

UNDERSTANDING THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

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The church has historically taught that the Day of Atonement pictures the putting away of Satan in Revelation 20:1-3 because that is the next event after the return of Christ pictured by the Day of Trumpets. But when you look at the events of the Day of Atonement, they do not picture the putting away of Satan at all.

The first event of the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16 is the slaying of the live goat taken from the congregation. We have always believed this represents the slaying of Christ. His crucifixion took place on the Passover in 30 AD, not on a Day of Atonement .

The second event of the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16 is that the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies once a year on this day to make atonement for Israel. This is explained in the New Testament (Hebrews 9) as the Day on which Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven itself to make atonement for us.

Heb 9:6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

Heb 9:7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

Heb 9:8 The Holy Ghost thus signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

Heb 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Heb 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Jesus ascended to Heaven on Sunday, the day after he rose from the dead in 30 AD. We know from John 20:1-19 that Mary went to the tomb early on Sunday morning at dawn and found the tomb empty. Then she recognized Jesus behind her. He said to her, "Touch me not, for I have not yet ascended to my Father, but go and tell my disciples." Later that day in the evening he appeared to all the disciples, so his ascension to Heaven was accomplished by then.

So the second event of the Day of Atonement pictures the Day Christ ascended to Heaven on our behalf and this event did not happen on a Day of Atonement either, but on Sunday after Jesus rose from the dead in 30 AD.

The question about these first two events is: why are they portrayed on the Day of Atonement when neither of these were fulfilled on that day? The answer to this question is that these two events, the sacrifice of Christ and his ascension to Heaven are something that we need to review and remember on the Day of Atonement. In ancient Israel the death of Christ was pictured by the blood of the lamb being put on the doorposts of their houses on the Passover and this saved their firstborn so they left Egypt the next day. The blood of Jesus, our lamb, atones for our sins as it did theirs. But ISRAEL SINNED AGAIN AFTER THEY CAME OUT OF EGYPT. While Moses was up on Mt. Sinai getting the ten commandments, the people made a golden calf. Read the account in Exodus 32. In

verse 30 Moses said, "I will go up to the Lord, peradventure I shall make an ATONEMENT for your sin." And then what happened after that atonement was made? The Lord's tabernacle was moved outside the camp. Although the scriptures do not say this happened on the Day of Atonement, it is an event very much like the scapegoat who on the Day of Atonement was put outside the camp with the sins of Israel put on his head. Read the account in Exodus 33.

The third event of the Day of Atonement, the sending forth of the scapegoat into the wilderness with the sins of Israel put on his head, is the only one that actually took place on the Day of Atonement. The fulfillment of this event surprisingly is prophesied in Daniel 8 and has to do with the New Testament Church of God and their sin - after they have been baptized - for which the church has been subsequently destroyed and scattered.

In Daniel 8 the Little Horn of the Third Beast 'takes away the daily sacrifice; after 2300 days'. The Third Beast, remember, was Alexander the Great and Daniel 8:9 says that the Little Horn came out from one of the four divisions. So the beginning of the 2300 days or years was when the four divisions began in 321 BC when the first King of the South was set up. If you add 2300 days or years to 321 BC, you come to 1979 AD. On the Day of Atonement, October 1, 1979 AD, Herbert Armstrong, leader of the Worldwide Church of God, fulfilled the role of the Little Horn of the Third Beast and 'took away the daily sacrifice'. How did he do this? There is only one 'daily' or 'yearly' sacrifice that is 'taken away' rather than killed and that is the scapegoat of the Day of Atonement. On that day, October 1, 1979, Herbert Armstrong was rebelling against the state of California's investigation of the Church's finances according to laws governing charitable institutions contrary to the scriptures that command us to obey the government officials unless they command us something that is against a commandment of God.

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Rom 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

During this time many were being unjustly disfellowshipped for disagreeing with the church's rebellion. Mr. Armstrong took away the daily sacrifice by unjustly disfellowshipping a minister from the church who preached in truth that we ought to obey the magistrates. I was in attendance on that day and there were two ministers from church headquarters sitting behind me waiting to escort him out after he finished his sermon which is on this link: Call To Repentance and Resignation by Fred Coulter <http://www.cbcbg.org/resignation.html>

Daniel 8:17 tells us that at the end time shall be this vision of the 2300 days. And Daniel 8:11 shows that the daily sacrifice is not a system of sacrifices at the temple but is a PERSON who is taken away because the place of his (the daily sacrifice's) sanctuary is cast down. And Matthew 25:40-45 also confirms that whatsoever we have done justly or unjustly to the least of the Lord's brethren, we have done it to the Lord himself.

These are the most important scriptures about our fasting that the Lord wants us to see on the Day of Atonement.

Isa 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a TRUMPET, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Isa 58:2 Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.

Isa 58:3 Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.

Isa 58:4 Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

Isa 58:5 Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?

Isa 58:6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Isa 58:7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Isa 58:8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward.

Isa 58:9 Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

Isa 58:10 And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

Isa 58:11 And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Isa 58:12 And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Isa 58:13 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

Isa 58:14 Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

As you see from verse 1, fasting on the Day of Atonement is our response to the Day of Trumpet's lifting up a voice like a TRUMPET and calling attention to our sins. On the New Moon of each month the trumpet was blown (Num 10:10) and the annual Day of Trumpets is the new moon when it is blown all day. The trumpet symbolizes the voice of Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:40. So on the New Moons and especially on the Day of Trumpets we should focus on some aspect of sin in the scriptures that we can search for in ourselves and repent of.

The two events that did not happen on the Day of Atonement, the sacrifice of Christ and his ascension into Heaven for us we need to be reminded of and meditate on in the Day of Atonement because this is what paid for our sins.