

Yom Kippur

The Day of Atonement

Shalom Family, let's dive into this topic together and see what the Word of Yah reveals.

What is Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur, also called the Day of Atonement, is one of the most solemn and important appointed times given by Yah. It falls on the tenth day of the seventh month (Tishri/Ethanim) and is described as a “statute forever” (Leviticus 16:29–31; 23:27–32).

The Hebrew word kippur comes from kaphar, meaning “to cover, cleanse, reconcile.” On this day, the sins of Israel were covered, the sanctuary was cleansed, and fellowship between Yah and His people was restored.

Why Should We Honor It Today?

1. It is Forever – Yah Himself calls it a lasting law (Leviticus 16:29, 34).
2. It Foreshadows Messiah – Hebrews 9 shows that the High Priest entering the earthly Holy of Holies pointed to Yahshua the Messiah entering the heavenly one. Through His blood, He accomplished eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:11–12).
3. It is National and Prophetic – Yom Kippur was about atonement for the entire nation of Israel (Leviticus 16:17, 34). It points us to the day when Yahshua will cleanse and restore His people as a whole.

How It Was Honored in Ancient Times

- Afflicting the soul (fasting) – “You shall afflict your souls” (Leviticus 16:29; 23:27). This meant no eating or drinking.
- No work – A strict Sabbath rest (Leviticus 23:28, 30).
- Sacrifices – Especially the two goats:
 - One was slain for a sin offering.
 - The other, the scapegoat (Azazel), symbolically carried the sins of the people into the wilderness (Leviticus 16:20–22).
- High Priest’s intercession – Once a year, he entered the Holy of Holies with blood to make atonement for himself, the priests, and the people (Leviticus 16:15–17).

How We Remember It Today

We no longer sacrifice animals, for Yahshua fulfilled that once for all (Hebrews 10:10–12). Yet the principles remain:

1. Fasting – humbling ourselves before Yah (Leviticus 16:29; Acts 27:9).
2. Resting from work – setting apart the day (Leviticus 23:28).
3. Repenting and confessing sins – not only personally but as a people (1 John 1:9).
4. Acknowledging Yahshua – our High Priest who intercedes for us in the heavenly Temple (Hebrews 9:24).
5. Gathering in worship – a “holy convocation” (Leviticus 23:27).

Why One Set-Apart Day? Shouldn't We Confess All Year?

Yes, confession and repentance are not limited to one day. We are called to seek Yah's mercy daily (Psalm 32:5; 1 John 1:9). But Yom Kippur is different because:

- It is appointed by Yah as the one day each year to focus on national cleansing and renewal.
- It teaches us that while forgiveness is personal and daily, there is a special time when Yah calls His entire people to unite in repentance.
- It points prophetically to the day when Yahshua will return and cleanse His people as a nation (Zechariah 12:10; Romans 11:26–27).

So yes, we confess and repent year-round, but Yom Kippur is Yah's chosen day of annual atonement for the nation of Israel; a memorial, a rehearsal, and a prophetic shadow.

Closing Reflection

Yom Kippur is not just an ancient ritual, it is a living testimony of Yah's mercy and Messiah's work. It reminds us that sin separates us from Elohim, but He has provided atonement through Yahshua, our High Priest.

- Back then: The High Priest entered the earthly Most Set-Apart Place with the blood of animals.
- Today: Yahshua entered the heavenly Most Set-Apart Place with His own blood.
- In the future: He will return to bring full restoration to Israel and all who are grafted in.

This is why we honor Yom Kippur, not by empty tradition, but by humbling ourselves, repenting, fasting, resting, and remembering that our atonement has been made once for all through Yahshua the Messiah.

“For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before YHWH” (Leviticus 16:30).

Until we meet again, may we continue to walk in the undeniable truth of Yah's Word.

Shalom,

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Steps to Honor Yom Kippur Today

1. Mark the date – The 10th day of the 7th month (Leviticus 23:27).
2. Fast – No eating or drinking, unless health prevents it (Leviticus 16:29).
3. Rest – Do no work, treat it as a Sabbath (Leviticus 23:28, 30).
4. Assemble – Gather with others if possible, for worship and prayer (Leviticus 23:27).
5. Confess – Pray, repent, and release sins before Yah (1 John 1:9).
6. Focus on Yahshua – Remember His sacrifice as our eternal atonement (Hebrews 9:11–12).