

Bringing the Past in Line

On the day-to-day, practical level, *Repentance* is a response to wrongdoing, a healing medicine for the ills of the soul. But *repentance* is also the dominant quality of Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year. **Obviously, there is more to *repentance* than the rectification of sin.**

Repentance is the return to one's true self, the cutting through of all those outer layers of misguided actions and distorted priorities to awaken one's true will and desire.

Repentance is the acquirement of a new self, one with an unblemished past; **but this new self is really ones own true self come to light.**

Only *repentance* has such power over the past; only *repentance* can undo a negative deed.

For even the perfectly righteous individual needs to be liberated from the limitations of the past.

Even the perfectly righteous individual is limited because of knowledge not yet acquired, insights still un-gained, feelings yet to be developed, attainments still unachieved.

As we advance through life, we conquer these limits, gaining wisdom and experience and refining and perfecting our character. But is our ability to grow and achieve limited to the future only? Is the past a closed frontier?

Repentance is never satisfied in merely moving forward, **our search for our own true self remakes the past as well.**

1 Peter 2:1-11

A Living Stone and a Holy People

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation - ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but **in the sight of God chosen and precious**, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “*A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.*”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a **chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellences of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.** ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

This question then must be understood:

What Were We Chosen To Do?

We are not a Chosen People, but a People who have been Given a tremendous (“Chosen”) responsibility and are being held to a High (“Chosen”) Standard of Living, not meaning Privileged or Noble, understanding that there is no word for “Rights” in Hebrew, but rather we have “Been Chosen to the Great Theological Revolution that the Bible Represents”, or simply, “Chosen for More Commandments, for More Intimacy” in abiding in our love with and for God, through His teaching and instruction (law), “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full,” (Jesus) John 15:9-11. We are a Kingdom of Ministers, a Kingdom of Servants (“you will be for me a *kingdom of priests* and a holy nation,” Exodus 19:6, “you are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light,” 1 Peter 2:4-10), therefore we have been Chosen to “Be Holy” as God is Holy, as it is read, “**Be holy because I, Yahweh your God, am holy,**” Leviticus 19:2, and “Therefore you are to be **holy** (“complete”, “fully mature”, “set apart”, “merciful”), as your heavenly Father is **holy** (“complete”, “fully mature”, “set apart”, “merciful”),” Matthew 5:48 & Luke 6:36, like God in all the earth (“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to **be conformed to the image of his Son,**” Genesis 1:27, Psalms 82:6, **Romans 8:29**, 1 John 2:5-6), Ambassadors (“**we are ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us,” Isaiah 42:6; Isaiah 49:6; Isaiah 52:10; Isaiah 60:3, **2 Corinthians 5:20**, 1 Thessalonians 2:4, Acts 1:8), the Light of the World (“**You are the light of the world,**” (Jesus) **Matthew 5:14-16**, John 8:12; Acts 13:47; Acts 26:23), “**CHOSEN for a tremendous responsibility, for a higher standard of living, for more commandments,**” (“teaching them to **observe** all the **I have commanded** you,” (Jesus) **Matthew 28:20, observe:** I keep, guard, observe, keep watch over, continue keeping guard over, preserve, and **I have commanded**: to order, command to be done, enjoin (to direct or impose by authoritative order or with urgent admonition (gentle or friendly reproof, counsel or warning against fault or oversight)).

* **ex. Deuteronomy 30:11-20**, “If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his **statutes** and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you,” **statutes:** Divine law was first given to us encapsulated in the Ten Commandments, which were etched by the hand of God in two tablets of stone . . . When something is written, the substance of the letters that express it – the ink – remains a separate entity from the substance upon which they have been set – the parchment. On the other hand, letters engraved in stone are forged in it: the words are stone and the stone is words . . . By the same token, there is an aspect of Torah that is “inked” on our soul; we understand it, our emotions are roused by it; it becomes our “lifestyle” or even our “personality”; but it remains something additional to ourselves. But there is a dimension of Torah that is **statutes**, engrave in our being. There is a dimension of Torah which expresses a bond with G-d that is the very essence of a believer’s soul (ex. Exodus 31:18, Exodus 32:16, Jeremiah 31:33, 2 Corinthians 3:3-9).

