

The Day of Atonement

- Lucifer's sin disrupted God's peaceful kingdom.
- God took responsibility for the introduction of sin into His Kingdom.

Two objectives:

1. Put and end to sin.
 2. Vindicate His character.
- God created a race of beings that would be used to demonstrate His righteousness.
 - We fell into sin so God implemented the plan of salvation for humanity.

The purpose of the plan of salvation was to provide a way for God to deal with sin.

- Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
- God wants to reconcile us to Himself so we can fulfill our purpose (2 Corinthians 5:18).
- God gave us the sanctuary as a means of returning back to God (Exodus 25:8-9; Psalm 77:13).
- The sanctuary is where our sins get recorded.
- Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the repented sins were covered by the blood of the sacrifice and the people were cleansed.
- The sins were put on the scapegoat (Leviticus 16:21-22; Romans 6:23).
- At the end of the Day of Atonement, God had a clean sanctuary and clean people.

Examples for spiritual Israel

1 Corinthians 10:11: Now all these things happened unto them for **examples**: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

The purpose of the Day of Atonement was to cleanse the Israelites from their sins in preparation for being presented before God.

Leviticus 16:16, 30: And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, *because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel*, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, *that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.*

The Israelites on the Day of Atonement:

Leviticus 16:29-34: 29 And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, **ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all**, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you:

30 For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, **that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.**

31 It shall be **a sabbath of rest** unto you, and **ye shall afflict your souls**, by a statute for ever.

32 And **the priest**, whom he shall anoint, and whom he shall consecrate to minister in the priest's office in his father's stead, **shall make the atonement**, and shall put on the linen clothes, even the holy garments:

33 And **he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary**, and he shall make **an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation**, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, **and for all the people of the congregation.**

34 And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins **once a year**. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

Frame of mind during the Day of Atonement

Leviticus 23:27-28: 27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: **it shall be an holy convocation unto you;** and ye shall afflict your souls, and **offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.** 28 And ye shall **do no work** in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

Frame of mind during the Day of Atonement

Holy convocation / assembly:

- Holy relationships.
- Keep our minds on holiness; this brings us peace (Isaiah 26:3).
- To strengthen each other.
- Practice holiness throughout the week so when can lift each other up with praises to God at church.

Frame of mind during the Day of Atonement

Afflict ourselves:

- Examine ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5).
- Ask if there's still sin in our lives.
- Fast from unholy things (Ezra 8:21).

Frame of mind during the Day of Atonement

Sacrifice made by fire:

- Offer ourselves as a living and loving sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2).
- God is fire (Hebrews 12:29).
- God is love (1 John 4:8).
- Surrender our choices (Galatians 2:20; STC p. 47)

Surrender: “Many are inquiring, ‘How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?’ You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are **weak in moral power**, in slavery to doubt, and **controlled by the habits of your life of sin**. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. **What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will.** The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. **You cannot change your heart**, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; **but you can choose to serve Him**. You can give Him your will; **He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure.** Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; **your affections will be centered upon Him**, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.”

Frame of mind during the Day of Atonement

Do no work:

- Removal from secular activity.
- Secular activity distracts us from what is holy.

Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

1 John 2:21: I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

“Satan invents unnumbered schemes to occupy our minds, **that they may not dwell upon the very work with which we ought to be best acquainted.** The archdeceiver hates the great truths that bring to view an atoning sacrifice and an all-powerful **mediator.** He knows that with him everything depends on his **diverting minds from Jesus and His truth....**

“Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour’s mediation should **permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God.** The precious hours, **instead of being given to pleasure,** to display, or to gain seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the word of truth. **The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God.** All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest....

“Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or **to occupy the position which God designs them to fill**. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. **Each has a case pending at the bar of God**. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. **How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened**, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days....”

“All who have received the light upon these subjects are to bear testimony of the great truths which God has committed to them. The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ’s work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the **utmost importance** that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them.”

The Great Controversy, E.G. White, page 488-489

- The purpose of the antitypical Day of Atonement is to finish the work of sanctification in the hearts and character of God's people.
- In finishing this work, as God's people respond and come out of spiritual Babylon, the Antichrist will react by making his final moves by enforcing the mark of the beast.
- This finished work will produce the 144,000, who will stand firm in the enforcement of the mark of the beast and vindicate the righteous and just character of God.

**This is what Jesus is working for.
He is waiting on us to learn
these truths and humbly
respond by coming out of all
false systems of worship and
giving up our sins.**

**This response on our part will
allow God to work within us to
complete His purpose for
creating us.**

- The sanctuary points us to the Law of God...the Ten Commandments.
- It is the moral character of God written as the standard by which we should live.
- The authority of God is established by Him being the Creator.
- The sanctuary points us back to God as our Creator and to direct all worship to Him only.
- God established a sign that would reveal to His people that they were worshipping the Creator.
- In the last days, this sign will distinguish between God's people and Satan's people.