

YOM KIPPUR
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We know the world today is in trouble ... has been since the beginning. It is probably going to get a lot worse.

There is no real peace anywhere on earth — wars ... crime ... political arguments ... family breakdowns ... on and on.

At this season of the year we tend to focus on the World Tomorrow — and to Jesus' return.

Jesus' second coming is great news! But there's more to solving man's problems than "just" the return of Jesus Christ ... as important as that may be.

This Holy Day helps us to understand why the world is the way it is and how God will bring true peace everywhere.

Today this is great news for us and the world. And possibly the day that Satan hates the most?

Let's start by examining why the world is in the mess it's in. Something the world's politicians and leaders don't know.

What — or who — is behind this world's troubles?

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.

No part of mankind has escaped Satan's influence. The whole world is deceived ... about everything.

Verse 12 (NKJV)

9 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.

Verse 13 (NKJV)

13 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.

And — as long as Satan is around — there will always be trouble and war and evil.

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 is the god of this age. He has blinded people’s mind ... they can’t see the truth from lies. Their thinking ability is compromised. We were in that position once ... as the next verse brings out.

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)

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.

Ephesians 2:2 (TPT)

2 the dark ruler of the earthly realm

Who is behind it? Satan the prince of the power of the air ... a spirit being who works in people who disobey.

2 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.*

The Pharisees reflected the nature of their father — the devil.

Satan works behind the scenes ... invisible ... but is the ultimate cause of man's problems.

There can be no lasting peace whilst Satan is around. Today the whole world is at one with Satan.

Today ... this Holy Day reveals the answer. How Satan will be dealt with — and how the whole world eventually will have perfect peace.

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.*"

Hebrew: "Yom Kippurim" in verse 27.

Most translations “A Day of Atonement”. Some translations “A Day of Cleansings” or “A Day of Reconciliations”.

The English Dictionary says of “Atonement”:

- A contraction of two words — At and One —at one
- From the Latin: To Unite ... to Reconcile

This day explains how the world will finally be at one with God — reconciled and at peace with Him.

What is special on this day is that we are to afflict our souls or humble ourselves. We understand that to mean fasting.

Today is not a Feast Day — it’s a Fast Day.

So — as God commands — here we are fasting on the Day of Atonement.

But why keep this day? What lessons does God want to teach us?

This day has probably one of the clearest teachings of any Holy Day. Ancient Israel and their High Priest used to act out a great drama — of great importance — once a 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 16:5-6(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.

6 "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house.

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. (Azazel) . (2 goats ... one for Jehovah. One for Azazel).

Naturally ... there is debate as to the identity of Azazel. That is not the topic for today ... but one reference from Kiel & Delitzch commentary:

“The words, one lot for Jehovah and one for Azazel, require unconditionally that Azazel should be regarded as a personal being, in opposition to Jehovah ... and the ruler or head of the kingdom of demons”.

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. (Released alive)

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

We will look first at 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.

Atonement = Kippur. To reconcile the people to God ... because they are sinful.

What the High Priest acted out once a year — **Jesus fulfilled!**

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; (the 10 Commandments)**

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 temple was vastly inferior to the Heavenly Temple — but even so ... only one man could enter — only once a year.

The lesson for us is that no real access to God in a personal... intimate way. In the main ... spiritual salvation was not generally available to Old Testament Israel.

But:

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?*

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

Jesus is our High Priest. His blood is powerful. It washes our mind and conscience ... makes us fit to come before The Father ... completely reconciled and AT ONE.

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)

Animal sacrifices are limited. They can't eradicate sinful nature! Or bring peace to our minds.

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)

Christ only had to be sacrificed ONCE! His blood works ... purifies us ... cleanses us.

Because of all that ...

Hebrews 10:19-23 (NKJV)

19 Therefore, brethren, ***having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,*** *(You and me)*

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.***

We can enter the Holiest — Boldly! Us ... individually ... now! Soon — that will be available for the whole world!

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.***

All of our sins ... offences ... failures ... are all washed away. We're now clean in God's eyes — now reconciled — together — AT ONE!

Which is actually a great message!

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, (to be a sin offering 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. Right now ... it's just the Early Harvest — The Firstfruits.

But now ... Part 2 of the story ... the Azazel Goat.

We can't have the whole world at peace ... worldwide reconciliation ... while there's still a dangerous spiritual outlaw on the loose.

The problem of Satan has to be resolved! Satan has to be dealt with ... put away!

Yom Kippur gives us the answer.

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 (**Azazel**) shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

Weren't all of the sins of the people dealt with by the first goat? Hasn't the Blood of Jesus completely washed us?

Think about it. There are really two parties involved in the sins and troubles of the world.

1. US ... we get careless ... we yield to temptation ... we yield to our flesh
2. SATAN ... the tempter ... the adversary ... the deceiver ... the one who actively ... even today ... works in the children of disobedience

Satan has played a major role in man's evils and this world's troubles — right from the Garden of Eden. He was there tempting and deceiving.

It's only just that he publicly carries the blame for his part.

An analogy I've used in the past. Think of a ruthless businessman who hires a hitman to kill a competitor. If the actual killer is caught — he goes to jail.

But the justice requires that the businessman also be dealt with. He's the instigator... his idea ... his wicked mind ... his money.

Likewise with Satan.

Satan carries a huge amount of blame of man's sins and evils. God is going to publicly ensure that Satan's guilt is placed on his own head — as he is judged and punished.

Jesus isn't going to bear Satan's sins or absolve him of his personal responsibility. The guilt is placed on Satan's head — and then he is banished from mankind (like the Azazel goat was banished from the congregation of Israel).

Hopefully — soon!

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**. (*The returning Jesus Christ*)

Just ahead of us?

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 1,000 years!

That's great news! After 6,000 years of deceiving ... corrupting mankind — keeping them blinded to the truth ... leading them into perversion and destruction — wars ... cruelty ... torture ... racism ... 6,000 lo-o-o-ng years — he's gone! His broadcast is silenced!

Now the world can be completely free ... to be reconciled to God ... to be AT ONE with Him — because the enemy is gone! The opponent has gone.

So ... we've followed the story of the 2 goats of the Day of Atonement. And it's just about the best news mankind could ever hear!

Now — let's look forward — to the reality!