – all while its blood is spewing out its neck! It was bloody work.

The high Priest's work included killing

- a young **bull** as a sin offering for the priest and his family (Lev 16:8) In **verses 11-14**, it is clear that AARON, the High Priest, was to be the one to kill the bull and bring some of its blood behind the veil – into the holy of Holies. There, he was to sprinkle blood 7x with his fingers on to the mercy seat.

Discuss the blood-spattered golden lid to the ark – the mercy seat. Something's terribly wrong with all the paintings and pictures I've seen of the ark: they show it sparkling clean and shiny bright gold. Folks, that's not the way it was. Over the years, this pretty golden ark and its lid – the Mercy Seat – was blood stained, blood spattered.

- Then the High Priest cast lots and one of 2 goats was to be the one offered. One was killed as a sacrifice and one was kept alive. The live goat was the *azazel* goat on whose head all the sins of the nation were placed – and TRANSFERRED symbolically to this goat -- and then it was released into the wilderness. The other goat was killed, it's blood spilled, and it was offered up as a sin offering.

Leviticus 16:15-19

"Then HE shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is FOR the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. 16 So HE shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and

because of their transgressions, for ALL their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness. 17 There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that HE may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel. 18 And HE shall go out to the altar that is before YHVH, and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. 19 Then HE shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, cleanse it, and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

SEVERAL things here I want to focus on:

- YHVH wants us to be able to have our uncleanness covered and – in the new covenant – removed. KIPPUR – means Cover. YOM means Day. So Yom Kippur means Day of Covering. And actually in the Hebrew it is plural in some places – *kippurim*. There are several sacrifices and several coverings going on.
- THE PRIEST IS THE ONLY PERSON IN THE TABERNACLE -- no one else (v. 17)
- And just as the sacrificial goat and bull's bodies were then burned outside the camp, so was Yeshua killed outside the city of Jerusalem. OUTSIDE the camp.

THE AZAZEL goat (“Scapegoat”)

Leviticus 16:20-22

"And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring THE LIVE GOAT. 21 Aaron shall lay both **his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it ALL the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning ALL their sins, putting them on the HEAD OF THE GOAT**, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. 22 ***The goat shall bear on itself ALL their iniquities*** to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

For many years, the Church of God I affiliated with always taught this live goat represented Satan. His banishment to an uninhabited land was equated to Satan being bound and put into “the bottomless pit” for a thousand years. I understand that explanation, but as I grow in my appreciation for the total and complete sacrifice of my Savior, I’ve come to realize:

- **Leviticus 16:5**—both goats are part of a comprehensive sin offering: “...the two kids of goats as A sin offering.”
- **Leviticus 16:10** – the azazel goat is *for atonement* of all sins. Read it again in your own Bible. Does Satan have ANYTHING to do with *atonement* for my sins or anyone else’s? Of course not!
- And **Lev. 16:9-10** – ALL sins and iniquities *were put on to this live goat*. Does Satan take all of humanity’s sins on himself, or does Someone else do that?

The holydays all focus on Yeshua, NEVER on Satan. Never. We should not have sermons about Satan on the day of Atonement, of ALL DAYS! To say Satan carries our sins on him, or atones for our sins, or is part of any kind of sin offering, actually sounds blasphemous to me today!

Let's be clear what scripture teaches! SATAN does not bear our sins. Christ does. So who MUST the azazel goat depict?

1 Peter 2:24-25

“who (Christ) **HIMSELF bore OUR sins in HIS own body [pictured by all the sins of Israel being placed on the head of the 2nd goat]** on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed.”

Peter clearly is thinking of Isaiah 53 when he wrote this—mentioning the stripes which heal us and bearing our sins. Isaiah 53 is a prophetic chapter about the coming Messiah who will die for the people after he has taken on himself all their sins.

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely **HE** has borne our griefs

And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,

Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But HE was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And YHVH has laid on HIM the iniquity of us all.

(Clearly our iniquity is NOT laid on Satan).

Isaiah 53:11

“He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,

For HE shall bear their iniquities”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“For He made **Him who knew no sin to be sin for us**, that we might become the righteousness OF GOD in Him.”

WOW, WOW, WOW. Praise our Yah! Hallelu YAH!

The Day of Atonement COVERED Israel for another year. That's all – until the next day of Atonement. But it didn't TAKE AWAY their sins (Hebrews 10:1-4). But Christ did.

John 1:29

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who **takes AWAY the sin** of the world!”

Note: “TAKES AWAY” – not just cover. Kippur – means cover.

