

YOM KIPPUR – DAY OF ATONEMENT 2013

The Jews as a whole kept Yom Kippur this past Saturday, four days early. According to God's calendar and the new moon, Atonement is today and began at sunset Monday evening. How can it be that the Jews are observing all God's fall holy days four days early? Does it really matter what days we keep? There is a lot of confusion about the holy days. Some people just give up, quit and say, "Who cares"? I tell you, there is someone who cares—God cares! The Feast of Atonement is the one feast day in the year when we fast without food or water. We concentrate on feasting spiritually with God, but fast physically.

In **Leviticus 23:1-44**, Almighty God gave his holy days to Israel. Verse 2—"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, concerning the feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts." These feasts belong to God. Verses 3-4—"Six days shall work be done: But the **seventh day is the Sabbath of rest**, a holy convocation; you shall **do no work** therein: it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings. These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations which you shall proclaim in their seasons." *Note*: this is not just anytime or your own human reasoning's, but at God's appointed time. The Hebrew word *moadem* means appointed times and festivals. God's appointed times in the spring are:

Verse 5—**Passover**—"In the **14th day** of the first month at even is the Lord's Passover."—Nisan 14.

Verse 6—**Feast of Unleavened Bread**—"On the **15th day** of the same month is the feast of Unleavened Bread unto the Lord: seven days you must eat unleavened bread. In the first day you shall have a *holy convocation*: you shall *do no servile work therein*. In the 7th day is a holy convocation: you shall do no servile work therein." Verses 10-14—"When you come into the land which I give you and reap the harvest of the thereof, bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest unto the priest. *He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord*, to be accepted for you: **on the morrow (next day) he shall wave it**." Verse 14—"You shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that you have brought an offering unto your God: *it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings*."

Verse 15—**Pentecost**—"And you shall **count** unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath (annual) from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; **seven Sabbaths (weeks)** shall be **complete (49 days)** and the morrow after the 7th Sabbath (the 50th day) you shall proclaim on the selfsame day a holy convocation and offer an offering. Do no servile work therein: *it shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations*."

Verse 24—**Trumpets**—"Moses, speak to the children of Israel and say, "In the seventh month, *in the first day of the month*, shall you have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no servile work therein. You shall offer an offering"—Tishri 1.

Verse 27—**Atonement**—"Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be a holy convocation unto you; and you shall afflict (fasting) your souls (body), you shall do no work and offer an offering. It is a day to make an atonement for you before the Lord your God"—Tishri 10. Verses 29-32—"whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted or whatsoever soul (person) that does any manner of work that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. It shall be to you a Sabbath of rest, and you shall afflict your souls: in the 9th day of the month at even, from even unto

even, shall you celebrate your Sabbath.” This is a Sabbath of Sabbaths (*Shabbat Sabbaton*)— a very important day and the penalty for breaking it is death (cut off from the people of God).

Leviticus 23:35—*Feast of Tabernacles*—“The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of Tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord. You shall dwell in booths seven days and on the first day you shall take boughs of goodly trees: palm, thick trees, willows and rejoice before the Lord your God seven days. On the first day shall be a holy convocation and on the eighth (Shemni Atzeret-Hoshanah Rabbah): you shall do no servile work therein and the day shall be a holy convocation unto you; and you shall offer an offering. It is a solemn assembly; and you shall do no servile work therein.”

Today I read an editorial by Pat Boone that reminded me of having read the story, “The Man without a Country” by Edward Everett Hale. In this classic story, US Army Lt. Phillip Nolan (a fictional figure) is upset with his assignment to a remote outpost with no possibility for promotion. He develops a friendship with the visiting Aaron Burr, who plans to form a new country in the lands west of the Mississippi River. When Burr is tried for treason, Nolan is tried as an accomplice. During his testimony, he bitterly renounces his nation angrily shouting, “I wish I may never hear of the U.S. again!” The judge was completely shocked at this announcement, and on convicting him, icily grants him his wish; he is to spend the rest of his life in exile on U.S. Navy warships at sea. With no right ever again to set his foot on U.S. soil, and with explicit orders that no one shall ever mention his country to him again. No crew member can mention anything about the United States within his hearing, and in the books he is allowed to read, all references to the U.S. are removed. Deprived of a homeland, Nolan slowly and painfully learns the true worth of his country. He misses it more than his friends or family, more than art or music or love or nature. Without it he is nothing. Dying he shows his room to an officer named Danforth; it is “a little shrine” of patriotism, The Stars and Stripes are draped around a picture of George Washington. Over his bed, Nolan has painted a bald eagle, with lighting “blazing from his beak” and claws grasping the globe. At the foot of his bed was an outdated map of the U.S. showing many of its old territories that had, unbeknown to him been admitted to statehood. “Here, you see, I have a country!”

