

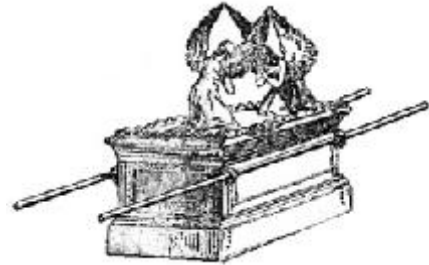
“The Ark & The Atonement”

Sabbath Workshop 9/23/06

“Speak to the children of Yisrael saying “In the seventh month on the first day of the month, you have a rest, a remembrance of blowing of trumpets, a set apart gathering. You do no servile work, and you shall bring an offering made by fire to Yahweh.” (Leviticus 23:24-25)

I. The Ark Of The Covenant

1. The Ark of The Covenant was the last piece of furniture in the Tabernacle, yet it was built first according to Yahweh’s specifications:



“And they shall make an ark of Acacia wood two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide and a cubit and a half high. And you shall overlay it with clean gold, inside and outside you shall overlay it. And you shall make on it a moulding of gold all around. And you shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners, two rings on one side, and two rings on the other side. And you shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold, and shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to lift up the ark by them. The poles are in the rings of the ark they are not taken from it. And into the ark you shall put the Witness which I give you. And you shall make a lid of atonement of clean gold, two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. And you shall make two cherubim of gold, make them of beaten work at the two ends of the lid of atonement, and make one cherub at one end and the other cherub at the other end. Make the cherubim from the lid of atonement at its two ends. And the cherubim shall be spreading out their wings above, covering the lid of atonement with their wings, with their faces toward each other, the faces of the cherubim toward the lid of atonement. And you shall put the lid of atonement on top of the ark and put into the ark the Witness which I give you. And I shall meet with you there, and from above the lid of atonement, from between the two cherubim which are on the Ark of Witness, I shall speak to you all that which I command you concerning the children of Israel.” (Exodus 25:10-22)

2. Acacia is the English translation of the Hebrew word “shittim”. This wood comes from the shittah tree and is incorruptible. This ark, like the table of shewbread is made of shittim wood and is overlaid with gold.

3. This was the actual meeting place. Yahweh spoke and said He would meet with the priest from above the lid of the mercy seat from between the two cherubim.

4. The Ark in Scripture represents preservation. There were three arks seen in Scripture.

Noah's Ark, The Ark of Moses, and The Ark of the Covenant. The Ark is the most important piece of furniture in the entire Tabernacle.

5. The Ark was carried on 4 rings of gold representing balanced truth to the four corners of the earth. There were staves put through the rings in order for the ark to be carried without it being touched. The staves were to remain in the Ark at all times. This same Ark is also the one that resided in the Tabernacle of David and the Temple of Solomon. This illustrates the Scripture where Yahweh states *“Go and you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus said Yahweh, “You do not build me a house to dwell in. For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent and from one Dwelling place to another.”* (1 Chronicles 17:4-5)

6. Father spoke to Aaron from above the mercy seat. (Exodus 25:22)

“And when Moses went into the Tent of Meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to Him from above the lid of atonement that was on the ark of the Witness, from between the two cherubim. Thus He spoke to him.” (Numbers 7:89)

The Mercy Seat represented Yahshua Messiah, this is why there was **blood** upon it. The blood was placed between the two cherubim on top of the mercy seat. Yahweh's voice was only heard through the blood upon the lid of atonement (mercy seat). It was the blood of Yahshua that transformed the seat of judgement to a throne of grace.

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:21-26 & Luke 18:9-14

In Luke 18 we read of a man asking the Father for mercy. The word used there literally translates to mercy - seated. When he says “Elohim! Be merciful to me a sinner!” He literally asked the Father to be mercy-seated unto him.

In the Tabernacle we see two illustrations - judgement and mercy. The brazen altar is the judgement seat, the ark of the covenant is the seat of mercy. The mercy seat was a place of atonement, communion, glory, reconciliation, and propitiation.

The cherubim on top of the mercy seat - one represents the work of the Father, the other represents the work of His Ruach (Spirit), the lid itself represents the work of Yahshua Messiah.

