

Unity Around Jesus' Forgiveness

The Day of Atonement

Most churches are familiar with Passover and Pentecost, but many people are not familiar with the Day of Atonement. Here is one of the Bible verses:

“And *you* shall have on the Tenth Day of this Seventh Month an holy assembly.” (Numbers 29:7)

When Jesus paid for our sins on the cross, one thing that we often forget is that Jesus did not shut down the High Priesthood. He took it over!¹

“We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. ... Now has He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” (Hebrews 8:1,2,6)

When God appointed this day, He appointed it forever.

“It shall be a statute forever” (Leviticus 23:31)

“Forever” means that Jesus is continuing to administer it as our High Priest, every year! Apostle Paul referred to the Day of Atonement occurring after the cross in Acts 27:9², in accordance with “forever”.

The Day of Atonement is a powerful day of unity in the church around Jesus' forgiveness.

How does one enter in?

WHEN: It occurs on the 10th Day of the 7th Biblical Month³. In 2024, it will go from the evening of Sunday, October 13, 2024 to the evening of Monday, October 14, 2024. This year, Monday October 14, 2024, is the same day as Thanksgiving Day in Canada, so it will be a statutory holiday, which makes it very easy for people.

WHO: It is for born-again believers only. Jesus will be ministering to those who *receive* His forgiveness.

¹ Hebrews 6:20, “Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.”

² Acts 27:9, “Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them”. Hurricanes in the Mediterranean historically peak in activity in the fall, after the fast of the Day of Atonement. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_tropical-like_cyclone

³ Leviticus 23:27, “On the Tenth Day of this Seventh Month there shall be a Day of Atonement: it shall be an holy assembly unto you.”

- HOW:**
1. No work for 24 hours on the Day of Atonement (no business, no school). Please kindly have no church business, and no announcements about the future, per Isaiah 58:13-14⁴, and defer these to another day. (People's contact information can be obtained for later follow-up.)
 2. Humbly bow down our souls before God⁵ ("afflict our souls"). Allow oneself to grieve inside.
 3. Fast⁶ and pray. Fast both food and water is the Biblical model, per Deuteronomy 9:18 and Ezra 10:6⁷.
 4. Remove jewellery and rings⁸.

CHURCH: Have church. This is "holy assembly".

"And *you* shall have on the Tenth Day of this Seventh Month an holy assembly." (Numbers 29:7)

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus ... And having an high priest over the house of God ... Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (on that Day of Atonement, which is further to the context being the High Priest's duties)" (Hebrews 10:19,21,25)

It is a wonderful opportunity to remind ourselves when the Biblical day starts. God declared that the day starts in the evening⁹. He also defined the "evening" to be when there is no light, since light had not been created when the evening began on the First Day. So, God's day begins when the last residue of sunlight has left the sky, which is when the sky's background turns "pitch black". A full Bible Study on this topic is available at www.DayOfAtonement.ca/information/. Start times are also listed there for various cities. In 2024, it will start when the sky becomes pitch black Sunday night, October 13.

Since other calendars propose other dates, for your information, the October 13-14, 2024 date is based on the following:

⁴ Isaiah 58:13, "not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words" (not furthering our own agendas, which is can easily be marked by avoiding talking about the future and just being thankful about past events). Note, one can collect others' contact information for follow-up later.

⁵ The word "afflict" in Hebrew means to be lowly submissive. Ezra 8:21, "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of Him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance."

⁶ Note that fasting is not a Biblical requirement for the Day of Atonement, since "affliction" is required of one's soul, not of one's body, so, for example, children do not have to fast; however, it is recommended for everyone who is able, to fast, since this brings our body into alignment with what is happening in our soul. Apostle Paul referred to "the fast" in Acts 27:9, when he was referring to the Day of Atonement. There is a holy anointing on this day, so even people with medical conditions are surprised with themselves that they can fast the whole 24 hours.

⁷ Deuteronomy 9:18, Moses said, "I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which *you* sinned." Ezra 10:6, "He did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them who had been carried away."

⁸ "Therefore now put off your ornaments from you, that I may know what to do unto you" (Exodus 33:4-6). Note that removing jewelry is not commanded directly with respect to the Day of Atonement, but it is recommended since it aligns oneself up for a cleansing from the most offensive sins. The result for the Israelites was that God not only turned His fierce anger away from their deep sin, but gave them the other extreme of sending His presence in power with them.

⁹ Genesis 1:5, "And the evening and the morning were the First Day."

“God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years” (Genesis 1:14)

God’s calendar is based on His lights in the sky. It is that simple. The October 13-14, 2024 date comes from the official posting by the United Kingdom’s HM Nautical Almanac Office for new moon sightings. To determine human’s ability to see God’s lights in the sky, the Yallop’s Method was developed by Dr. Bernard Yallop, a former Superintendent of HM Nautical Almanac Office (HMNAO). He based his work on actual sightings studies published by Bradley Schaefer and LeRoy Doggett of Moon Watch programs in the 1980's and 1990's. These compared documented visual sightings with the calculated locations of the moon, sun, and one’s position on the earth at the time. From this research, any Atonement date proposed before the evening of October 13, 2024 would be impossible to be aligned with God’s lights in the sky. One who enters on the correct date receives the power. Missing the correct day is like arriving at the airport too late or on the wrong day. One has missed the flight. So, the day and start times are super critical. The October 13-14 date is from following God’s clock in the sky.

In summary, the Day of Atonement is a day of corporate healing. As a comparison, we are familiar with “worship by oneself” as compared to “worship surrounded by a group of Jesus-loving, Holy Spirit filled people”, and being together is something else. Similarly, yes, one can ask forgiveness by oneself, but there is something *much* greater to ask for forgiveness surrounded by humble souls bowing before Jesus in prayer and fasting, and Jesus, at the very time that *He* appointed, applies His forgiveness on everyone’s behalf. It is powerful and obedient.

Corporate forgiveness can include many different modes of cleansing, from deliverance from third-party offenses, to ending this generation’s despising of parents or parents of children, to breaking generational curses, to washing away societal negative impressions of the church, to receiving forgiveness for ungodly culture that has infiltrated the church body. These are examples of things which need the church body to be together for.

The following is what the Bible says:

“And *you* shall have on the Tenth Day of this Seventh Month an holy assembly; and *you* shall afflict your souls: *you* shall not do any work therein. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be unto you a Sabbath of rest.” (Numbers 29:7, Leviticus 23:31)

Jesus said, “The scripture cannot be broken”. (John 10:35)

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:16) and receive the cleansing that Jesus wants to administer to us.

Amen!!