* **Hebrews 12:14**, “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the **holiness without which no one will see the Lord.**”

With that, let us Unlock the meaning and Futuristic implications of the Feast of Atonement, the heart of which is Repentance, the return to pristine beginnings, paralleling the Book of Revelation:

Unlocking the Meaning and Futuristic Implication of the Feast of Atonement

Jesus' Teaching Validation of the Feast of Atonement & Revelation (just following his Temptation and during the Feast of Atonement):

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the *Lord's favor*, . . ." **Luke 4:16-19**

Jesus stops just short of the vengeance/wrath of the Lord, which he will fulfill in his Second Coming:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² to proclaim the year of the *Lord's favor*, . . .
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;" **Isaiah 61:1-2**

Leviticus 16

The Day of Atonement

The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the Lord and died, ² and the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. ³ But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place . . ."

The Death of Aaron's Sons

All their faults stemmed from a single misconception: that the believer draws close to God by withdrawal instead of involvement. In fact, both are necessary. And that is why, at the point of the year when we are most powerfully taken out of the world -- Yom Kippur -- we begin the reading of the Torah from these verses, as a reminder of our ultimate task.

Let's begin Unlocking the Meaning & Implications of this Life Transformational Event and Day:

Revelation 15

The Day of Atonement is a Sabbath day and the only fast day that God declared in the Scriptures (Jewish rabbis have ruled that five restrictions apply: 1) No eating or drinking, 2) no bathing, 3) no anointing the body with oil, 4) no wearing of leather shoes and 5) no sexual relations.). God's people are required to humble themselves (repent of sin and fast) starting at evening on the ninth day of the seventh month. The Day of Atonement is the only day of the year on which the Ark of the Covenant can be seen; therefore, it serves as a marker to the readers of the book of Revelation as to when events are occurring.

"After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished." **Revelation 15:5-8**

Yom Kippur – The Day of Atonement

Introduction

Yom Kippur, The Day of Atonement occurs on the 10th day of the seventh month (Ethanin or Tishri - Ethanim means "permanent". The Jewish people currently call this month Tishri.) of God's **sacred** calendar and is considered the most holy day of the year. It is the time when **God cleanses us of our sins**, both individually and corporately, **then removes our guilt**.

The High Priest

The Day of Atonement is also unique in another way ... **the high priest alone carries out the services of the day in the precise order given in Leviticus 16. He alone stands before God to perform the required actions, which brings about atonement for the people. Cleanliness** of the high priest is paramount. He washes his whole body and changes clothes (clothes/garments are symbolic of one's character and behavior) five (5 is the number of Grace) times on this day. He washes his hands and his feet ten (10 is the number of testimony, law, responsibility and the completeness of order) times. **The high priest has to live in the temple for seven days**

prior to the Day of Atonement, during which time he is sprinkled with the ashes of the red heifer twice, on the third and seventh days. On the night before, he is completely rehearsed in his duties for the following day. If they are not correctly followed God will not make atonement. Normally, when the high priest officiates at a temple service he is dressed in his golden vestments however **on the Day of Atonement, the high priest also wears special vestments, white linen from head to toe.**

Scriptural Injunction

*The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to the LORD. You shall not do any work on this same day, for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the LORD your God. **If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people.** As for any person who does any work on this same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall do no work at all. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. 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 evening until evening you shall keep your Sabbath." Leviticus 23:26-32*

The New Testament Reference

Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place. And behind the second veil, there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant. And above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

*Now when these things have been thus prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, performing the divine worship, but into the second only the high priest enters, **once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed, while the outer tabernacle is still standing, which is a symbol for the present time.** Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.*

*But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 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. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 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? **Hebrews 9:1-14***

READ:

Leviticus 16-17, 19:1-4

The Day of Atonement

16 The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the Lord and died, ²and the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. ³But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. ⁴He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on. ⁵And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

⁶"Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. ⁷Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁸And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel.^[a] ⁹And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord and use it as a sin offering,¹⁰ but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.

¹¹"Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. ¹²And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil ¹³and put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die. ¹⁴And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat on the east side, and in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

¹⁵"Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. ¹⁶Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.¹⁷ No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. ¹⁸Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. ¹⁹And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.

