

בשורה *Besorah!*

It is the Day of Atonement

Without dispute, Yom Kippur is the highest and holiest of days in the Jewish Biblical calendar. The setting is stark and extremely solemn, taking place within a 24-hour period only once a year. Each one of the many rituals, curious and unique to this day, serve as a foreshadowing of Jesus as Messiah. We can barely scratch the surface in this short article.

The central figure is the High Priest, who must first offer sacrifice for his own sins and those of his house, and then for the sins of the nation. He is singled out from among the greater priesthood and he alone can, and must, enter into the holy of holies with incense and blood in order to obtain atonement for the people (Lev. 16: 1-17).

For certain peculiar ministrations, Aaron was to be clothed only in linen and not in the usual High Priest's garments. Linen not only represents righteousness, it also is the symbol of death (John 19:40). It wasn't until after he confessed all the sins of the people upon the second, live goat - and sent it off - that he then washed and put on the more ornate, 'royal' garments of his office (Lev 16:4, 23, 24). This

clearly typifies Jesus as He laid aside His royalty, went to His death and will return as Priest/King.

The title 'Messiah' implies one who is anointed. In the Bible, there were three types of people who were anointed: Priests, Kings and Prophets. The Law separated the two offices of priest and king from each other, while there was occasionally some overlap of the prophetic on each. The priesthood stemmed from the house of Aaron but the kings of promise came from Judah, through the line of David. However, there obviously existed a primaeval revelation from God that the roles of priest and king were supposed to be united (along with that of prophet) in the person of the Messiah. We see this in the figure of Melchizedek (Genesis 14:8) whose spiritual and temporal authority Abraham recognised and whose type was confirmed by God with an oath (Ps 110:4).

We also find this expressed in Psalm 132:17, 18 which says, 'There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed. His enemies will I clothe with



Sharing Yeshua with Jewish People worldwide

www.messianictestimony.com

Newsletter of
MESSIANIC TESTIMONY
Autumn 2021

shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.’ Here, David’s horn (royal authority and dominion) ‘buds’ as Aaron’s rod did (same Hebrew word: צִמָּח) and David’s crown ‘flourishes’ (צִיָּח), in the same language used of the ‘plate’ on Aaron’s forehead (Ex 28:36).

Zechariah 6:12, 13 reads, ‘And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both’. (Emph. mine).

This combination is also portrayed in the designs of both the altar of sacrifice and the altar of incense. Each had 4 horns (universal authority) protruding from their corners, but the horns ‘were of one construction with the altar’ (Ex 27:2 and Ex 30:2). David and Solomon were anointed with a horn of the same oil used to anoint the High Priest while he was dressed in his garments (1 Sam 16:13 & 1 Kings 1:39, Ex 29: 5- 7).

The united roles of priest and king speak specifically of the Messiah, so it was a very serious matter that King Uzziah attempted to assume the role of a priest, ostensibly taking the position of Messiah! Judgement fell upon him in the form of leprosy (2 Chron 26: 16 – 21). This penalty was not arbitrary. The Messiah was to be ‘stricken’ by God. This Hebrew verb in Isaiah 53:4 (נִכְנַח) is a specific allusion to leprosy. It is the same verb used in 2 Chron 26:20, when the Lord ‘smote’ Uzziah. It was a clear warning to any sinner seeking to usurp that position: if you think you want to be the Messiah, these are the requirements. Beware lest the curse have cause to light!

Yom Kippur, as it is observed today, is divested of everything that the Law prescribes for its observance with the exception, perhaps, of fasting. Because of the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, the growth of the body of Jewish believers in Jesus and dispersion of the Jewish nation, Judaism was reinvented and other practices were substituted for Temple sacrifice.