“Give ear O Shephard of Yisrael, who lead Joseph like a flock; who dwell between the cherubim. Shine forth!” (Psalm 80:1)

“O Yahweh of hosts, Elohim of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are Elohim, You alone of all the reigns of the earth. You have made the heavens and the earth.” (Isaiah 37:16)

7. Inside the ark were the tables of the law, the golden pot of manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded. (Hebrews 9:3-4)

All contents of the Ark pointed to Yahshua Messiah. He IS:

Tablets of the Law = The Way

The Manna = The Truth

The Rod that Budded = The Life

II. The Fall Feasts

1. The Fall Feasts are comprised of The Feast of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, and The Feast of Tabernacles. There are three months between Shavuot (Pentecost) and Tabernacles. These months were considered dry months because generally during this time, no rain fell.

The Three Mandated Feasts of Yahweh

Passover	Pentecost	3 DRY MONTHS	Tabernacles
Egypt	Sinai	Wilderness Wanderings	Canaan - The Promised Land
1 st Month	3 rd Month		7 th Month
Passover (14 th) Unleavened Bread (15 th) Sheaf of Firstfruits (18 th) Spring Rain / Barley Harvest Marks the New Year	The 50 th day of the counting of the omer (from the Sheaf of Firstfruits) Wheat & Corn Harvest		Feast of Trumpets (1 st day) Day of Atonement (10 th day) Feast of Tabernacles (15 th day) Early / Latter Rain Wine, oil, & fruit harvest.
Prophetic Fulfillment in Scripture			

Yahshua our Passover Lamb - Sacrificed once for all.	The outpouring of the Ruach (Spirit of Yahweh)	Current Age	2 nd Coming of Yahshua Messiah. Millennial Kingdom.
Reference: The Feasts of Israel by Kevin J. Conner			

2. Notice that Father marked the beginning of the year (Passover) and the ending of the harvest season (Tabernacles) with feast days. All of the feast days have spiritual significance.

III. Yom Teruah ~ The Day of the Awakening Blast ~ Feast Of Trumpets

1. Yom Teruah heralds in the New Moon and the Feast of Tabernacles with a call to consecration. Yom Teruah literally means the Day of the Awakening Blast. It is commonly translated and referred to as the Feast of Trumpets. It marks the first day of the seventh month. The number seven marks completion and maturity. In secular Judaism, this is also believed to be Rosh Hashanah or The New Year, however Yahweh, in His word clearly stated that Passover is to mark the New Year for Israel (Exodus 12:2).

2. Instructions for the Feast of Trumpets is given in Numbers 29:1. “And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you have a set apart gathering, you do no servile work, it is a day of blowing the trumpets.”

3. Symbolism of blowing the trumpets: In Israel trumpet blowing marked a specific purpose. We have learned that we are to blow the trumpet to mark the New Moons. In addition to that blowing the shofar was also used for the calling of assemblies, journeying of the camps, calling of the leadership, blowing an alarm, to combat enemy oppression, for a day of gladness, and for solemn assemblies. (Numbers 10)

4. This day of blowing the trumpets is a call to national cleansing in Israel. It points to the Day of Atonement which commences merely 10 days later.

5. What is unique to this festival is that it is the **ONLY** festival in Israel which no man knew the day nor the hour. It could only be calculated by the spotting of the New Moon. The Sanhedrin declared when the New Moon was spotted. Once the court (Sanhedrin) calculated the spotting of the New Moon then the rest of the festivals for that month could be determined. The Sanhedrin was birthed as a result of Deuteronomy 17: 8-13.

“When any matter arises which is too hard for you to judge, between blood and blood, between plea

and plea, or between stroke and stroke, matters of strife within your gates then you shall rise and go up to the place which Yahweh your Elohim chooses, and shall come to the priests the Levites and to the judge who is in those days and shall inquire. And they shall declare to you the word of right ruling. Do according to the Torah in which they teach you, according to the right ruling which they say to you. You do not turn to the right or to the left from the word which they declare to you. And the man who acts arrogantly so as not to listen to the priest who stands to serve there before Yahweh your Elohim or to the judge that man shall die. So you shall purge the evil from Israel. And let all the people hear and fear and no longer do arrogantly.”

A court called the Sanhedrin was formed based upon the above Scripture. It was the highest court in Israel during the time of Yahshua. The Sanhedrin was believed to be the only court that could declare the New Moon. Therefore all of Israel waited for the announcement from the Sanhedrin that the New Moon had been spotted before they commenced Yom Teruah. As a result no one knew the day nor the hour in which that would occur. However, they DID know the SEASON.

Yahshua gave **this same authority** to the body of believers in Matthew 16:18-19 “And I also say to you that you are Kepha (Peter) and on this rock I shall build My assembly and the gates of the grave shall not overcome it. And I shall give you the keys of the reign of the heavens, and whatever you bind on earth shall be having (already) been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loosen on earth shall be (loosened) having been loosened in the heavens.” (Parenthesis mine.)