²⁰"And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. ²¹And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. ²²The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

²³"Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and shall take off the linen garments that he put on when he went into the Holy Place and shall leave them there. ²⁴And he shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garments and come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people. ²⁵And the fat of the sin offering he shall burn on the altar. ²⁶And he who lets the goat go to Azazel shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp. ²⁷And the bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the

Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp. Their skin and their flesh and their dung shall be burned up with fire. ²⁸ And he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

²⁹ "And it shall be a statute to you forever that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict yourselves^[b] and shall do no work, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you. ³⁰ For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the Lord from all your sins. ³¹ It is a Sabbath of solemn rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves; it is a statute forever. ³² And the priest who is anointed and consecrated as priest in his father's place shall make atonement, wearing the holy linen garments. ³³ He shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. ³⁴ And this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins." And Aaron^[c] did as the Lord commanded Moses.

The Place of Sacrifice

¹⁷ And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the people of Israel and say to them, This is the thing that the Lord has commanded. ³ If any one of the house of Israel kills an ox or a lamb or a goat in the camp, or kills it outside the camp, ⁴ and does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to offer it as a gift to the Lord in front of the tabernacle of the Lord, bloodguilt shall be imputed to that man. He has shed blood, and that man shall be cut off from among his people. ⁵ This is to the end that the people of Israel may bring their sacrifices that they sacrifice in the open field, that they may bring them to the Lord, to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and sacrifice them as sacrifices of peace offerings to the Lord. ⁶ And the priest shall throw the blood on the altar of the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting and burn the fat for a pleasing aroma to the Lord. ⁷ So they shall no more sacrifice their sacrifices to goat demons, after whom they whore. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.

⁸ "And you shall say to them, Any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn among them, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice ⁹ and does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to offer it to the Lord, that man shall be cut off from his people.

Laws Against Eating Blood

¹⁰ "If any one of the house of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn among them eats any blood, I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from among his people. ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life. ¹² Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, No person among you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger who sojourns among you eat blood.

¹³ "Any one also of the people of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn among them, who takes in hunting any beast or bird that may be eaten shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth. ¹⁴ For the life of every creature^[a] is its blood: its blood is its life.^[b] Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, You shall not eat the blood of any creature, for the life of every creature is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off. ¹⁵ And every person who eats what dies of itself or what is torn by beasts, whether he is a native or a sojourner, shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening; then he shall be clean. ¹⁶ But if he does not wash them or bathe his flesh, he shall bear his iniquity."

The Lord Is Holy

¹⁹ And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. ³ Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God. ⁴ Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the Lord your God.

The Order Of (the "Yom Kippur") Service

1. The high priest bathes in water.
2. He conducts the morning service (Shaharit) in his golden vestments. During the morning service the following passage of Scripture is **read (Isaiah 57:14 - 58:14)**:

*And it shall be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, **remove every obstacle out of the way of My people.**" For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit **in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.** For I will not contend forever, neither will I always be angry; for the spirit would grow faint before Me, and the breath of those whom I have made.*

"Because of the iniquity of his unjust gain I was angry and struck him; I hid My face and was angry, and he went on turning away, in the way of his heart. I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and to his mourners, creating the praise of the lips. Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near," says the LORD, "and I will heal him." But the wicked are like the tossing sea, for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up refuse and mud. "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

*"Cry loudly, do not hold back; raise your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sins. **Yet they seek Me day by day, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that has done righteousness, and has not forsaken the ordinance of their God.** They ask Me for just decisions, they delight in the nearness of God. 'Why have we fasted and Thou dost not see? Why have we humbled ourselves and Thou dost not notice?' Behold, on the day of your fast you find your desire, and drive hard all your workers. Behold, you fast for contention and strife and to strike with a wicked fist. You do not fast like you do today to make your voice heard on high. Is it a fast like this which I choose, a day for a man to humble himself? Is it for bowing one's head like a reed, and for spreading out sackcloth and ashes as a bed? Will you call this a fast, even an acceptable day to the LORD?*

Is this not the fast which I choose, to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke? Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; The glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'

*If you remove the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, and if you give yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness, and your gloom will become like midday. And the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. And those from among **you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will raise up the age-old foundations;** and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell. **If because of the Sabbath, you turn your foot from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor it, desisting from your own ways, from seeking your own pleasure, and speaking your own word, then***

you will take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; and I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Isaiah 57:14 - 58:14

3. The high priest bathes in water again.
4. He changes into his **white linen garments** (clothes/garments are symbolic of one's character and behavior) to make the **special sin** offering for himself, the priests and the people. The special sin offering is a **bull** purchased by the high priest and **two male goats** taken from the congregation of Israel.