Hebrews 9:27-28

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so **Christ was offered ONCE to BEAR the sins of MANY**. To those who **eagerly** wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

Hebrews 10:1-4—blood of bulls and goats can't take away sins. They just cover it.

The meaning of the name azazel (translated “Scapegoat”) has long been disputed. Satan has come into the picture because Bedouins and others considered the goat to be Satan. If you were Bedouin and had a goat with red string on its horns wandering into your Arab camp, and found out that all the sins of Israel had been put on it, what would *you* think? Even today some of them call Israel “the little Satan”! So that argument means little to me. It’s more important to understand that on this goat were placed all the sins, that it was a part of the atoning work, and part of the 2-part sin offering, as I’ll show.

Some apocryphal writings tie it to Satan. But most commentaries and topical Bibles explain that the root meaning most likely means “Removal” or “Dismissal”. One source I read even says the Hebrew azazel can come from 2 Hebrew words for “goat” and “removal” – i.e. the GOAT OF REMOVAL (of all the sins).

So of ALL days – this is the ONE DAY that we have to boot Satan out of the picture! We should be focused on YESHUA – for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12). Yeshua means “Salvation” – and HE is Savior, HE does ALL the work for atoning our sins. In fact he represents the goat that was slain, the bull, the ram, the altar, the gate into the tabernacle, the menorah, the veil – EVERYTHING in there points to Christ. Even the azazel – who took on himself all our sins (Isaiah 53:6; 11; 1 Peter 2:24) – points to Yeshua. *Satan did not take on himself any of my sins or yours.*

We either learn what the azazel goat was TRULY about – transferring the sins and their wrath that they brought – on to Yeshua –or the wrath remains, if we don’t believe in HIM.

John 3:36

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the WRATH OF GOD abides on him.”

Romans 5:8-10

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 **Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.**

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

WHY the Goat of REMOVAL IS taken away—FAR FROM THE CAMP?

There are 2 goats of atonement, picturing one sin offering (Lev 16:5). One was killed. It’s shed blood taken into the holy of holies. That pictures the people being made right with God, righteous, justified. The blood RECONCILES them. IT takes Blood to cover sin. There is no remission or purification from sin without the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22).

God has one more picture of how complete his forgiveness is. He doesn’t want us thinking about it. The sins have been forgiven, so now God shows that he puts the sins FAR AWAY from us.

Psalm 103:11-12 says “as far as heaven is above the earth, and as far as east is from the west, so FAR has he REMOVED our transgressions from us”.

Sometimes we kinda know we're forgiven, but some of our sins seem so bad that we wonder if 'THAT ONE' also got taken care of. Some brethren act like some sins are "unforgivable". What are some unforgivable sins in your mind? How awful does it have to be? Well, thanks be to our God who says the blood of our Messiah "cleanses us from ALL sin" – **1 John 1:7**. ALL sin. Remember how God promises "...for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more" (Jeremiah 31:34). He "BLOTS OUT your transgressions...and will NOT remember your sins" (Isaiah 43:25).

And remember **Leviticus 16:21-22** told us that Aaron confessed on the head of the live goat ALL the iniquities, and ALL their transgressions, ALL their sins – and the goat "shall bear on itself ALL their iniquities."

ALL means ALL. And our loving YHVH, our Supreme Being who is our Daddy, our Abba, said his son Yeshua would take all the sins of ISIS, all the sins of Hitler's Nazi Germany, all the sins of America and Britain and all our abuses over the years, all the sins of Stalin's Russia, and Mao's China, -- and on and on – on to himself.

So God has a 2nd Goat. The sacrificed goat atoned for, forgave, reconciled the sinner already. But now the live goat remains: On its head are placed all your sins and mine. ALL of them. **And then as a visual aid, that goat (and your sins placed on it) are taken far from the camp.** So Israel WATCHED as a 2nd man now walks their sins OUT of the camp, OUT from their view, far, far away.

Christ takes our sins far away – on HIS own body. Remember again, he was crucified OUTSIDE the city. Our sins are never to be remembered by God anymore. That's HIS work. Praise Yah! The wilderness: into an uninhabited area. **God does not want your sins lying around.** Yah wants you to know – they're GONE, gone forever, as far as He's concerned. No matter how bad they were. They're gone.

That's why that goat is called the azazel – the removal, the dismissal of our sins. It's the goat of removal. And yes, that HAS to picture Christ. There's NO WAY Satan is hi-lited AT ALL on any of the holy days. These days are to Yeshua's glory, to HIS honor – and ultimately to glorify God and all HE has done. And the word "azazel" is a description, NOT a name.

