

2015 The Days of Awe and Yom Kippur

Intro to Yom Kippur 1

Genesis 2

Yom Kippur is a Sabbath of Sabbaths - rest and fasting. If it was the 15th day, let's look at that concept.

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

In Romans fourteen, "One man esteems one day above another: another man esteems every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" (Romans 14:5). In Colossians chapter two he said, "Don't let any man judge you in respect to holy days, new moons, Sabbath days: Which are all a shadow of things to come; for the substance is of Christ" (Colossians 2:16-17).

In other words, the Sabbath days were just a shadow of things to come. Substance creates a shadow. The substance is Jesus. The shadow that Jesus cast on the Old Testament was the Sabbath day, the day of rest. So that Jesus has become our Sabbath as Christians.

He is our rest. We have ceased from our labors; we enter into His rest. The Sabbath days of the Old Testament were all looking forward to Jesus Christ who would bring rest. No longer is there a righteousness of works or of the law, but the righteousness now is by faith resting in Jesus Christ.

You could also say this resting is encountering Christ intimately - becoming one with Him and His will.

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

In verse four, God is not referred to as just God "Elohim" as in chapter one; but now He is Lord God "Jehovah" or "Yahweh Elohim", because now we are going to see God relating to man, becoming to man what man needs.

5 Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, ⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.

Apart from the land of Eden there were no shrubs or plants.

There was not rain until the time of Noah. In the evening, a mist would arise out of the ground and the earth would be watered. How could you have rivers without rain? Probably subterranean caverns with tremendous volcanic heat and water coming in from the sea flowing into this volcano (like a steam generator). The steam went up, then condensed into water and flowed out. This tremendous moisture blanket was the atmosphere, and at night the mist went up and watered Eden prior to the flood.

We noticed in Israel the remains of lots and lots of volcanic activity and extremely rich soil.

Intro to Yom Kippur 2

7 Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.)

13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Likely the promised land was this same Eden and Jerusalem was the Garden of Eden.

When Adam and Eve were cast out, they left over the Mount of Olives into the vast desert land near the Dead Sea, Jericho, etc.

When Jesus came to be crucified He came down that same path on the Mount of Olives and cursed the random Fig Tree (Probably the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil because they covered themselves with fig leaves)

You still had fig trees after the fall, and they would have represented the Law (access to God with the explanation of what was good and what was evil)

The Tree of Life (maybe an Olive Tree - traditionally what the cross was made out of) probably would have been where the temple stood and the Glory Cloud rested.

The random cursed fig tree represented Jesus fulfilling the Law, saying I am your only access to God, Christ in you is the hope of glory which comes with it the knowledge between good and evil through the Holy Spirit.

So, fasting then, is not eating either tree. A return to the Garden spiritually.

Wearing white in death

Break 1

God's Favorite Day

God has made an appointment to meet with you to hang out

As Rosh Hashanah was the creation of man

Yom Kippur was probably the Fall of Man

This was the day that Adam missed his appointment with God

This was the day God killed animals to make skins for Adam and Eve

This was the day that was spoken of as Jesus was slain from the foundation of the world

Before the Jews, before Moses, before the law there were days that would become the fall feasts

And these days are eternal in the sense that you will celebrate them on into eternity

Jesus celebrated them

Yom Kippur is probably the return of Christ

It has 25 hours (no one knows the hour)

3 Spring Feasts

Think holy week - Palm Sunday - Good Friday - Easter Sunday

Passover - Begins the first day of the spiritual calendar

It's Jesus on the cross - We're born again

First Fruits Resurrection Day (this Sabbath is when you begin counting 50 days to Pentecost)

Pentecost Holy Spirit was poured out

(Moses received the first set of 10 commandments - after fasting 40 days)

He broke them at the golden calf but also interceded for the people telling God to strike his own name from the book of life rather than killing all the people (beautiful picture of Jesus).

3 Fall Feasts

Actually begins on the 1st day of Elul (exactly 30 days before Rosh Hashanah when Moses started his 2nd 40 day fast)

Rosh Hashanah - New Year - first day of the civil calendar

Again think holy week - the priest was separated out 7 days before Yom Kippur

The 10 Days of Awe (Awesome Days) end on **Yom Kippur** with fasting and prayer all day

Sukkot - Feast of Tabernacles (prefigures the new garden, the new heavens, and the new earth)

Break 2

This is the only holiday that fasting is explicitly commanded by the Lord -
you shall afflict your souls (afflict doesn't mean to punish yourself but to humble yourself)
The Jews wear white (or burial clothes) - to live all day as if they were dead (fasting)
It's humbling yourself before God and reminder that you are mortal

Buried in White - No pockets (no possessions can be taken - only the Word and good works)
One of the fringes (tzitzit) is cut off - it represents the law - the dead are no longer under the law

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow (Isaiah 1:18)

Ordinarily, the high priest's outfit had bright colors and a breastplate of precious stones. But on Yom Kippur, the high priest was required to take off these glorious robes in exchange for simple, white linen garments, in order to go into the holy of holies.