WND- Interestingly, Pat Boone, popular singer in and film actor in the 1950-‘60’s , and well known Christian wrote a June 2009 editorial, entitled “The President Without a Country” –which he used the analogy of Philip Nolan to President Obama for not sufficiently acknowledging America’s Christian heritage. He stated, “The last few pages of the story recounting Nolan’s death never fail to bring me to tears. And I find my own love for this dream this miracle called America, refreshed and renewed. I know how blessed and unique we are.” In his editorial, Boone expresses that President Obama does not sufficiently acknowledge America’s Christian heritage.

Obama’s statement as quoted at the head of Boone’s editorial was, “You might say that America is a Muslim nation.” It is possible this quote is a rewording of a statement Obama made in a radio interview before departing for Egypt: “One of the points I want to make is, is that if you actually took the number of Muslim Americans, we’d be one of the largest Muslim counties in the world.” Obama told CBS in June 2007, “Whatever we once were, we are no longer a Christian nation - at least not just. We are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, and a Hindu nation and a nation of nonbelievers.” In 2009, he said, we “do not consider ourselves a Christian nation at all.” Besides denying that America is a Christian nation in his April 6 news conference in Turkey, President Obama told the Turkish Parliament on the same day: “We will convey our deep appreciation for the Islamic faith, which has done so much over the centuries to shape the world—including in my own country.”

After noting comments made by President Obama, these are a few of the thoughts expressed in Pat Boone’s editorial. “Thinking about these and other statements made by the man who wears the title of

President I keep wondering , what country he believes he’s president of. But reading and hearing the audacious, shocking statements of the man who was recently elected our president –a young black man living the impossible dream of a million of young Americans, past and present, black and white – I want to ask him, ‘Just what country do you think you’re president of? Surely you can’t be referring to the United States of America, can you?’ America is emphatically a Christian nation, and has been from its inception! Seventy percent of her citizens identify themselves as Christian. The Declaration of Independence and our Constitution were framed, written and ratified by Christians. It’s because this was, and is, a nation built on and guided by Judeo-Christian biblical principles that you, sir, have had the inestimable privilege of being elected her president.” As illustrated in “The Man without a Country” people can bring curses upon themselves.

Bringing curses upon one’s self is common today. Whole nations have violated and rejected the laws of God. The astonishing fact is that every nation on earth has rejected the laws of God; even though they may pretend to observe them they are partial in the law. The Roman calendar is the traditional calendar of the West. The Jews used to visually observe the new moons to declare the new month (kodesh) and the New Year began with the new moon nearest the spring equinox. When the Jews were taken captive in 135 A.D. by the Romans during the Bar Kokvah Rebellion, they were driven out of Judea and scattered through the nations. In 325 A.D. the Jews were forbidden to have a Sanhedrin, their religious law making body. They addressed the problem of how they could, as a nation, keep the holy days because the new moons were no longer declared by the function of the Sanhedrin. It was decided in 358 A.D. that they would use ancient mathematical methods of calculating the new moons in advance which could be done in advance for hundreds of years based on the nineteen year time cycle. It was also decided to use automatic postponements so that they would not have an annual fast day next to a weekly Sabbath day and changed the calendar to preserve their man created traditions. This year the Jews observed Atonement (Yom Kippur) on the weekly Sabbath day four days off this year. God said, “these are my holy days which you shall observe at the appointed times” and are to be kept throughout all your generations.

Deuteronomy 4:2—“you shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish anything from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your god which I command you.” **Malachi 3:6**—“**I am the Lord, I change not**; therefore you sons of Jacob are not consumed.” Today is the 10th day of the seventh month counting from the new moon seen by the Karaite Jews in Jerusalem. These are plain, simple facts and easy to understand. It is not beyond the capability of men to prove the truth. Following “tradition” has become more important, as sung in “The Fiddler on the Roof” musical. I respect the Jews for hanging on to their identity of who they are and keeping the weekly Sabbath. God is calling all of mankind in the world to repentance.