"... and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes..." Revelation 15:5-8

*"Let the Reader Understand", as Jesus taught about End-Times, highlighting what this "Feast of Atonement" would be Warning About and Preparing God's People to be Expecting; beware of **False Messiahs, False Prophets, and False Teachers**:*

Tribulation **Matthew 24:9-14**

"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. And at that time **many false prophets** will arise, and **will mislead many**. And because **lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold**. But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."

"MISLEAD": 4624. Skandalizō - to put a snare (in the way), hence to cause to stumble, to give offense; to entrap (apostasy (defection - revolt) – literally, **"a leaving, from a previous standing"** - (make to) offend).

Cognate (related definition): 4624 skandalizō – properly, *set a snare ("stumbling-block")*; (figuratively) "to hinder right conduct or thought; to cause to stumble" – *literally, "to fall into a trap"*. See **4625 (skandalon** - properly, the trigger of a trap (the mechanism closing a trap down on the unsuspecting victim); (figuratively) an *offense*, putting a *negative cause-and-effect relationship* into motion (ex. "the stick in the trap that springs and closes the trap when the animal touches it").

b. "to cause a person **to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey; to cause to fall away**," and in the passive, **to fall away (John 6:61; Matthew 13:21; MATTHEW 24:10; Matthew 26:33, Mark 4:17, Mark 14:29; John 16:1).**

ex. **2 Thessalonians 2 (Paul re-enforces Jesus' Teaching on this same Event)**

The Man of Lawlessness

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion (apostasía (646) - apostasy) comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may not be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the **mystery of lawlessness** is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹ **The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,** ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false. ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Stand Firm

¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers, **stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.**

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

The Abomination of Desolation

Matthew 24:3, 15-22, Mark 13:3-4, 14-20

And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" "Therefore when you see the Abomination of Desolation (Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11) which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; let him who is on the housetop not go down to get the things out that are in his house; and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days! But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath, for then **there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.** And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short."

False Christs and False Prophets

Matthew 24:23-28, Mark 13:21-23

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. For **false Christs and false prophets** will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. **Behold, I have told you in advance.** therefore they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go forth, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather."

The Son of Man is Coming

Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27, Luke 21:25-28

“But immediately after the tribulation of those days there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light (Isaiah 13:10, Joel 2:30-31). And the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky (Daniel 7:13) with power and great glory. **And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other (Isaiah 27:12-13). But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”**

5. The high priest faces east towards the people while the **bull** and two goats face west towards the temple.

bull - **The Antichrist** - *And he stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. Revelation 13:1*

2 Thessalonians 2:7-10

The Man of Lawlessness

⁷For the mystery of lawlessness* is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰and with all wicked deception for those who are not perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹²in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

* Who is this man of lawlessness? He is a literal person, often referred to as the **Antichrist**. He will be Satan’s henchman, a pseudo-Christ who will perform miracles, signs, and wonders by the power of Satan and ultimately deceive the world.

The mystery of iniquity has been at work for a long time - since Paul’s day - and, when it finally erupts in all its hideousness, the world will be shaken to its core. The Antichrist, who leads the descent into lawlessness, will set a new standard of depravity. The enormity of the acts of moral monsters such as Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot, Idi Amin, Robespierre, and Caligula will pale in comparison to the evil of the Antichrist.

The Antichrist will have “*his power . . . taken away and completely destroyed forever*” Daniel 7:26.

Lawlessness (458. Anomia) – lawlessness, iniquity, disobedience, sin; **properly**, without God’s law, the condition of one without God’s law – either because ignorant of it, or because violating it; the utter disregard for God’s law (His written and living law); includes the end-impact of law breaking – i.e. its negative influence on a person’s soul (status before God).