APPRECIATING THE ONE WHO WORKS

Now – let's appreciate who is the ONE PERSON doing ALL the work on this one glorious day: It is our High Priest Yeshua. HE is what Aaron pictured, except Aaron was also a sinful man, like all of us. Yeshua was not. So Aaron had to offer a bull and a goat and a ram – but Yeshua offered HIMSELF – but not for HIS own sins, but for EVERYONE ELSE. So Yeshua was not only the High Priest but also what the animal sacrifices all pictured.

The Day of Atonement is about the world being reconciled back to God after all the uncleanness and wrath brought on by sin.

I don't know about you – but I have had a *lot* of uncleanness to be atoned for, to have forgiven, to have put on to the head of Yeshua to take AWAY my awful, awful sins, for which I have no excuse. But thanks be to YHVH who introduced me to His precious Holy Son, who took even MY awful sins upon HIS head, for me. Yes, He accepts even such a sinner as I. He who knew NO SIN took my sins – and yours – upon himself that I – who knew no

righteousness – could become the righteousness of God himself by faith in Christ and grace of God, by which we are saved.

You see, this is the point of this day. The one who ATONES for us – both by dying for us and for taking away our sins far, far away – is the work entirely of Yeshua and our Father, not Satan. The azazel goat cannot be Satan. Cannot be.

I think it is blasphemous to say that Satan has anything to do with our atoning of sins.

So why do we REST and do NO WORK on this day? Is it clear now? Because atoning for sin is not OUR work. It's the High Priest's (Yeshua's) work. And it's a lot of bloody, messy hard work to kill, flay, burn a young bull, a small goat and a ram all on one day. And all the while the high priest was working hard to atone for sin – the nation did NOTHING but watch, and accept, and appreciate, and praise God for his mercy. They rested. They did no work.

You see we are not saved by works, but by grace through faith in the work of Yeshua the Messiah for us. Being saved is not by OUR works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9. **Salvation is not DIY (Do it yourself). I can't work out my own forgiveness.** I can't work out my own salvation (Phil 2:12), because even there, in verse 13 it goes on to say "For it is GOD who WORKS in YOU both to will and to do, according to His good pleasure." It is GOD who works. F

The only one working, and working hard, on the day of Atonement is GOD'S SON – pictured by the High Priest. And later on the fit man did some work taking the azazel goat to a distant point in the wilderness.

What is my work and what is YOUR work? Let's be sure we get this straight. I can't work out my own perfection. I can't beget myself into the family of God. I can't create a new heart in me. There is ONE creator. There is ONE father. There is ONE Priest – a perfect High Priest named Yeshua, after the order of Melchizedek.

So what is MY work and your work? Here's what Yeshua said:

John 6:26-29

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that WE may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "**THIS is the work OF GOD, that YOU BELIEVE IN HIM whom He sent.**"

And if we do believe in the only son of God sent to save us – we shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

GOT IT? That's our work! To have FAITH in Him. To trust him. Believe in him. John 15 says we must work hard to ABIDE IN HIM. That's our work: Look to HIM. Count on HIS righteousness saving you. And we must come to HIM – daily – frequently. That's our work.

We are to come to HIM that we might have life.

John 5:39-40

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 **But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**

LIFE – being taken from the death penalty to LIFE EVERLASTING – is only in the SON. HE's the atonement. HE's the removal of sin. He's it. So this DAY OF ATONEMENT is SO important. We can't save ourselves, no matter how much work we do – except to believe in Yeshua and have FAITH in his life and death.

WHAT THE PEOPLE DID ON THIS DAY

Now let's go back to the commands to the people – what they were to do on this all-important day of having their sinful uncleanness removed... and PLEASE GET THE POINT of this day:

The people, the nation – were simply to REST and watch the High Priest. They were to DO NOTHING on the day of Atonement... *except FAST/repent and assemble. NOTHING else, because they could do nothing to cleanse themselves.* They were to DO NO WORK in regards to making themselves clean—except I'm sure to deeply REPENT, to acknowledge their sins, to pray for forgiveness, to ask for God's mercy. If they were to do anything – THOSE are the things they could do: TELL God they were looking to Him to cleanse them (Jer. 33:8.)

Are we getting this massively important point?

SO WHY do we REST on this day? It's because it pictures the fact that we CAN'T BE SAVED BY OUR OWN WORKS, but by grace through faith – as Ephesians 2:8-9 says.

Then of course, if we have truly accepted Christ, our LIFE WILL REFLECT THAT in a changed, changing life and a life of good works. So Eph 2:10 says “For we are HIS workmanship, created IN Christ Jesus for good works,....” Are you getting it?

