



God's Appointed Time
"The Covering"

Leviticus 23:26-32

The Feast of Trumpets recalls our gathering together to Messiah. We are waiting for the day when we hear the shofar blast that calls the bodies of the dead in Christ out of grave and the living believers together to meet the Lord in the air!

We recall that the Feasts of Trumpets helps us to remember we are listening for a sound, not looking for a sign. In fact, all three fall feasts are within 15 days of one another, and all three have significant prophetic meaning.

The sixth feast (the second fall feast) in God's appointed time is known as The Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur. This day is the holiest of days on the Jewish calendar. It is the Day of Atonement for sin. The Hebrew word, *kippur*, means, "**covering.**"

Day of Atonement is also known as **Shabbat Shabbaton** or **Sabbath of Sabbaths**. This means a total rest, a complete and focused attention on the blood atonement for sin and on the response of repentance of sin.

Observation and Application

The requirements for sin in the Old Covenant were only satisfied through a blood sacrifice.

Sin offerings in the Old Covenant were from the blood of animals. The shedding of blood to atone for sin was required for the purpose of communicating two things: the offensiveness of sin before God and that forgiveness of sin can only be achieved through the sacrifice a life. (***cf. Leviticus 17:11***)

The requirements for sin to be forgiven were all fulfilled in Jesus.

The book of Hebrews presents Christ as superior to all the things the Jews looked to when trying to understand and relate to God. Moses, angels, sacrifices of bulls and goats - all these things - were meant to bring a covenant people to God in relationship, but they were only temporary.

Jesus fulfills all the law required for atonement. There was not one requirement that Jesus did not fulfill. (***cf. Hebrews 9:11ff***)

The Prophetic Meaning of The Day of Atonement

As with all the fall feasts, each one of them has an aspect of future fulfillment. The Feast of Trumpets is the gathering of God's people in the rapture of the church. The Day of Atonement brings with it a look to a future fulfillment for the people of Israel.

Yom Kippur is a day when the nation of Israel will be restored back to God. This will not come until the time of "Jacob's Trouble." This seven-year time of judgment, better known as the Tribulation Period, will first come on the earth.

The Tribulation Period is primarily a judgment on the nation of Israel for their unbelief in Jesus as Messiah. It is a terrible time because 2/3 of the Jewish people will be killed. Hitler and the Nazis murdered six million Jews during the Holocaust; however, the worst is yet to come.

On the verge of slaughter and annihilation, Israel will cry out to God in truth and repentance. This will be a great day of salvation for them. Jesus will return to the earth to rescue the remnant of Jewish people who trust in Him for their salvation.

On that day, ***"...when they look on Me; on Him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over Him..." (Zechariah 12:10)***

On that day, ***"...there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness." (Zachariah 13:1)***

On that day, ***"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." (Psalm 118:22)***

On that day, the great confession of Israel will be lamented, ***"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned - every one - to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)***

On that day, a nation will be born in a day and the Jewish remnant, ***"...will be grafted in, for God has the power to great them in again...how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree...And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will banish ungodliness from Jacob; and this will be My covenant with them when I take away their sins..."***

Personal Application

Understanding the work of Christ on the cross, and the faith to accept it, begins the process of being what God created each of us to be: holy and blameless. We are to be fully engaged in a right relationship with Him.

Not only has He forgiven our sin, covering all of them with His own blood, but He has also removed them forever. They have been eternally sent away. Like the scapegoat of Leviticus, He sent the sins away, never to be remembered. Ever! -Now and for all eternity.

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