The Picture of the Anti-Christ

Revelation 7:4-8

⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

⁵12,000 from the tribe of **Judah** were sealed,

12,000 from the tribe of **Reuben**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Gad**,

⁶12,000 from the tribe of **Asher**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Naphtali**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Manasseh**,

⁷12,000 from the tribe of **Simeon**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Levi**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Issachar**,

⁸12,000 from the tribe of **Zebulun**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Joseph**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Benjamin** were sealed.

Note: Dan is missing from this list, and Joseph's family is mentioned twice, a double portion, both Joseph and his son Manasseh.

Why is this?

Jacob Blesses His Sons

"Then Jacob called his sons and said, 'Gather yourselves together, **that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.**'" **Genesis 49:1**

Genesis 49:16-17

"**Dan shall judge his people** as one of the tribes of Israel. **Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward.**"

Note: Dan would cause the people of God to **Fall Away**:

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then **many will fall away** (the word used here is apostatized, breaking of a covenant, idolatry) and betray one another and hate one another. And **many false prophets will arise** and **lead many astray** (the word used here is apostatized, breaking of a covenant, idolatry). And because lawlessness (not walking in the ways of God’s teaching and instruction) will be increased, the love of many will grow cold (because walking by Spirit, the teaching and instruction of God, reveals the heart of the Father, John 16:8, 15, 1 Corinthians 2:10-13, Ezekiel 36:27). ¹³**But the one who endures to the end will be saved.** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." **Matthew 24:9-14**

Note: Jesus warned us to beware, be alert/awake, be watchful not to be misled from false teachers, false prophets, and false messiahs, telling us the following: "I have said all these things to you to keep you from **falling away** (the word used here is apostatized, breaking of a covenant, idolatry)," **John 16:1**.

Jeremiah 8:15-17

"We looked for peace, but no good came; for a time of healing, but behold, terror. 'The snorting of their horses is heard from Dan; at the sound of the neighing of their stallions the whole land quakes. They come and devour the land and all that fills it, the city and those who dwell in it. For behold, I am sending among you serpents, adders that cannot be charmed, and they shall bite you.'" declares the LORD."

Note: It was Jesus' Reason for coming, to destroy the works of the devil (lawlessness, the teaching and instruction that would contradict and oppose the teaching and instruction of God (the Law)), which he empowered his followers to do the same.

"Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.** No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God." **1 John 3:7-9**

"Behold (listen with understanding), I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you." **Luke 10:19**

Zechariah 11:15-17

"Then the LORD said to me, "Take once more the equipment of a **foolish shepherd**. For behold, I am raising up in the land a **shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs.** 'Woe to my worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! **Let his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded!**"

Note: God here gives a picture of who the Anti-Christ will come from, "a foolish shepherd . . . tearing off even their hoofs . . . who deserts the flock," the tribe of Dan, a shepherd of the people of God, from the curse spoken of Dan from his father Israel/Jacob. In addition, God gives us a picture of the physical attributes of the Anti-Christ, "his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded."

A secondary picture is also found in scripture of the Story of God's Redemption, as read in Judges:

Judges 13:2-5, 24

"There was a certain man of Zorah, of the **family of the Danites**, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no children. Then the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, 'Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son. Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines' . . . Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him **Samson**; and the child grew up and the LORD blessed him."

Judges 14:8-9, 13-14, 18

⁸After some days he returned to take her. And he turned aside to see **the carcass of the lion**, and behold (listen with understanding), there was a **swarm of bees in the body of the lion**, and **honey**. ⁹He scraped it out into his hands and went on, eating as he went. And he came to his father and mother and gave some to them, and they ate. *But he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey from the carcass of the lion.*

And they said to him, "Put your riddle, that we may hear it." ¹⁴And he said to them, "Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet." And in three days they could not solve the riddle.

¹⁸And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?"

Note: The Lion is a symbol of Judah, from whence the Messiah would come out of, the Carcass is a symbol of the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah out of the line of Judah, the honey is a symbol of the Messiah, Jesus, ("My son, eat thou honey, because it is good: and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: so shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off." **Proverbs 24:13-14**) and the bees are a symbol of the Tribe of Dan, of which come the same symbol and teaching of the present day Freemasonry/Masonry.