Our FAITH is proven by good works done IN Christ living His life again in us. So after we've been atoned for, we walk like he walked, obediently, with a changed life powered by HIS spirit in us. If we don't change, we are liars if we say we know him but don't walk as He walked (1 John 2:3-6). A changing life is PROOF that Yeshua is working in us!

Those who won't change, won't be in the Kingdom of God. Their lack of change proves they haven't really accepted the atoning work of Yeshua.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified [made right, made righteous] in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

But it always ends in doing good works as PROOF of the grace of God working in us. Works of God working in us PROVES our faith, as James 2 says also. But it always starts with God working first – to call us, to offer his grace, to atone for our sins, and to LIVE in us!

Titus 3:3-7

“For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 **NOT by works of righteousness which WE have done, but according to HIS mercy He saved us**, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having **been justified by His grace** we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

But again, grace is proven by a life that is evidenced by good works now. But first—grace.

Verse 8: “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that **those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable to men.”

WE had to do the same thing, all of this, at Passover. Now it's time *for the rest of the world* to experience the cleansing of God from their sin.

So we all REST IN HIM on this day. We look to HIM on this day. We rely on HIS cleansing WORK on this day.

YHVH is the one who gives us a new heart. It's HIS work. Remember David's prayer in Psalm 51? “CREATE IN ME a clean heart, o God...” Psalm 51:1- Blot out my transgressions. That's God's domain! Psa 51:2 – Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, CLEANSE me from my sin” GOD does the washing and cleansing! V 7- Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” The son of does all that. That was all pictured by the High Priest.

In Ezekiel 36:26 GOD says, “***I will give you*** a new heart and put a new spirit within you”. That's GOD'S WORK. Yes, ARE YOU GETTING it? On this day when WE cannot work, ONE person – the son of God – is working VERY HARD to clean us up, atone for us, and then he lets us watch ALL our sins being walked out of the camp, far away – with the azazel goat. ALL our sins are put on to the head of the perfect, holy Son of God – who takes our sins far, far away from us.

You see Salvation is God's work. I can't beget myself. I can't create my own new creation. There's one creator only. ONLY one. That's why YHVH is the one called ABBA – DADDY. HE begets you and me. And THAT is why WE are to do NO work on Atonement.

EXODUS 28 and the High Priest

In my sermon given January 2014, I spoke in detail about the High Priest. I loved Exodus 28. It just floored me. I hope you'll go back and hear that sermon. The priest put on his garment by lifting it over his head and putting it *on from above*. WE too, are clothed by HIM, from above.

- The 12 tribes' names were put on his shoulders – 6 per shoulder. HE carries us into the holy place. Read **Exodus 28:12** – “Aaron shall bear their names before YHVH on his two shoulders....” How beautiful is THAT!?
- The 12 tribes names were also on the Breastplate – OVER the High Priest's HEART – when he came before the shekinah GLORY of Yah!

Exodus 28:29-30

"So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before YHVH continually. 30 And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before YHVH. So **AARON shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over HIS heart before YHVH continually.**"

When we sin, we have an ADVOCATE, who defends us – 1 John 2:1-2 says he is the atoning sacrifice not just for our sins but for the whole world also. See also 1 Timothy 2:5.

Exodus 28:38

“So it (the crown – holiness to YHVH) shall be on Aaron's forehead, that **AARON may bear the iniquity of the holy things** which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before YHVH.”

Now I hope the ending of Leviticus 16 makes a lot more sense.

Leviticus 16:29-34

"This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, **YOU** shall afflict your souls, and **DO NO WORK AT ALL**, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you.

30 For on that day **the PRIEST shall make atonement FOR you**, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from ALL your sins before YHVH. 31 It is a sabbath of solemn rest FOR YOU, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever.

32 And the PRIEST, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place, shall make atonement [do all the work!], and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments; 33 then HE shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for ALL the people of the assembly.

34 This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make ATONEMENT FOR the children of Israel, **FOR ALL THEIR SINS**, once a year." And he did as YHVH commanded Moses.

So now you know – why we rest and do NO work on the day of Atonement. We can't atone for our sins ourselves. It's the work of the High priest. The WORLD can't atone for its sins. THIS day pictures when GOD SHOWS THE WORLD how to be reconciled and have their sins atoned for. And for US – we know that His ONE sacrifice accomplished forever and ever what the annual Day of Atonement was trying to picture.

And so on this day, the High priest is working VERY hard on this day – as HE works to atone and reconcile all humanity, to pay for the sins WE committed, as HE brings us up to God the Father. And the rest of us ... REST. Rest in him. Watch him. Hallelujah. (Closing prayer)