

Yom Kippur

The Day of Atonement A Biblical Holiday

What the Church Needs to Know Jewish Roots 101



"In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and you shall not do any work ...

For on that day he shall provide atonement for you to cleanse you from all your sins before the L-RD." (Leviticus 16:29-30)

Yom Kippur is a day commanded by G-d to the Israelites to observe in Leviticus.

Every year on this day, the High Priest chose two goats.

One was sacrificed to G-d for the sins of the people.

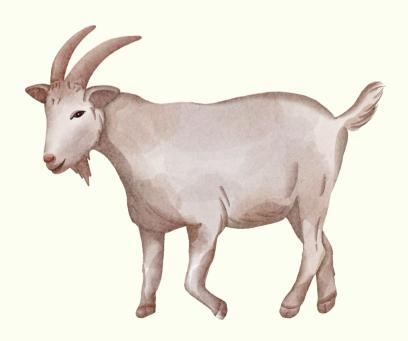
Upon the other, the High Priest confessed and laid the sins of the nation (the collective). This goat was released into the wilderness as atonement.

Atonement, as it relates to Yom Kippur, involves the process of reconciliation between God and humanity through repentance and the seeking of forgiveness for sins.

In traditional Jewish practice, it is a time for confession, prayer, and sacrifice to restore one's relationship with God.

From a Messianic Jewish perspective, atonement is fulfilled through Yeshua (Jesus), the Messiah, who made the ultimate sacrifice by dying for the sins of humanity. His death and resurrection are seen as the final, perfect permanent atonement, offering believers complete forgiveness and eternal reconciliation with God, which Yom Kippur symbolizes annually.

Yeshua takes on the role of both the sacrifice and the scape goat as the perpetual living sacrifice and the cleansing atonement for sin.



How to Observe Yom Kippur

Spend time in prayer to G-d for his gift of atonement and the sacrifice of Yeshua.

Yom Kippur is considered a Sabbath, no work is done.

Yom Kippur involves a full day of fasting, to help focus the mind on the significance of atonement.

Yom Kippur is a time of self-reflection.

Reconcile with other people. Now is the time to ask forgiveness from others. (Matthew 5:23-24)

Read the book of Hebrews.

Read some of the traditional prayers.

(The full text of the Machzor (prayer book) can be found at Sefaria.org)





