

YOM KIPPUR

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Much of this world is in a very unhappy state ...ISIL ... fighting and wars - decade after decade ... century after century ... Iraq ... previously Korea ... Vietnam ... 2 world wars ... civil war in Syria (hundreds of thousands dead and over 5 million who have fled and live in tents). Always hunger ... deprivation ... sickness and disease ... sometimes famine ... corruption in business and politics ... crime ... drugs and violence.

The world is in a bad way. It has been that way for thousands of years ... and it is likely to get much worse.

There are no prospects of peace! No prospect of any lasting peace! Man doesn't know the way to peace. Man doesn't realise it's a spiritual problem.

At this season ... we tend to focus our eyes on the World Tomorrow ... and the return of the Lord Jesus and the Millennium. Great news.

The return to this earth of the Lord Jesus is the key event to the good news of the world-to-come. But there is more to solving the world's problems ... and bringing in lasting peace ... than "just" Jesus return.

This day shows: Why the world is the way it is. Why the troubles exist in this world. How God will create an environment of beauty and peace.

Satan hates this day ... pictures his ultimate destiny. He is the world's biggest loser. But it is the best possible news for us.

What exactly is behind this world's troubles? Or ... maybe ... who is behind this world's troubles ... the violence ... hate ... right now and who has been behind it for the last 6000 years of man's history?

Today's leaders don't know. They have no understanding. It's a missing dimension in their grasp of world affairs.

We can know the source of world problems.

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan deceives the whole world. We can see the effect of his involvement/influence:

Verse 12 (NKJV)

"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

He is a twisted ... angry ... spirit being. He is after people ... to destroy ... to deceive ... to injure.

Verse 13 (NKJV)

"Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child."

Verse 17 (NKJV)

"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

We get the picture of what things are like whilst satan is around.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NKJV)

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Satan obscures and hides the truth. Many people are blinded to the truth ... drugs are fine. Same sex marriage is okay. Adultery is fine.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV)

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NLT)

1 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.

2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

Ephesians 2:2 (NCV)

2 Yes, in the past you lived the way the world lives, following the ruler of the evil powers that are above the earth. That same spirit is now working in those who refuse to obey God.

There are evil powers ... and satan is over them. He will work on our mind too ... if we leave it open.

John 8:44 (NKJV)

44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Satan is a murderer ... a liar ... from the beginning ... and the Pharisees reflected his nature. The world's problems are spiritual and satan is the main cause ... the biggest cause. There can be no lasting peace if satan was still around. The whole world is at-one with satan. He has to go!!

This Holy Day reveals the answer ... it shows us how satan will be dealt with ... how the whole world will eventually have lasting peace.

A time when no invisible devil ... no more demons ... around to deceive and influence. Not entirely ... but for a 1000 years to start with.

Leviticus 23:26-32 (NKJV)

26 And the Lord spoke to Moses, (God's voice) saying:

27 "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.

28 And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God.

29 For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people.

30 And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people.

31 You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32 **It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."**

Today is that day. The Day of Atonement.

Day of Atonement = Yom Kippur (im) ... in Hebrew Yom Ha-Lippurim

Atonement in the English Dicitonary:

A contraction of "AT" and "ONE"

From the Latin "to unite"

To reconcile ... to bring back together

Bringing back into unity ... to make at-one ... those who have been separated. To make them once again "at-one".

Hebrew: Kaphar ... to cover ... forgive ... to reconcile. The basic meaning is to cover ... as in cover sins ... if our sins are covered ... we can now be reconciled to God and at one with Him.

"Afflict your souls" ... some translations ... humble yourselves. One translation: practise self-denial.

Basically ... most people understand that to mean ... "to fast". See:

Ezra 8:21 (NKJV)

21 **Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.**

Isaiah 58:3 (NKJV)

3 **'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?'**

In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure,
And exploit all your labourers.

It is not a Feast Day ... but a Fast Day! But ... a Holy Day ...
Sabbath ... appointed time to meet with God.

So. Here we are today keeping The Fast ... or The Day of Atonement.

But ... what does it mean? What lessons does God want us to learn from today? What are the details? Answer: this day has one of the clearest teachings of any Holy Day. Ancient Israel ... particularly the High Priest ... act out a play ... drama ... of great importance ... enacted once per year on this day.

