

Daily Devotional, September 28, 2020

“The Day of Atonement”, (Leviticus 23:27, NKJV)

“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” (Leviticus 23:27)

The Day of Atonement (Hebrew: Yom Kippur) was prescribed for Israel on the Hebrew calendar for a set day, Tishri 10. Because their calendar is lunar based and ours is solar based, it falls on a different day each year on our calendar. In 2020, it falls on September 28th, although technically it began at sundown the previous day, since Hebrew days go from evening to evening (Cf. [Genesis 1:5](#)). The Day of Atonement was the only day of the year that the High Priest was permitted to enter the Holy of Holies. On that day, he would present the blood of the sin offering before the ark of the covenant. It was for a covering of the sins of all the priests and people that the blood of animals would be offered there ([Leviticus 16:1-34](#)). Just as the daily sacrifices needed to be repeated under the Law, so too the Day of Atonement services were required year after year. We learn that *“according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission”* (Hebrews 9:22).

“The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). What the Law could not do, Christ Jesus did once for all. *“For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself”* (Hebrews 7:26-27). So we see that regarding the annual ceremonial aspect, the Day of Atonement has been fulfilled in Christ. The sacrifice had to be perfect, blameless, sinless, and no animal could fit the bill perfectly. So look what God has done! See what a great sacrifice He provided for your sins. So when you start going down or thinking about going down the sin road, perish the thought. Consider the great price your Savior paid. And pray a prayer of thanksgiving instead. We celebrate Yom Kippur in light of the finished work of Christ today, and we do have liberty to honor or not honor the day (Cf. [Romans 14:5-6](#)). I choose to honor this day and give glory to my God. Feel free to join me in this today.