The terms binding and loosing in Yahshua’s day refers to the activities of the court. The judges were responsible for making decisions based upon the Torah. Whatever decision they made either bound the people to a debt or loosed the people from an obligation. As a result, whenever the Sanhedrin declared the New Moon it was binding upon Israel. If the decision of the court contradicted the Torah it automatically became void (Matthew 15:1-6).

Unfortunately, the modern Jewish calendar has been dramatically altered from the one Yahshua used. During the age of the Temple the court would declare the New Moon by signal fires from the top of the mountain. When that was spotted, additional fires would be lit from mountaintop to mountaintop letting all Jews near and far know that the new month had begun. The Samaritan (enemies of the Jewish people) also began lighting fires on mountains many days before and after the New Moon causing mass confusion and distress. As a result, the sages under the leadership of Hillel II (360 C.E) based the arrival of the New Moon on a mathematical computation.

A new calendar was now in force, and this new calendar had new rules. The new calendar prohibited certain festivals to fall on certain days of the week. For example, the last day of Sukkot was not permitted to fall on Sabbath, and Yom Kippur was not allowed to fall on a 6th day. As a result, man’s changes made the law of Yahweh of no affect.

5. Scripture Reading: Matthew 24:1-36

6. The Fall Festivals are appointments for Yahshua's second coming. When Yahshua spoke of His second coming He distinctly said that of that day "no man knows the day or the hour". Remember, He was speaking to Hebrews who had a Hebraic understanding of Scripture. They knew He was referring to Yom Teruah - The Day of the Awakening Blast! It is **during this time** when Yahshua will return again.

7: Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

8. With a little research we can determine the correct year (current Jewish calendar says we are in the year 5766). Once we determine the true year, we are able to narrow the return of Yahshua down to the season and probably the week, however the day and hour will remain unknown. Therefore we are admonished to watch and pray. The Millennial Kingdom is set to arrive in the year 6,000. Again, the calendar Yahshua was on is not the same one we have today. However we all can see that the year of His return is VERY CLOSE.

IV. The Day Of Atonement ~ Yom Kippur

1. Considered the most sacred day on the Jewish calendar the Day of Atonement is marked with special sacrifices and a solemn assembly. It was the one time out the year when the High Priest was able to enter the most set apart place and atone for all of Israel with a sin offering. The blood of which was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat. It was a high Sabbath day - if broken, death was the result. Yom means "the Day", Kippur means "to cover". This is the day Yahweh covered Israel's sins.

Scripture Readings: Leviticus 23:26-32, Numbers 29:7-11, Leviticus 16

2. This is a day for fasting (afflicting the flesh) not feasting. It was to be held on the 10th day of the seventh month. Ten is the number of trial and testing.

The Ministry of the Day Of Atonement ~ Leviticus 16

Prayer ~ On this day Aaron the high priest was to take the golden censer with his hands full of sweet incense into the most set apart place. When he entered behind the veil he placed the incense into the hot coals in the censer, this resulted in a cloud of smoke which shielded his view of the ark. Incense represents the prayers of the saints (Psalm 141:2). All of Israel was awaiting the result of Aaron's entrance into the most set apart place. If he lived, they would hear the bells of his garments ringing as he returned to the set apart place. If he died, they would have to drag his body out with a rope. The evidence of their Israel's sins being atoned for was the bells that jingled on the priestly garments. If they

heard these bells they knew that Aaron was changing back into his clothes and their sins were fully atoned for until next year.

Cleansing & Righteousness ~ Aaron was to wash himself and change into white linen which represents the righteousness of the saints before going into the most set apart place.

Sacrifices & Atonement~ There were two goats involved with the Day of Atonement. **They had to be as similar as possible.** The High Priest took them to the door of the Tabernacle and presented them to the Father. The high priest selected the function of each goat by casting lots.

According to how the lots fell, One goat was Yahweh's goat. And the other goat was the scapegoat.

Yahweh's goat was killed its blood carried into the most set apart place. The blood was sprinkled seven times on the mercy seat and confessed the sins of the people. After that he went out to the scapegoat, laid his hands (still wet with blood) on it and confessed the sins of the people a second time. The scapegoat was then sent into the wilderness.

1st—Although there were two goats, there was just one offering. Each goat is required for completion.

