

YOM KIPPUR
JAMIE MCNAB
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Fighting and wars ... decade after decade ... Iraq ... North Korea ... Myanmar ... 2 world wars ... civil war in Syria (400,000 dead ... over 5 million who've fled). Always hunger ... deprivation ... sickness and disease ...in our Western World corruption in business and politics ... crime ... drugs and violence.

The World is in a bad way. Has been for thousands of years and likely to get much worse!

No peace on this earth! No prospect of any lasting peace! Man doesn't know the way to peace. It is a spiritual problem.

At this season ... we tend to focus on the World Tomorrow and the return of the Lord Jesus ... the Millennium . Good news!

The actual return to the earth of the Lord Jesus is the key element to good news of the World-to-come. But there is a bit more to solving the world's problems ... and bringing in lasting peace ... than "just" the return of Jesus Christ.

This day shows WHY the world is the way it is ... WHY all of the troubles ... and HOW God is going to go about creating an environment of peace.

Satan hates this day ... but it is the best possible news.

We could start by asking: What exactly is behind the world's troubles?

Or ... maybe ... WHO is behind the violence ... the hate ... the perversion ... right now and for the 6,000 years of man's history?

Today's world's leaders don't know. They have no understanding . A major omission in their grasp of world affairs. Is it just "natural" for the world to be this way?

We can know the true source of the world's problems.

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)

9 **So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

Revelation 12:13 (NKJV)

13 **Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.**

Revelation 12:17 (NKJV)

17 **And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Satan deceives the whole world ... and they don't know it. The world is in darkness ... and doesn't know the way forward.

What is the effect of his involvement/influence:

- verse 12 ... great wrath ... great affliction
- verse 13 ... persecution
- verse 17 ... makes war

As long as satan is around ...

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NKJV)

3 **But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,**

4 **whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**

The god of this age ... blinds people's minds. You can't see the way forward ... you can't see the truth. Hence ... the world is in a mess.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV)

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
2 **in which you once walked according to the course of this world,** according to **the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,**

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

(NLT) obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.

(NCV) the ruler of the evil powers that are above the earth

John 8:44 (NKJV)

44 **You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.**

In the words of Jesus ... satan was a murderer ... a liar ... and the Pharisees reflected his nature.

The whole world's problems are spiritual and satan is the main cause.

There can be no lasting peace yet. The whole world is at-one with satan. They are not dealing with the problem.

This Holy Day reveals the answer ... it shows us how satan will be dealt with ...and got rid of ... and how the whole world will eventually have lasting peace.

A time when there will be no invisible devil and demons to deceive and influence.

Leviticus 23:26-32 (NKJV)

26 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

27 "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.**

28 **And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God.**

29 For **any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people.**

30 And **any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people.**

31 You shall do no manner of work; **it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations** in all your dwellings.

32 **It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath.**”

The Day of Atonement = Yom Kippur ... in Hebrew.

Atonement in the English dictionary:

- a contraction of two English words “at” + “one”
- from the Latin “to unite”
- to reconcile

Bringing back into unity ... to make one those who have been separated. To make them once again “at one”.

Hebrew: Kaphar ... to cover ... forgive ... to reconcile. The basic meaning: to cover ... as in cover sins. If our sins are covered ... we can now be reconciled to God and at one with Him.

Afflict Your Souls ... some translations: humble yourselves. One says ... practice self-denial. (Orthodox Jews abstain from eating and drinking ... washing ... lotions or perfumes ... won't wear leather shoes)

Basically ... to fast from food and drink. Ezra 8:21; Isa 58:3

Not a Feast Day ... a Fast Day!

But ... Holy Day ... Sabbath ... appointed time to meet with God.

So here we are today keeping the Fast ... the Day of Atonement.

But ... what does it mean? What lessons does God want us to learn by keeping this day? Answer: One of the clearest teachings of any Holy Day. Ancient Israel ... particularly the High Priest ... were required to

act out a play ... quite a drama ... of great importance ... once per year on this day. We are going to follow that story.

Leviticus 16:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered profane fire before the Lord, and died;

2 and **the Lord said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die;** for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.

Leviticus 16:3-4 (NKJV)

3 "Thus **Aaron** shall come into the Holy Place: with the blood of a young bull as a sin offering, and of a ram as a burnt offering.