At a Yom Kippur service I attended, I was troubled

to witness the repeated quoting of Hosea 14:2 (14:3, in Hebrew) throughout the day. It reads, ‘Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves (or, bulls) of our lips’. To me, this emphasis was clearly intended to address the problem of the absence of the Temple by implying that a blood sacrifice was no longer needed for sin. Upon investigation of this verse, I learned that the Syriac and Septuagint manuscripts read ‘**fruit** of our lips’, not ‘calves of our lips’. These manuscripts are older than the Masoretic and will not have been influenced by the events and politics mentioned above. Moving one letter in the verse from the beginning of one word to the end of the previous word, changes the meaning from ‘fruit’ to ‘calves’. However, the use of ‘fruit’ is in keeping with Hosea’s other language (Hos 10:13) and ‘fruit of our lips’ is confirmed in Heb 13:15!



Ritual transference of sins onto a chicken.

Even while the temple was still standing, various superstitious practices and ideas had developed regarding things that were originally ordained of God (Matt 23: 16-19). Long before that, the Brazen Serpent had become a fetish which Hezekiah had to destroy (2 Kings 18:4). It is even possible – and I have seen this in my experience – for believers to stray into making an idol of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. This is a very real danger and one which we constantly need to discern, as it often impedes true evangelism. It might also come as a shock for some to learn that many practices within modern Judaism, which are biblical in origin, now have mystical, even occult, powers ascribed to them.

‘A miss is as good as a mile’

Anything which diminishes or augments the truth of the person and work of Jesus is a lie and results

in presenting 'another Jesus' (See Simon's and Tony's reports). We must not be ashamed of the Gospel – it IS the power of God for salvation, to the Jew first and also the Greek (Rom. 1:16).

While we as believers understand the need of every individual to come to a personal saving faith in Jesus – and we witness to that end – let's also remember that the emphasis of Yom Kippur is the saving of the NATION of Israel. It was only effected by intercession, for on that day both blood and incense were brought within the veil (Lev 16:12-15) and absolutely NO WORK was to be done, under penalty of destruction! (Lev 23: 28, 30, 31). It is the 'Sabbath of Sabbaths'; the highest and holiest day, for the highest and holiest work! No human effort - employing human methods or techniques in evangelism - can play a part in the salvation of the Jewish people. Only that which is directed by the

Spirit of God, as a result of prayer, will bear eternal fruit. Let us follow Yeshua, our great High Priest, in the righteous robes He has clothed us in, and let us come before His Throne of Grace to obtain mercy and salvation for the Jewish nation.

I once received a greeting card from a believer which read, 'The fire will fall, but only on the altar' (referring to 1 Kings 18). It was Melchizedek's relationship with God that vested in him authority over men. It was *because of* his priesthood that he was a king. Just as the horns *are an extension of* the altar, may we know God's authority by being under His authority (Luke 7:8) as we intercede for the salvation of the Jewish people, this Yom Kippur.

May the name of every one who reads this be written in Yeshua's Book of life!

Chrissy Rodgers

Remembering Jacques Guggenheim, 1931-2021, by Margaret Collins - Reese.

It's a privilege to pay tribute to Jacques, who was welcomed as a worker in France with Hebrew Christian Testimony to Israel (a predecessor to MT) in 1961.

Jacques was born in Paris to a Jewish family with roots in Alsace & Switzerland. His grandfather had been president of the Jewish Community of Bâle. He was confronted with anti-Semitism as a school boy and Jacques' family fled occupied France to Switzerland to escape the Nazis. Lodged in different homes of real believers, young Jacques was impressed by their love for the God of Israel, His Word and their Messiah.

Aspiring to become a painter, he studied Fine Arts in Switzerland & Italy and was searching for spiritual answers in many different directions. He fell ill and on his hospital bed in Italy, he implored the Messiah of Israel to deliver him. Seeking answers in the Scriptures he finally came to faith in Yeshua as Saviour in 1956. He married Reine in 1961. They both studied at a Bible Institute in France and have two children.

He served as Editor of the Shepherd of Israel Journal until 2002, supported by MT. He spoke to outreach groups all over France. It was a joy to hear him in Marseille and to host a conference for him in Toulouse. Well into retirement, Jacques continued to witness in the streets of Paris with Jews for Jesus. When his health was failing, Reine remained a great support to him until the Lord called him home on January 30, 2021.