He looked just like any other priest. This foreshadowed Jesus, our great high priest, putting aside his heavenly glory and putting on flesh to become one of us - and yet remaining holy.

It's a day to encounter God personally

(Moses received the second set of 10 commandments - his face was glowing)

These days are for repentance - so they determine your destiny

Every time you repent - you change your destiny

Leviticus 10:11 "distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean"

As a Christian you might say these days help set the course for your year

The choices you make and directions you choose

These 10 days are like a preview of the year ahead or a snap shot of trends

What you conquer now - impacts your entire year ahead - decision count more now

Yom Kippur is all about the sacrifice and forgiveness of God - first we repent - then He makes a way for our forgiveness

Yom Kippur represents judgment day when all men will stand before God

The word Satan (letters are numbers in Hebrew) adds up to 364 -

Yom Kippur is the 365 day when he can't accuse you (like in heaven at the judgment for Christians).

Break 3

The Day of Atonement

The day the high priest sacrificed a bull that would cover the sins of the priesthood (he would be covered in blood) and went in to the holy of holies to pour the blood on the mercy seat (kapporet - the cover of the mercy seat where the blood ran - from the word kippor)

Then he would take 2 goats to cover the sins of the people -

1 to be the sin offering (blood on the mercy seat)

and 1 the scapegoat who would carry their sins into the wilderness

so that the people's sins would be forgiven

Jesus tore the curtain forever

In the Dead Sea Scrolls the name Azazel occurs in the line 6 of 4Q203, the [Book of the Giants](#), which is a part of the Enochic literature found at [Qumran](#). According to the [Book of Enoch](#), which brings Azazel into connection with the Biblical story of the fall of the angels, located on [Mount Hermon](#),

The high priest put both his hands into a wooden case, and took out two labels, one inscribed "for Yahweh" and the other "for absolute removal" (or "for Azazel").

The Talmud states (ib. 39a) that during the forty years that [Simon the Just](#) was high priest, the thread actually turned white as soon as the goat was thrown over the precipice: a sign that the sins of the people were forgiven. In later times the change to white was not invariable: a proof of the people's moral and spiritual deterioration, that was gradually on the increase, until forty years before the destruction of the [Second Temple](#), when the change of color was no longer observed

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Holiest day of the Jewish year - Yom ha-kadosh

Kippur comes from kafer - ransom or redeem (the cross)

Written Plural - Yom Kippurim (a day like Purim) It cleanses us from a multitude of sin

Ester/Haman - Purim was a day of deliverance and salvation

Really referring to Passover when Jesus died

The priest enter with incense before him as he approached the ark, and sprinkled the blood on it. Unlike any other sacrifice which requires the sprinkling of blood, on this most holy day of the year, the rabbis agree that the priest's motion should be "ke-mazlif" (כמצליף), or as if they were whipping someone. Here is how it is written in the Mishna and the Babylonian Talmud

The motion is once upwards and seven times downwards, aiming to sprinkle neither upwards nor downwards but kemazlif [making the movement of swinging a whip]

Some have even suggested that originally it was the word "ke-matzliv" - like a cross, but that the obvious implications of this were too much for the Jewish sages and it was changed to "ke-matzlif" instead.

Even this rabbinic mandate serves to reinforce the picture of God himself paying the price for our sins, being whipped and suffering at the hands of humanity.

Throughout the year, in sacrifice after sacrifice, the tabernacle absorbed all the sins of the people, but Yom Kippur the “reset” button is pushed - going back to zero. It is called a sabbath of sabbaths - a bit like the Year of Jubilee (seven sabbath years), when everything goes back to its original owner.

Scripture clearly point to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, and how he would redeem us all by his blood one day. “I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day” (Zechariah 3:9).

Break 4

5776 vav - Heaven and Earth connect

The Hebrew alphabet isn't just letters.

