

We have been presenting a mini series on the Feasts of the Lord given to Israel and any new readers who would like the back issues please email.

Today we begin our survey of the Feast of Atonement and our Scripture passages are as follows; Lev.23:26-32, Lev.16:29-34, and Lev.25. Please take the time to read these chapters before proceeding with the lesson.

We have seen that the Feasts are set in two groups, the Spring Feasts and the Summer Feasts; at the beginning of Israel's festive year and the conclusion thereof. [Don't forget to check out the chart.](#) Passover, Unleavened Bread and Weeks (Pentecost) were the beginning, and Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles/Booths at the end. Salvation is in two parts, the Exodus, the Way out and the Eisodus, the Way in. Passover started the process of deliverance out of Egypt and Trumpets began the process of deliverance in to the inheritance God gave Israel. Israel and their land were God's inheritance on the earth and Israel was given an inheritance in God's Land.

[Exo 15:17](#) You shall bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, the place You have made for Your dwelling place, O Jehovah; the sanctuary which Your hands have prepared, O Lord.

[Exo 15:18](#) Jehovah reigns forever and ever!

[Num 26:52](#) And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

[Num 26:53](#) The land shall be divided to those for an inheritance, according to the number of names. (See 27:8)

[Deu 4:20](#) And Jehovah has taken you, and has brought you forth out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people to Him, an inheritance, as it is this day. (9:26)

Atonement is the second feast of the second set. It belongs in the entering into the inheritance group and before we begin listing some essential elements of this feast we must remind ourselves that these feasts and their fulfillments relate to Israel, not to us as members of the Church which is His Body. Please look carefully at this verse regarding the Feast of Atonement;

[Lev 23:27](#) Also, on the tenth of this seventh month, this is a day of atonement. It shall be a holy convocation to you. And you shall afflict your souls and offer a fire offering to Jehovah.

Note the words "holy convocation" or "holy gathering". This means "something called out, a public meeting, also a rehearsal" (Strong's). These feasts were rehearsals, a showing forth to Israel of a future reality. Israel acted out every year the steps the Lord would take to being them into a greater Kingdom when Christ would rule the world from among them. Certainly we can find some applications for us today since all the Word of God is "profitable for doctrine" but we must rightly divide the Scriptures since, not all the Word of God is about us. (2Tim.3:16, 2:15). If you would like a copy of the Bible study rules, please email.

Israel's feasts rehearsed the steps the Lord would take to glorify Himself on the earth. These feasts have nothing to do with God's inheritance for us in the heavenly places.

Here are some of the essential elements of this Feast of Atonement; Israel had to humble themselves.

[Lev 23:27](#) Also, on the tenth of this seventh month, this is a day of atonement. It shall be a holy convocation to you. And you shall [afflict your souls](#) and offer a fire offering to Jehovah.

Please note "souls" is put for self here and thus "themselves". "Afflict means to oppress, to be humbled, it also means to bow down." This word is used of the Lord in Isaiah 53, a significant passage regarding the Feast of Atonement. Israel were to conduct themselves in a very solemn manner during this Feast. It was not a Feast of rejoicing, dancing or merriment.

It was a feast of sins confessed and expiation; amends, penitence, apology and reparation. One is not to be happy at the memory of sin and sins. It was a day of mourning;

[Lev 16:33](#) And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar; and he shall make an atonement for the priests and for all the people of the congregation.

[Lev 16:34](#) And this shall be an everlasting statute to you, to make an atonement for the sons of Israel for their sins once a year. And he did as Jehovah commanded Moses.

[Lev 16:30](#) For on that day an atonement shall be made for you, to cleanse you, so that you may be clean from all your sins before Jehovah.

It was a day of the severest penalty. Those who did not participate as prescribed would be destroyed from among Israel by The Lord Himself;

[Lev 23:30](#) And any soul who does any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

It was also a day of deliverance from sin and sins as depicted in the two goats; the one upon whom the Lord's lot fell was sacrificed but the one bearing all the sins of Israel was set free into a place where no one lives. A beautiful picture of sin and sins atoned for and resurrection for the faithful the blessed result.

[Lev 16:15](#) Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil. And he shall do with that blood as he did with the blood of the young bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy-seat and before the mercy-seat.

[Lev 16:21](#) And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the sins of the sons of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send away by the hand of a chosen man into the wilderness.

The Feast of Atonement was a very solemn day for Israel. It was a rehearsal of a future day when they would be very humble, afflicted and in great mourning as they confess their sins. It is a very solemn day of remembrance and repentance, but it is a glorious and wonderful day of national cleansing for the Lord's chosen people. Perhaps you can think of some prophetic passages which point to the future day that this Feast rehearsed.

One thing is certain, in our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus there is deliverance from sin and sins and a righteousness of God imputed or reckoned to us through our faith in Him. We did not make ourselves worthy or fit for our inheritance as this verse clearly says, it was God who did so;

[Col 1:12](#) giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

(EMTV)

[Col 1:12](#) giving thanks to the Father, who has made us fit for a share of the inheritance of the saints in light, (LITV)

Please do not be surprised if Israel, the Lord's people for his purposes on the earth, are also made worthy through the same death, burial and resurrection of the Lord. For blessed assurance, there is coming a day when Israel will look upon the One they pierced and they will mourn for Him and realise all that His death, burial and resurrection did for them.

God is gracious and merciful to all His families.