

YOM KIPPUR

Request: I noticed on the calendar that the Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur, is Oct. 13. Could you do a study on it?

“Yom kippur is probably the most important holiday of the Jewish year.” (Judaism 101). Yom Kippur occurs on the 10th day of the 7th month on the Jewish lunar calendar (Tishri / April is the 1st month) (Lev.23: 27).

It is considered a high sabbath or holy convocation – “It is to be a sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble your souls; on the ninth of the month at evening, from the evening until evening you shall keep your sabbath.” (Lev.23:32; John 19:31)

The ordinance of Yom kippur is discussed in Lev.23:26-32 – “This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites.” (Lev.23:34, NIV)

The Old covenant shadow Christology theology of Yom kippur is discussed in Lev.16:1-34. You can study it by the following five homiletical points.

- Priest sin offering (16:1-14)
- Place sin offering (16:15-16)
- People sin offering (16:17-19)
- Preserved sin offering (16:8-10, 20-22)
- Permanent stature (16:23-34)

“And this shall be a permanent stature for you; in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls, and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you; for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you shall be clean from all your sins before the Lord.” (16:29-30)

The Old covenant shadow Christology is contrasted to new covenant historical Christology of Yom kippur in Hebrews 9-10.

- **Shadow Christology of OC** (Heb.9: 1-10) – “Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.” (9:1)
- **Historical Christology of NC** (9:11-28) – “How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Heb.9:14)
- **Shadow Christology** (Heb.10: 1-3) – “for the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.” (10:1)
- **Historical Christology** (10:4-20) – “Then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Thy will.’ .He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (10:9-10)

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of historical Christology of Yom Kippur.

1. The Mosaic Law contained threes sets of rules and regulations known as codices for the priest-nation of Israel.

“And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.” (Ex.19:6).

Codex I	Moral law; Ten commandments
Codex II	Spiritual law; Shadow Christology
Codex III	Social law; Judicial; divine institutions

“These are the statutes and ordinances and laws which the Lord established between Himself and the sons of Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai.” (Lev.26:46)

“Who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever, Amen.” (Rom.9:4-5)

2. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) that fell under Codex II (shadow Christology) has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15: 1-4; Rom.1: 16).

Yom Kippur became historical Christology of the new covenant of the Church Age (Heb.9:15). In the Church Age, it became soteriology atonement of the world through the propitiation of Jesus Christ – “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)

“But with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” (1 Pet.1:19)

“And not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.” (Heb.9: 12)

Notice that Jesus Christ is identified with the Yom Kippur sacrifice and not with the high priest.

3. Kippur is related to the cover or lid (kappar) of the mercy seat (kapporeth) of the Ark of covenant (Heb.9: 3-5). “The Septuagint refers to the mercy seat as a ‘propitiary’ (hilasterion).” (Vine’s, pg.10)

The covering of the mercy seat is the picture of propitiation. It was the place the sacrificial blood was sprinkled for atonement (Lev.16: 11-17; Heb.9: 8-15; 10:1; Rom.3: 23-25). Atonement taught the covering of the people’s sins.

4. Paul explains that Jesus Christ is the end of the Mosaic Law – “For Christ is the end (telos/ end or fulfillment) of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” (Rom.10:4)

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.” (Matt.5: 17) (Col.2: 16-17)

“Christ is the fulfillment of the law (Matt.5: 17) in the sense that he brought it to completion by obeying perfectly its demands and by fulfilling its types and prophecies.

5. The Christian is liberated by the Holy Spirit to fulfill its moral demands (Rom.8: 4).” (Rom.10:4, NIV)

Christians are under the law of spirituality (Rom3: 20; .8:2-4; Eph.5: 18; Gal.2: 16; 5:16, 22-23).