



7 FEASTS OF ISRAEL PART 3

Leviticus 23:1- 44

1. 7 Feasts

1. Passover
2. Unleaven Bread
3. Sheaf of First Fruits
4. Weeks (Pentecost)
5. Blowing of Trumpets
6. Day of Attonement
7. Booths or Tabernacles

2. Day of Atonement: 'Yom Kippur'

- On the tenth day of the seventh month everything in the camp of Israel ceased.
- Only one man was busy, and that man was the high priest.
- In Leviticus 16 we have a more detailed account of this observance. Note seven appointments.
 - a. An Appointed Purpose
 - What was the reason behind all that took place on the Day of Atonement? - Lev 16:30
 - The word "atonement" is used 15 times in Leviticus 16.
 - Among other things the Hebrew word means "to cover."
 - Under the Old Testament economy, the blood of the sacrifices could not put away sin; it could only cover sin.
 - The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin; it could only cover sin. Only Jesus Christ's blood can take away sin. – Jhn 1:29
 - Atonement was needed to deal with the problem of sin.
 - God is holy and man is sinful.
 - Everything in the camp of Israel had been defiled by sin – Lev 16:33
 - Even the holy tabernacle of God and the priesthood had been defiled by sin.
 - Of course, the people were also defiled by their sins. – Lev 16:21

- i. "Iniquity" means crookedness-we are twisted out of shape and do not measure up to God's standard.
- ii. "Transgression" means rebellion-to cross over the line and go too far.
- iii. The word " sin" means to miss the mark-to err from our appointed goal.
- iv. The appointed purpose was to deal with the problem of sin.
- v. The heart of every problem is the problem in the heart, and the problem in the heart is sin.

b. An Appointed Time

- The priest did not do this every day of the week; he did this once a year. – Lev 16:2
- Once a year the high priest was allowed to go into the Holy of Holies.
- Every year this ceremony had to be repeated because the sacrifices could not take away sin.
- Only the Lamb of God can take away sin. – Heb 9:24-26

c. An Appointed Place

- God had appointed only one place of sacrifice.
- The tabernacle (and later on the temple) was God's appointed place.
- There is only one appointed place of sacrifice as far as salvation is concerned-the cross where Jesus died. – 1 Pt 2:24
- Our Lord did not bear our sins in the Jordan River when he was baptized, because baptism is not the way of salvation.
- Our Lord did not bear our sins in the temple as He was teaching, because education, as good as it is, is not God's way of salvation.
- Christ bore our sins at the appointed place-the cross.

d. An Appointed Person

- Not everyone was permitted to offer this sacrifice-only the high priest. – Lev 16:17
- In other words, the high priest had to fulfill this responsibility alone.
 - i. First, he put off his beautiful garments.
 - ii. Then he washed his flesh in water (v. 4) and put on the plain linen garments of a lowly servant.
- This is a picture, of course, of our Lord Jesus.
 - i. There came a time when He laid aside His beautiful garments of glory.
 - ii. He took upon Himself form of a servant.

- iii. He set Himself apart to do the will of God.
 - iv. He came to earth and was obedient unto death.
 - God's appointed person for today is the Lord Jesus Christ, our glorified High Priest in heaven.
 - i. The Old Testament high priest had to offer sacrifices first for himself before he could offer sacrifices for the people.
 - ii. Jesus needed no sacrifices for Himself, for He was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners.
 - iii. Instead, He offered Himself as the sinless sacrifice.
- e. An Appointed Price
- Eighty-six times in the Book of Leviticus the blood is mentioned.
 - It was not living animals that paid the price; it was dead animals offered as sacrifices.
 - The blood had to be shed.
 - Some people reject this teaching about blood. – Lev 17:11
 - This is God's plan, and we must accept it.
 - We are not saved by imitating Christ's example or by admiring His teaching.
 - We are not saved by His character.
 - We are saved by His shed blood.
 - His precious blood was the price of atonement..
- f. An Appointed Procedure
- The first thing the priest had to do was to kill the bullock for a sin offering for himself - Lev. 16:11
 - Then he took the incense into the Holy of Holies.
 - i. This burning cloud of incense speaks of the glory of God.
 - ii. Salvation is for the glory of God, not just for the good of man.
 - Then the high priest returned to the altar for the blood; he took it into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled it on the mercy seat, which was the ark of the covenant.
 - i. The two tables of the Law were in the ark, and Israel had broken that Law.
 - ii. But the blood covered the broken Law.
 - iii. It was the blood that made atonement.
 - Then the high priest came back to the altar where two goats were waiting.
 - i. He would kill one goat and take the blood into the Holy of Holies.
 - ii. That blood he sprinkled on the mercy seat.
 - iii. He then applied some of that blood to the brazen altar -Lev. 16:18
 - iv. The priest put his hands on the head of the living goat and confessed the sins of the people of Israel.

- v. Then that goat was taken out and turned loose in the wilderness, never to be seen again, - Ps 103:12
- vi. These two goats together were called a sin-offering. One died; the other (called the scapegoat) was turned loose.
- vii. Jesus Christ died, He arose again, He went back to heaven.
- viii. Christ's sacrifice does not just cover sin-He takes our sins away.
- ix. The release of the scapegoat pictured the truth that the sins of the people had been taken away.
- The high priest would then wash and clothe himself again in his garments, a picture of the fact that when our Lord finished His sacrificial work, He returned to heaven and took His throne of glory.

g. An Appointed Response

- Finally, there was an appointed response on the part of the people.
- What was this response? – Lev 23:27-28
- Salvation is not by our works.
 - i. The people did nothing.
 - ii. The priest did it all.
 - iii. They were not allowed to work.
 - iv. Instead, they were to show sorrow for their sin and, by faith, to accept what God had provided for them.
 - v. The annual Day of Atonement speaks to us of God's love and God's grace.
 - vi. There is nothing we can do. – Tit 3:5

h. The Prophetic Symbols of the Day of Atonement.

- Spoke of the future atonement of Jesus Christ on Calvary.
- Speaks of the future cleansing of Israel
 - i. We learned in our study of the Feast of Trumpets that one day God will call His elect people Israel back to the land of Palestine.
 - ii. At the second coming of Christ, there will be a cleansing for the nation.
 - iii. When the Lord Jesus Christ shall return, Israel shall look upon Him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn because of their sin. -Zec 12:10
 - iv. As a result of this, there shall be a time of cleansing and purification, and the fountain shall be opened for sin and for uncleanness. – Zec 13:1
 - v. Paul reminds us of this in Romans. Rom 11:25-27
- The Future Cleansing of all Believers – Eph 5:25-27
 - i. We must be honest and admit that we are far from glorious and far from being free of spots, wrinkles and blemishes.

- ii. But one of these days, we will be a glorious Church without spot and wrinkle and without blemish when we stand before the Lord.
- iii. This will take place after the Judgment Seat of Christ.

3. Summary

The price has been paid for us