4 He **shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These are holy garments. Therefore he shall wash his body in water, and put them on.**

Leviticus 16:5 (NKJV)

5 **And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering.** (2 he-goats ... 2 shaggy goats. These are what we will be focusing on today.)

Leviticus 16:7-8 (NKJV)

7 **He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.**

8 **Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord (Jehovah), and the other lot for the escapegoat. (Azazel)**

Azazel: One commentary "there can be no doubt that Azazel is a personal ... a superhuman and an evil being. Early Christian writers identified Azazel with satan". We are going to do that today.

Leviticus 16:9 (NKJV)

9 **And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering.**

Jehovah's goat ... sacrificed. Its blood shed.

Leviticus 16:10 (NKJV)

10 **But the goat on which the lot fell to be the escapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the escapegoat into the wilderness.**

Two Goats ... two stories. One will die ... one will live. Let's look at each in turn.

Firstly ... the goat representing JEHOVAH.

Leviticus 16:15-17 (NKJV)

15 **“Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.**

16 **So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins;** and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.
17 There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel.

The blood of the goat ... representing Jesus ... was to make “at one” ... to reconcile the people to God.

What the High Priest acted out ... was fulfilled by our High Priest ... Jesus Christ ... in the New Testament. The meaning is explained in Hebrews.

Hebrews 9:1-10 (NKJV)

1 Then indeed, **even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.**

2 **For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; (the Holy Place)**

3 and **behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All,**

4 which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; 5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, **the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.**

7 **But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;** *(talking clearly about today ... the Day of Atonement)*

8 **the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.** *(no one had access)*

9 It was symbolic for the present time in which both **gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience—**

10 concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until a time of reformation.

The physical version of the heavenly temple. Of very limited value ... vastly inferior to reality. The people could not enter the Holy of Holies ... the priests couldn't either. Just one man ... once a year.

Lesson: there was no real access to God in an intimate personal way.

In the main ... spiritual salvation was not available to Ancient Israel (and less so to others).

But:

Hebrews 9:11-14 (NKJV)

11 But **Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.**

12 **Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 **how much more shall the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

Jesus ... our High Priest ... entered the Holy of Holies once for all ... carrying His own blood. His blood is powerful and precious ... and does more than any animal's blood.

Notice verse 14. Jesus' blood purified our conscience (cleanses ... makes our consciences clear ... as far as God is concerned) ... washes us clean.

Jesus' blood washes our minds and conscience. Makes us fit to appear before God ... completely clean and purified. Our old useless deeds and tainted minds/conscience washed clean. Now ... you and I are more able to be at-one with God ... completely reconciled/at ease. We can now come boldly before God.

Hebrews 9:22-28 (NKJV)

22 And **according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**

23 **Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.**

24 **For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;**

25 **not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—**

26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; **but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

28 **so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.** To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Hebrews 10:1-4 (NKJV)

1 **For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.**

2 **For then would they not have ceased to be offered?** For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.

3 **But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.**

4 **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.**

The Law can't make you perfect. It is not possible for the physical sacrifices to take away sins. They can't eradicate sinful nature ... bring peace of mind to us ... nor make us better people. Though they were good lessons in their day.

Hebrews 10:11-18 (NKJV)

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 **But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,**

13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

14 **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,

16 **"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"**

17 then He adds, **"Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."**

18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

Jesus paid the price once ... for all.

Hebrews 10:19-23 (NKJV)

19 **Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,**

20 **by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,**

21 and **having a High Priest over the house of God,**
22 **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**
23 **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**

We can enter the Holiest ... Boldly! The whole point of the comparison ... so much better ... superior. Completely washed ... clear ... reconciled. Completely at-one.

For us individually ... now. But soon? The whole world.

Romans 5:1-2 (NKJV)

1 **Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (not anxious ... not with trepidation)**
2 **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,** and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:8-11 (NKJV)

8 **But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
9 Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.**
10 **For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**
11 And not only that, but **we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

All of our sins ... our offences ... our failures ... our embarrassments ... as far as God is concerned ... they are all washed away. Washed in the Blood of The Lamb. Completely erased. Now reconciled to the Father by that blood ... together ... at-one ... at peace. Thanks to the blood brought before the Throne.

