



Leviticus 16:30 “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.” **Verse 31:** “It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.” The Heavenly Father has blessed his people with a specific “day” that teaches us how to be cleansed from “sins”. This day is called the day of Atonement. The scripture above said this day must be kept “by a statute for ever.” When and how are we to observe this day?

WHEN?: The day of Atonement is kept on the tenth day of the seventh month. **Leviticus 23:27** “Also on *the tenth day* of this seventh month [The Biblical month is determined by the new moon. See, **Leviticus 23:24** and **Psalms 81:3-4**.] *there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you;*” The beginning of the tenth day the scriptures tells us is in the ninth day at evening (darkness/night). **Leviticus 23:32** “It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.” From the **evening until evening** we are to keep this day holy as a Sabbath afflicting our souls.

HOW?: A day of *rest* where *no work* is to be done. **Leviticus 16:29** “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:” This day must be kept like the weekly seventh day Sabbath which means it’s a day off from work and all your personal labors. When keeping the Sabbath you are not to buy or sell. Read, **Nehemiah 10:31**. No carrying of heavy burdens, or doing chores of any kind. See, **Jeremiah 17:21-22** and **Nehemiah 13:15-22**. No cooking is allowed on this Sabbath day for it is a day to afflict your soul. See, **Exodus 35:2-3**. The day of Atonement is unique from all the other holy days. In that the heavenly Father requires for us to afflict our soul which means to fast (no eating, drinking, or tasting anything) to keep this day holy. This is the only day of the year that he has chosen for us to afflict our spirit by fasting. **Isaiah 58:5** “Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?” **Verse 6:** “Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?” As you can see this day is chosen to free us from wickedness/sin through Jesus Christ. He is the priest that offered himself as a sacrifice for us. That we may focus on repentance/sorrow and learn obedience by submitting our soul and body to the most High’s will. Casting away the evil spirits that we have entertained by repenting with fasting and prayer. Read, **Daniel 9:3-16**, **Daniel 9:24-27**, **Matthew 9:15-17**, and **Matthew 17:16-21**. Fasting means to not eat or drink, in other words put nothing in your mouth; to taste nothing (**Jonah 3:5-7**). **Esther 4:16** “Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink....” The prophecies in the scriptures teach us that those who repent sincerely and keep this day will be blessed with the kingdom of heaven. Read, **Isaiah chapter 58**.

WHO?: Anyone with a soul; **Leviticus 23:29** “For *whatsoever soul* it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.” To not fast on this day is a sin that will get you cut off which means to be destroyed. See **Isaiah 48:18-19**. Like the children of Israel that were in ancient Babylon we must all sanctify this day and call the assembly together for this fast. See, **Joel 2:15-16**.

WHERE?: Any where we are located as it said in the commandment. **Leviticus 23:30** “And *whatsoever soul* it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul **will I destroy** from among his people.” **Verse 31:** “Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.” This is why the most High left us a righteous example in the apostle Paul. Since he kept the day of Atonement although he was in a ship as a prisoner going towards Rome. **Acts 27:9** “Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous [during the fall season], **because THE FAST** [day of Atonement] was now already past, Paul admonished them,” These are the words that the Father (YHWH) commanded us to keep in his Son our atonement. See, **Romans 5:11**. Shalom!

What is the Atonement?

Leviticus 23:27 “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.” **Verse 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.” **Verse 29:** “For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.” **Verse 30:** “And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.” **Verse 31:** “Ye shall do no manner of work: **it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.**” **Verse 32:** “It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.”

Definition: What does the word atonement mean? The Hebrew word is (כפר) which is pronounced in the modern Hebrew as Kippur but in the ancient KaPaR. The Hebrew dictionary defines it to mean reconciliation. That didn't fully answer our question. But the scriptures agree with that definition. **2nd Chronicles 29:23** “And they brought forth the he goats for the sin offering before the king and the congregation; and they laid their hands upon them:” **Verse 24** “And the priests killed them, and they made **reconciliation** with their blood upon the altar, to **make an atonement** for all Israel: for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.” The word atonement means the same as reconciliation, yet this scripture shows us that the atonement or the cleansing was actually the “sin offering” that was offered. **Leviticus 17:11** “For the life of the flesh is in **the blood**: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for **it is the blood that maketh an atonement** for the soul.” The sacrifices (sin offering) or as we learned the blood from the goats made an atonement for the soul. It is very important to understand the answer to this question. That we may also comprehend why we still need to keep this day holy (as a Sabbath with fasting). Reconciliation is when one attempts to become one again with a person you offended. An example of reconciliation is as when an husband and wife have an argument. They can not continue angry at each other they must reconcile. See, **1st Corinthians 7:11**. The Messiah (Christ) taught us to reconcile with our neighbors before we come to the Heavenly Father. This example fully helps us understand how to reconcile. **Matthews 5:23** “Therefore if thou bring thy gift [sacrifice] to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee [something against you because you offended];” **Verse 24:** “Leave there thy gift [sacrifice] before the altar, and go thy way; **first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.**” Christ explains to us reconciliation is repenting of your sin (offence). This is the first step you must do to being reconciled and not the offering of a gift (sacrifice). Therefore the high priest offered the sin offering while the people showed repentance through fasting. **Leviticus 16:30** “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.” **Verse 31:** “It shall be a sabbath of rest unto YOU, and YE shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.”

Today you must understand that the blood that was shed for you to be cleansed and forgiven of your sin is the blood of Jesus Christ. He is the priest that made atonement for you. Your blood was not used but his; **Isaiah 53:10** “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise HIM; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make **HIS soul an offering for sin**, he shall see his seed [the Heavenly Father will see his children], he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.” Unlike the sacrifices that were done daily to make atonement for our sins Christ was offered only once to cleanse us. **Hebrews 10:11** “And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:” **Verse 12:** “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;” He is your atonement and reconciliation to the Heavenly Father. **Romans 5:10** “For if, when we were enemies, we were **reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” **Verse 11:** “And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord **Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.**” Bringing a gift to the altar did not reconcile you to your neighbor. Neither did the gift at the altar show that man to be righteous before the most High while he hates (have ought against) his brother (See, **1st John 4:20-21**). So it is with us, we can not say Christ is our atonement and continue in sin. **Hebrews 10:26** “For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,” It is a sin not to repent, we can not be in the truth and not acknowledge our sins. **1st John 1:6** “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.” **Verse 7:** “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” **Verse 8:** “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” **Verse 9:** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **Verse 10:** “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” During the seventy years of slavery in Babylon, the temple being destroyed, the children of Israel couldn't offer sacrifices for the day of atonement yet they fasted (showing repentance going from dead works to serving the most High and receiving the land again). Today we are in modern day Babylon and we have an offering, which is Christ. Much more than they we must fast to purge our conscience through this sacrifice. See, **Hebrews 9:14** and **Acts 27:9**. Shalam!