

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

By Matthew Day

Our teacher at our new congregation in Borger has taught us a lot about Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), which we observed a few days ago, and I would like to pass on some of what I have learned. In case you don't know, on Yom Kippur we fast and do no work. Why? One reason is to remind us that we cannot save ourselves. No matter how well you keep Torah, it won't save you. No matter how many good deeds you do for the poor, it won't save you. We have all sinned.

One person does work on Yom Kippur however: the High Priest. It is his job to do the special sacrifices for that day. In the same way, we are saved by the work of our High Priest, Yeshua. The only thing we can do is repent and place our trust in Him.

Yom Kippur is also a day to fast and pray for those who don't know Yeshua yet.

Leviticus 16 outlines the service that the High Priest would carry out when there was still a temple. There is some Messianic prophecy here. For example, the High Priest was to take two goats, one for a sacrifice and one to send alive into the desert. Which one did what was determined by lot. Leviticus 16:7-10 KJV And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. 10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

Similarly, Pilate gave the people the choice of Barabbas or Yeshua. Barabbas was set free (like the scapegoat) and Yeshua became our Atonement.

The Book of Jonah is usually read on Yom Kippur. This book has Messianic prophecy also. Both Jonah and Yeshua were found sleeping in a boat during a really bad storm. When Jonah came out he told the people that they must throw him overboard to save them. In the same way, Yeshua had to be crucified by us for our salvation. Both men offered their life willingly. The men with Jonah at first refused, and tried to save the boat by their own work. Many people still do that today, but, just as with Jonah, it doesn't work.

This is why we observe Yom Kippur: to remember that it is not our work that saves us, but Yeshua's work; and to pray for the nations, that they come to know Yeshua.

The congregation here broadcasts its teachings live over the radio and internet at 2: 00p.m. (Central) on Saturdays. If you want to listen, you can go to their website. They also play Messianic music and other Messianic teachers (e.g. Rico Cortes, Bill Cloud, etc.)

<http://www.kdshfm.com>

The Children's Newsletter
October 2007