Psalms 103:1-18—“*Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits. Who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all your diseases. Who redeems your life from destruction; who crowned you with loving- kindness and tender mercies. Who satisfies your mouth with good things; so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The Lord executes righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide; neither will he keep his anger forever. He has not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.*” Verse 17—“But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children ‘to such as keep his covenant and to those that remember his commandments to do them.’”

This is the only day in the year when the high priest in Israel was allowed to go into the holy of holies. Reference: *The Temple, It's Ministries and Services* by Alfred Edersheim, pg.241. On this day the whole nation of Israel was forgiven, exonerated, made pure, justified and cleansed. The high priest made atonement for: the holy sanctuary, the tabernacle of the congregation, the altar, the priests, and all the people of the congregation. Everything was cleansed. The sin offerings all year around showed the insufficiency of all those sacrifices though out the year. The very offerings of the Day of Atonement themselves were only temporary and provisional, until the time of reformation and the time of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world.

The Jews do not see the primary role that Christ has in the Day of Atonement. To my mind the book of Hebrews in the New Testament was written for the Jews and the priesthood to explain the meanings of the temple and the tabernacle and all the sacrifices and the utensils and ordinances related to the temple and the blood offerings of the clean animals that depicts the supreme sacrifice of Christ, the Son of God. He came to earth to be the payment for our sins. **2 Corinthians 5:18**—"All things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto him self, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and has committed unto us the word of reconciliation (forgiveness). Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us before you in Christ's behalf. Be you reconciled to God. For He made Jesus Christ to be sin for us (our sin offering), who knew no sin: so that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Christ died for us.

John the Baptist came proclaiming the ministry of Christ. He saw Christ walking with his disciples and said, "Behold the Lamb of God who *takes away the sin of the world.*" **John 3:16**—"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. He sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him should be saved (have everlasting life).

Some Messianic so-called Christian preachers say the book of Hebrews is not inspired and doesn't belong in the Bible, because they can't reconcile it. They don't know what they are talking about. It was part of the original canon of the New Testament. The high priest that performed the sacrifices on the Day of Atonement had to perform that same cleansing duty every year, year after year for the sins of the priests and the people. **Hebrews 9:1-15**—explains the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. The tabernacle was prepared: the first part (first room) in which was the lamp-stand, the table and the showbread—called the Holy Place. Behind the second veil (curtain) was a room called the most Holy Place 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 stone tablets of the covenant. Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. When these things had been thus prepared, the priests entered regularly into the outer room performing the daily services.

"But only the high priest entered the inner room alone and only once a year and never without blood which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance; the Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. It was symbolic for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered could not make him that did the service perfect in regard to the conscience—*which stood only in meats and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.* It did not change the human nature of the people. Those fleshly ordinances/exercises applied until the reformation (new order) when God would send Christ. "*Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is, not part of this creation.*" He came to fulfill all this

symbolism of the various sacrifices and be our sacrifice to God without spot or blemish. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but he gave his own blood. He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more then shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse your conscience from acts that lead to death (dead works) to serve the living God? For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, by means of death for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant.”

How could Christ do this? It was possible because he was the very son of God, the Creator. He made us—created us—we ourselves. Christ is more valuable than all our lives put together. As it says in **Genesis 1:26**—God said, “*let us make man in our own image*”—after our likeness—God the Father and God the Son. In **Genesis 1:1** the original Hebrew words *barasheet barah elohim ha shimaim vet ha aeretz* we normally translate “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” But *barasheet barah* also has another meaning in Hebrew – “*in the Son*”—“in the Son, God he created the heavens and the earth In the New Testament, **John 1:1** says, “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**” The Word was the one who became Christ, the Logos. He created everything that there is. Nothing exists that he didn’t make. Life itself was in him, and this life gives light to everyone.

John 1:6-9—“there was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.” “The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. **Genesis 1:3**—“And God said let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good.” **John 1:10-14**—“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world would not recognize him. He came to his own and his own did not receive him.” The Jews rejected him and most of the Jews still reject him today—the Light, the Word, the Son of God. “But as many as received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children who born not of the blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man (of natural descent and human decision), but born of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:15—“John bore witness (testifies) of Him and cried out, saying, ‘this is he of whom I said, He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me’.” “From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. The law was given through Moses; but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten son who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.” Christ came down from heaven and became a human being born of the Virgin Mary and was rejected by his own. The stone that the builders rejected has become the head cornerstone—Messiah our Savior—who gave his life for us. **Hebrews 9:11**—When Christ became a high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, not a part of this creation made by human hands that is part of this human world. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves, but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time by his own blood having obtained (secured) eternal redemption. By the power of the Eternal Holy Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more the blood of Christ will purify our hearts from deeds that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God.” Christ set us free from the penalty of our sins and

now is at the right hand of God as our Mediator and High Priest who is coming soon to bring us to him self.