2nd ---The death of Yahweh's goat illustrated that sin must be covered. Someone or something had to die to cover sin. This was done on the Day of Atonement, the day Father covered the people's sins. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin" (Heb. 9:22).

3rd —The goat was a substitute for the people who rightfully should have shed their own blood. Yahshua Messiah is our substitute (I Peter 1:18).

4th — If the death of the Yahweh's goat pleased the Father, He forgave the people's sins. Yahshua endured a brutal murder and yet it pleased the Father (Isa. 53:10). It wasn't the brutal bloodshed that pleased Him, it was the result of that bloodshed that pleased Him. Many would believe in Yahshua and be saved.

6th---Covering sin isn't enough, the scapegoat was also necessary. Laying on of hands symbolized the transfer of sin into the scapegoat's body. The scapegoat bore the people's sins in his own body. Yahshua is also represented as a scapegoat. Scripture states that "Yahweh has laid on him the iniquity of us all; "Surely he hath borne our griefs; and carried our sorrows" (Isa. 1:4-6). Peter said, "He bore our sins in His own body" (I Pet. 2:24). We have a covering for sin and an alternate body for the sin to be carried in.

7th---Sin must be removed and forgotten. The scapegoat removed the people's sins by carrying it into

the wilderness. They were forgotten forever. Concerning Yahshua, “As far as the east is from the west, So far hath He removed our transgressions from us” (Psa. 103:12).

Father said, “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more” (Heb. 8:12).

The fate of the two goats, one slaughtered, and the other freed, was illustrated at the crucifixion. Two men were brought before Pontius Pilate. We call one Yahshua; The other Barabbas or Bar-abbas. Bar-abbas means Son of Abba or Son of the Father. It's similar to Peter whose name was Simon Barjona (Matt. 16:17). He was Simon son of Jona. The syriac version of the Scriptures state that the first name of Barabbas was also Yahshua (Mathew 27:7). This can also be verified by a modern encyclopedia.

So, two men were brought before Pontius Pilate: One was Yahshua Son of the Father. The other was Yahshua the Messiah Son of Yahweh. It was the custom of the Roman government to forgive and release one Jewish prisoner. Barabbas was scheduled to die for the sins of insurrection, murder and theft (Mk. 15:7; Luke 23:25; Jn. 18:40).

Pontius Pilate brought Yahshua and Barabbas before the crowd. He asked which one do you want released? He thought for sure Barabbas would be persecuted and the people would choose to release Yahshua Messiah. The people released Barabbas. Yahshua was killed like Yahweh's Goat. And Barabbas walked away guilty like the Scapegoat. The High Priest washed his hands after he released the Scapegoat. Pontius Pilate also washed his hands after Barabbas was released. The Scapegoat disappeared into the wilderness. Barabbas just disappeared. Yahshua is symbolized by Yahweh's goat that died to cover the people's sins. We are symbolized as a scapegoat. Just like the Barabbas we are guilty and yet we can walk away from free from our sins.

Side note: Isn't it interesting that the people had to choose between **two different salvations**, one genuine and one counterfeit.

3. **The Seven Times Sprinkling of the Blood:** The blood had to be sprinkled seven times upon the mercy seat. Seven represents a complete, finished work. Once the blood from the spotless lamb was provided for the renewed covenant “Yahshua said “It is finished.” With that He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.” (John 19:30)

4. The Ark of the Covenant is in direct connection to atonement of Israel. In the ark we see represented the work of Yahweh, Yahshua, and the Spirit of Yahweh. The Day of the Awakening Blast is a national call to consecration. The Day of Atonement is the day of fasting and repentance. It is followed by a week long feast and celebration (the Feast of Tabernacles). The Feast of Tabernacles celebrates Yahshua dwelling among us. Before He can do this, we must have the Day of the

Awakening Blast (call to consecration) and the Day of Atonement (national repentance).

V. The New Covenant Fulfillment

1. The blowing of the trumpets is marked with John the Baptist calling the nation to repentance. “Repent! Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” To be “at hand” means that it has arrived!!

2. Yahshua atones for all of Israel by becoming the perfect lamb that was slain making atonement for Israel once and for all.

3. The Feast of Tabernacles has been fulfilled twice, once during the Mosaic covenant when the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. A second time when the Word became flesh again to dwell among us under the Renewed Covenant when Yahshua Messiah was born to Mary & Joseph. It will be fulfilled yet again when Yahshua returns for the ingathering of the saints in the Millennial Kingdom. He will once again tabernacle among us.

VI. Scripture Readings: Hebrews chapters 3-13