Each character is a letter, number, word, picture, and story

Ayin “70” - The ayin is described as having 2 eyes – the choice of using good or evil to perceive things. Seventy also symbolizes perfection, completeness, and judgment. So it's also reasonable to assume that God is bringing His kingdom, His church, and His servants into order. One of His tools for doing that is judgment, but that doesn't mean it's the end of the world as we know it.

"For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world." 1 Corinthians 11:31-32

It is likely that both of those aspects of judgment will be a significant aspect of the year ahead. If we are quick to humble ourselves we will experience deliverance through the events of life. If we ignore God, then Romans 1:28 will rule the day, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting."

We are literally right in the middle of a ten year period that is all about learning to see. Think "glasses". The Lord is correcting vision impairments. How you see Him, how you see yourself, how you see others, how you see obstacles, how you see blessings, how you see life.

"One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." "Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." Psalm 27: 4-13

There has been much talk recently about the Shemittah, the Sabbatical Year to release debtors, and the 50 year Jubilee cycle. Will they impact the world economy and possibly unleash a "day of reckoning" as 5775 ends and the New Year opens?

Break 5

The letter vav is the sixth letter in the Hebrew alphabet and it's used as a connector. "In the beginning God created the heavens and [vav] the earth." Genesis 1:1 In scripture, "vav" is often used to connect heavenly things and earthly things. For instance, during the first five days of creation God made the physical world; on the 6th day He made man. We could say that man was created to connect the physical with the spiritual in the service of God.

The number six in scripture symbolizes man (man was created on the sixth day - along with all other land animals). Six also represents human weakness, the evils of Satan, and the manifestation of sin. The serpent was one of the land animals created on the 6th day, so this year we should especially heed the advice of 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." In the same way we know to plant certain crops at certain times of the year, so there are seasons when Satan is more predatory.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10

Notice there is no "or" in that verse because it is a progression of "ands". Satan steals and then he must kill the witness (not always physical death) and then he destroys all evidence. He does it in any area we surrender control to him.

Sometimes we are our worst enemy because we won't surrender to Jesus. "You wearied yourself by such going about, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.' You found renewal of your strength, and so you did not faint." Isaiah 57:10

If we identify the true enemy and resist, he flees. "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." James 4:6-8

Because the number six is all about man, we can expect conflict to be at the forefront in 5776. From the savagery of ISIS to violence in the streets of America there will a steady opportunity for good to triumph or evil to rage. Likewise, men are appointed six days to labor and then to rest. The focus of "labor" is on earthly concerns. This will be one of the most pressing issue. Will the worldly lead the way into darkness or will the church shine brightly to reveal God in all His glory?

"Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." Isaiah 60:1-3

As Christians who have Christ dwelling in us, 5776 should be filled with opportunities for heaven to touch earth. The real question is will we touch heaven or will our gaze remain on the pleasures of earth?

Break 6

World Events during the Days of Awe this year

Refugee Crisis

Thousands Protest Migrants in Eastern Europe: 'Islam will be the Death of Europe'
Border-free Europe unravels as migrant crisis hits record day. Two decades of frontier-free travel across Europe unraveled on Monday as countries re-established border controls in the face of an unprecedented influx of migrants, which broke the record for the most arrivals by land in a single day.

Hungary shuts EU border, taking migrant crisis into its own hands

Saudi Arabia has 100,000 air-conditioned tents that could house up to 3 million refugees, sitting empty, still won't take Syrian refugees

Only handful of U.S.-trained Syrian rebels still fighting - General

Christian Persecution

US and UK Turning Its Back on Christian Refugees?

A persecution watchdog group is warning believers that statistics suggest a Christian is martyred for their faith every five minutes somewhere around the world.

Israel Temple Mount protests

800 IDF members storm Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem AGAIN with stun grenades and tear gas
Police, Muslim protesters clash on Temple Mount for third day

In light of recently escalating tensions in Jerusalem, Government officials decided Tuesday night to consider changes in protocol that allows security forces to open fire when attacked by rocks or firebombs.

Several Palestinian groups call for 'day of rage' Friday in light of Temple Mount clashes
Police arrest 39 Palestinians accused of throwing rocks, firebombs over 48 hours

Russia in Syria

Russia positioning tanks at Syria airfield: U.S. officials

Syrian army starts using new weapons from Russia

Vladimir Putin orders ground troops to Syria after Obama's use of moderate rebels flops

US starts carrying out Iran nuke deal, appoints coordinator

US Election

Fiorina emerges in GOP debate, but Trump still dominates conversation

Trump, Fiorina, Carson (all business leaders. Not politicians) lead polls

Poll: Nearly 100 Percent of US Agree, Illegal Immigration a 'Problem'