Hebrews 9:16-22—“In the case of a will (testament), it is necessary to prove the death of the one (testator) who made it. For a testament (will) is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people.” He said, “This is the blood of the testament, which God has commanded you to keep.” In the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. “According to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (remission).”

Verses 23-28—“Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands which are the copies of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of him-self. Just as man is destined to die once and after that face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to bear the sins of many. Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people, and **he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**”

Hebrews 10:1—“The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming— not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by these same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year make perfect those who come to worship. For then would they not be ceased to be offered? For the worshippers once purified, would have no more consciousness of sins (felt guilty for their sins). But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because **it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**” When we celebrate Atonement every year it is a reminder of sin, God’s plan and the price paid for it to be removed so that we can be reconciled to God. Only Christ our Messiah was perfect without sin and qualified to take away our sins. He willingly shed his blood for us.—more important to God than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices is that we as a living sacrifice, Christ said in **Mark 12:33**—“love him with all your heart, and with all your mind (understanding), and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself.”

Isaiah 53 is a chapter that is not found in the Jews’ *Haftorah* nor included in their parsha (readings). They rarely refer to this chapter other than when they have to answer questions about “Messiah”. It is about the sacrifice of Christ who has borne our sins. “To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? My servant grew up in the Lord’s present like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root out of a dry ground. He had no form or comeliness, and when we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him (nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him). He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. We hid, as it were, our faces from Him. Surely, he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. Yet, we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and *by his stripes we are healed*. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.”

“Who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living, for the transgression of my people was he stricken. He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was ay deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when you shall make his soul an offering for sin he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he has poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; made intercession for the transgressors.” He became our atonement.

On the Day of Atonement the high priest chose two identical goats of the same size, sex, color, and same level of ritual purity. By lot one was picked to be sacrificed to the Lord for all the sins of all Israel. The second goat, Azazel (named after Azaza) was not for the Lord, but represented Azazel. The name in Hebrew means the mighty one of God. Azazel was to be presented alive to the Lord. Its horns were tied with a piece of dyed red wool around its horns and that goat was to be used for making atonement to the Lord by sending it into desert wilderness led by a fit man. The first goat for the Lord that was sacrificed for the sins of all Israel depicted Christ the Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. **Leviticus 16:21**—“After the first goat was sacrificed and the high priest finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar, he is to lay both hands on the head of the Azazel goat and confesses over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites. The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place; and the man shall release it in the desert.” Christ—the Word of and Son of God—was resurrected and now sits at the right hand of the Father’s throne in heaven.

The Azazel goat does not represent Christ the Eternal, but represents the great cherubim and celestial twin that covered the throne of God until iniquity was found in him. This cherub, Lucifer, rebelled against God. A third of the angels in heaven rebelled with him and they were cast down to the earth with him. This is mentioned in **Ezekiel 28** and in the book of Enoch. Pride filled his heart with rebellion and murder. **John 8:40-44** – speaks of Satan the devil as a liar and the father of lies and a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. **Verses 12,25,and 42**—when the Pharisees and the Jews asked, who are you? “Aren’t you demon possessed?” Christ answered them, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” “I have come from God and now am here.” **Verse 48**—“I am not possessed by a demon, but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.” **Verses 55-58**—“Of myself, I am nothing. My Father whom you claim as your God is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” “You are not even 50 years old,” the Jews said to him, “and you have seen Abraham?” “Before Abraham was born, I AM.”

Christ was the Logos. Satan the devil is the father of liars, and the prince of the Power of the Air on earth. At the coming of Christ he will be cast into the bottomless pit in the earth beneath Babylon. There he will be bound for 1,000 years. He will be cast in the Lake of Fire by God and consumed. He will be judged and pay the penalty for all his rebellion and the things it has caused. The redemption of the righteous and all those who accept Christ as their Savior, serve and follow him. He commands us “take up your cross and follow me.” If we do, we will follow him into glory.