Leviticus 16:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered profane fire before the Lord, and died;

2 and the Lord said to Moses: **"Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat. (The High Priest couldn't come into the Holy Place at just anytime!)"**

Leviticus 16:3-4 (NKJV)

3 **"Thus Aaron shall come into the Holy Place:** with the blood of a young bull as a sin offering, and of a ram as a burnt offering.

4 He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These are holy garments. Therefore **he shall wash his body in water, and put them on.** (*Aaron had to bathe before he put on the holy garments. He is going to picture the resurrected Jesus Christ*)

Leviticus 16:5 (NKJV)

5 And **he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering,** (*2 male goats ... He-goats ... shaggy goats*) and one ram as a burnt offering.

Leviticus 16:7-8 (NKJV)

7 He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord **at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.**

8 **Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the escapegoat.** (*2 goats ... one for Jehovah. One for Azazel.*)

Leviticus 16:9 (NKJV)

9 **And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering.** (*This is Jehovah's goat ... sacrificed ... and its blood shed.*)

Leviticus 16:10 (NKJV)

10 **But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the escapegoat into the wilderness.**

Two Goats: ... two stories. One lives ... one dies. Let's look at each in turn.

Azazel One commentary states: "There can be no doubt that Azazel is a personal ... a superhuman and an evil being. Early Christian writers identified Azazel with satan.

Firstly ... the goat representing JEHOVAH.

Leviticus 16:15-17 (NKJV)

15 "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.

16 So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

17 There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel.

The Tabernacle was "cleansed" once per year. The blood was to make at-one ... the reconciling of the people.

What the High Priest acted out ... was fulfilled by our High Priest ... Jesus Christ ... in the New Testament. The meaning explained in Hebrews.

Hebrews 9:1-10 (NKJV)

1 Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.

2 For a tabernacle was prepared (*God's tent in the wilderness*): the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary;

3 and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All,

4 which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;

5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. (A daily thing ... day in - day out ... all of the priests could do that)

7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; (only one man ... only once per year ... past the veil into God's presence)

8 the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

9 It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience—

10 concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. (*Physical stuff*)

The physical version of the Heavenly Temple was of very limited value ... vastly inferior to reality. The people could not enter the Holy of Holies ... the Priests couldn't either ... just one man ONCE A YEAR.

Lesson: no real access to God in an intimate ... personal way. In main ... spiritual salvation not available to Ancient Israel (and less so to others).

But ... we are part of a far better tabernacle.

Hebrews 9:11-14 (NKJV)

11 **But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.**

12 **Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (Lasts forever)**

13 **For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,**

14 **how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

Jesus ... our High Priest ... entered the Holy Place ... ONCE. His blood is powerful and precious ... and does more than any animal's blood. There is no comparison.

Verse 14: Jesus' blood purified our conscience (cleanses ... makes our consciences clear).

Jesus blood washes our minds and conscience. Makes us fit to appear before God ... close to Him. Intimate with the Father because the shed blood cleanses us ... making us completely clean and purified. Our old useless deeds and tainted minds/conscience washed clean. We are now able to be at-one with God ... completely reconciled.

Hebrews 9:22-28 (NKJV)

22 **And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**

23 **Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. (Moses built a copy of the things which he saw in Heaven)**

24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—

26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, **ONCE** at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

28 so Christ was offered **ONCE** to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Hebrews 10:1-4 (NKJV)

1 For the law, *(sacrificial)* having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. *(The sacrifices can never make you a better person ... not change your mind)*

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.

3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. *(Just a reminder ... kept you fully aware.*

Reminded you of how bad you were)

These animal sacrifices were not able to take away sins. They couldn't eradicate sinful nature ... or bring peace of mind ... though good lessons in their day.

Hebrews 10:11-14 (NKJV)

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, (Jesus only had to offer sacrifice once)

13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Cleansed ... made acceptable)

Hebrews 10:19-23 (NKJV)

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

What about you and me? No fear. No trepidation. We can enter the Holiest of Holies. Boldly! The whole point of comparison ... so much better ... superior. Completely washed ... clear ... reconciled ... completely at-one. That applies to those who are called today. For us individually. But a time is coming ... in the World tomorrow ... when this will be available to all ... to have their minds reconciled to God ... cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

Romans 5:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (You and I are at peace with God ... through Jesus. Our minds might trick us ... but that's the reality)

Romans 5:8-11 (NKJV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (At-one)

11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Jesus Christ's blood has reconciled us to God for ever. All of our sins ... offences ... failures ... embarrassments ... as far as God is concerned ... they are all washed away. Completely erased. Now reconciled ... together ... at-one. Thanks to the blood brought before the throne ... that's a great message! A message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.**

21 **For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** (*The Great Exchange ... we exchange our sins for Jesus righteousness ... thus reconciling us to The Father*)

Eventually ... the whole world will be reconciled to God. God has done His part ... Jesus his part. In the Millennium ... 100's of millions will understand the truth ... and can choose.