That's a great message. The message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

18 **Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,**

19 that is, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God.**

21 **For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

Eventually ... the whole world will be reconciled to God. God has done His part ... Jesus His ... just once ... but ... it's done. In the World Tomorrow ... hundreds of millions will understand the truth ... and can choose.

But that then brings us to Part 2 of the story ... the Azazel Goat.

We can't expect the whole world to be at peace ... can't have reconciliation worldwide ... lasting reconciliation ... whilst there is still a dangerous spiritual enemy on the loose. As long as there's an active liar ... murderer ... tempter ... deceiver ... on the loose ... you could not have lasting peace. The world's biggest spiritual terrorist going about ... seeking whom he may devour and destroy.

Satan is the origin of much of man's sin ... violence and perversion. He is the main source. He has got to be dealt with. The problem of satan has to be solved.

The Day of Atonement gives the answer ... shows us in advance how complete reconciliation ... of the whole world ... will take place. Satan hates this day.

Leviticus 16:20-22 (NKJV)

20 "**And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat. (Azazel)**

21 Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man.

22 The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

Leviticus 16:26 (NKJV)

26 And he who released the goat as the escapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

Are the sins of the people being put on this goat? But all of the sins were put on the other goat ... represented by the blood taken into the Holy of Holies ... for the sins of all of the people. Then ... the blood of Jesus reconciled us to the Father. All of our sins were washed away ... erased ... forgiven.

So. How can there be any further sin to be put on the Azazel goat? Wasn't Christ's death adequate? What's this goat all about?

Well actually ... there are two parties involved in our sins and the sins of the world:

1. US ... we get careless ... we yield to temptation ... sometimes rebellion ... our decision ultimately. We make that choice ... we are accountable.
2. SATAN ... he is involved in our sins ... he is the tempter ... the deceiver ... one who works in the children of disobedience. He's been the instigator ... the outlaw.

Satan bears a very large part of the blame ... deceiver of the whole world ... destroyer ... liar ... murderer ... right from the Garden of Eden.

It is only right and just that Satan's part in the world's sin ... and all evil the world's endured ... is made clear and plain to everyone. So all can see it. See the instigator ... the source and origin of the world's troubles ... can be identified publicly ... judged then taken away from the presence of God and man.

Think of the analogy I have used in the past: a shady businessman wants to get rid of his competitor (Mafia) ... puts out a contract. Hires a hitman to gun down his competitor. Hopefully ... the police track down the gun man and deal with him. He pulled the trigger ... he was the actual killer ... the actual sinner. Surely justice requires that you take action also against the instigator ... he can't be allowed to escape scot-free ... just as guilty ... he's the mind behind the crime.

God's made provision for our sins to be dealt with ... forgiven. But also ... God is going to publicly display satan and satan's part ... put his guilt back on his head ... as pictured by the Azazel goat. I think we will see that happening. Satan having his guilt placed on his head ... then to be taken away from mankind ... no longer to cause trouble in the Millennium.

Hopefully ... that big event is not too far away!

Revelation 19:11-16 (NKJV)

11 **Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.** And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 **He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.**

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

15 **Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

16 And **He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

Jesus returning.

Revelation 19:19-20 (NKJV)

19 **And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse**

and against His army. (The presidents/prime ministers “ganging up” to attack Jesus)

20 **Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet** who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. **These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

Revelation 20:1-3 (NKJV)

1 **Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.**

2 **He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;**

3 and **he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.**

Satan gone for 1,000 years. He won't be deceiving the nations then.

That's great news. After 6,000 years of deception... influencing mankind ... corrupting mankind ... keeping them blinded to the truth ... behind wars ... the cruelty ... the torture ... the barbarism ... religious deception ... racism. After 6,000 long years ... he's gone! Silence reigns supreme where he was before!

Imagine a world with no satan ... no demons.

Now the whole world can be free ... to be completely reconciled to God ... to be at one with Him. No opposition any longer! To enjoy a wonderful world ... good health ... prosperity ... strong healthy families ... to know the Truth.

And the whole world at one with God. That's the great picture of today.

So ... we've followed the story of 2 goats.

The meaning of the Day of Atonement. This is just about the best news the world could ever have ... if they only knew it. Then ... like us ... they could look forward to the reality and fulfilment of the Day of Atonement ... and a world of peace and great joy ... and finally at one with God.