But ... that then brings us to Part 2 of the story ... the Azazel Goat.

If you think about it ... we can't have the whole world at peace ... can't have reconciliation worldwide and lasting reconciliation ... while there is still a dangerous spiritual enemy on the loose ... an active liar ... murderer ... tempter ... satan!! The world's biggest spiritual terrorist going about seeking whom he may devour and destroy.

Satan is the origin of much of man's sin ... violence and perversion. He is the main source. He has got to be dealt with. He's got to go! The problem of satan has to be solved.

The Day of Atonement gives us the answer ... shows us in advance how the world does achieve complete reconciliation. SATAN HATES THIS DAY.

Leviticus 16:20-22, 26 (NKJV)

20 **"And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat.**

21 **Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, (Azazel) confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel,**

and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man.

22 The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness

26 And he who released the goat as the escapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

This live Azazel goat has the sins of the people placed on it. Puzzling? But ... all of the sins were put on the other goat ... represented by the blood taken into the Holy of Holies. The blood of Jesus reconciled us to The Father ... all of our sins washed away ... erased ... forgiven. The sin problem has been dealt with by the first goat?

So ... how can there be any further sin to be put on the Azazel goat? Wasn't Christ's death and shed blood adequate? What's this second goat all about?

Well ... actually ... there are normally two parties involved in our sins and the sins of the world:

1. US ... we get careless ... we yield to temptation ... our decision ultimately
2. SATAN ... the tempter ... deceiver ... he is the one who works in the children of disobedience ... he's the instigator ... the outlaw.

Satan bears a very large part of the blame ... the responsibility ... the deceiver of the whole world ... destroyer ... liar ... murderer ... right from the Garden of Eden.

It is only right and just that satan's part in the world's sin ... and all evil the world has endured ... is made clear and plain to everyone. So

all can see it. See the instigator ... the source and origin of the world's troubles ... can be identified publicly ... judged ... then taken away from the presence of God and man.

Think of an analogy: a crooked businessman wants to get rid of a competitor ... puts out a contract ... hires a hitman to gun down his competitor. Now hopefully ... if justice prevails ... the police track down the gun man ... deal with him. He pulled the trigger ... he was the actual killer; the actual sinner. Justice requires that you take action also against the instigator ... he can't be allowed to escape scot free ... just as guilty ... he's the mind behind the crime. Two parties involved.

God has made provision for our sins to be dealt with ... forgiven. But also ... God is going to publicly display satan's part ... put his guilt back on his own head ... as pictured by the Azazel goat. That's Satan having his guilt placed on his head ... then to be taken away from mankind ... no longer to cause any trouble ... no more persecutions, etc.

Hopefully ... that big event is not too far away!!

Revelation 19:11-16 (NKJV)

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a

rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:19-20 (NKJV)

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. *(There has to be great deception here ... people making war against Jesus)*

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. *(a great start)* But after these things he must be released for a little while.

Satan gone for 1000 years. That's great news! After 6000 years of deceiving ... influencing ... corrupting mankind ... keeping him blinded to the truth ... behind wars ... cruelty ... torture ... barbarism ... religious deception ... racism ... 6000 long years ... he's gone! Silenced!

Can you and I imagine a world with no satan ... no demons.

Now the whole world can be free ... free to be reconciled to God ... to be at-one with Him. To enjoy a wonderful world ... good health ... prosperity ... strong healthy families ... to know the Truth.

The whole world finally at-one with God.

So ... we've finished the story of the 2 goats. The meaning of the Day of Atonement is just about the best news the world could hear ... if they only knew it.

Then ... like us ... they could look forward to the reality and fulfilment of the Day of Atonement ... and a world of peace and great joy ... when everyone is FINALLY AT ONE WITH GOD.