6. One of the two **goat(s)** is chosen "for Yahuwah" and a scarlet cloth is tied around its throat. **(the one sacrificed goat(s)) - The False Prophet - And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. Revelation 13:11**

²⁰And the beast was captured, and with it the **false prophet** who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. **Revelation 19:20**

Goat chosen for “Yahuwah” – “Yahuwah” (translation): In the name of the Sexual Fallen Angels (Genesis 6:1-4 - in Greek religion and mythology, known as “Pan”).

“In Greek religion and mythology, Pan is the god of the wild, shepherds and flocks, nature of mountain wilds and rustic music, and companion of the nymphs.[2] He has the hindquarters, legs, and horns of a goat, in the same manner as a faun or satyr. With his homeland in rustic Arcadia (After the collapse of the Roman power in the west, Arcadia, part of the Greek state. Arcadia remained a beautiful, secluded area, and its inhabitants became proverbial as herdsmen leading simple pastoral (shepherds herding livestock around open areas of land) unsophisticated yet happy lives, to the point that *Arcadia* may refer to some imaginary idyllic “paradise”). he is also recognized as the god of fields, groves, and wooded glens; because of this, Pan is connected to fertility and the season of spring. The ancient Greeks also considered Pan to be the god of theatrical criticism and impromptus.[3] The word “panic” is a tribute to the god.”

Note: The PAN “god” is depicted as a HOMOSEXUAL “god”

7. One of the two goats are chosen “for **Azazel**” (the **Scapegoat**) and a scarlet cloth is tied around its horn. The high priest returns to the bull and lays his hands on its head and confesses his sins and the sins of the priesthood. Then he kills the bull and drains its blood.

Azazel - Satan - The Book of Enoch states that **Azazel** was one of the angels who rebelled against God in the time of Jared. “He taught men to make swords, knives, shields, and breastplates. He made metals known to man and the art of working them, and bracelets, and ornaments, and the use of antimony, and the beautifying of the eyelids, and all kinds of costly stones, and color tinctures. **To him all sin is ascribed.**”

Scapegoat - Satan - *And another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. **Revelation 12:3-4***

Azazel (<http://www.bibletruth.cc/DayofAtonement.htm#Azazel>)

But what about the goat chosen by lot "for Azazel"? Who is Azazel? There is no other mention of Azazel in the Old Testament. If the one goat is offered as a sacrifice for the sins of the nation, and the other goat takes the blame for all the sin of the community and is cast out to the wilderness, common sense should at least point us in the right direction of identifying Azazel. He seems to be the antithesis to Yahuwah.

The Book of Jude (Yehudah) speaks of the judgment of Yahuwah as prophesied by Enoch, the seventh from Adam.

¹⁴ Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Master is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

This reference to the writing of Hanok (Enoch) provides a measure of credibility to the Book of Enoch. Since Jude cited the Book of Enoch as a reliable source for teaching, we will consider its information, too. Interestingly, we do have what is believed to be the Book of Enoch and it reads essentially the same as Jude quoted him. Enoch reads:

Behold, he comes with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon them, and destroy the wicked, and reprove all the carnal for everything which the sinful and ungodly have done, and committed against him. (Enoch 2:1)

This same Book of Enoch also speaks of Azazel. Here is an excerpt from the Book of Enoch about Azazel (rendered "Azazyel" in the translation of Enoch I am referencing):

Moreover Azazyel taught men to make swords, knives, shields, breastplates, the fabrication of mirrors, and the workmanship of bracelets and ornaments, the use of paint, the beautifying of the eyebrows, *the use of stones* of every valuable and select kind, and all sorts of dyes, so that the world became altered. Impiety (sinfulness) increased; fornication multiplied; and they transgressed and corrupted all their ways. (8:1-2)

Azazel (Azazyel) was instrumental in the "altering" of the world due to the vanity of physical beauty, the crafting of jewelry (the overuse and abuse of which the Scripture condemns), and the forging and use of war implements.

Shortly after that passage, Enoch is shown a scene of judgment:

And now to you, O you Holy One of heaven, the souls of men complain, saying, Bring judgment to us from the Most High. Then they said to their Lord, the King, *You are* Lord of lords, God of gods, King of kings. The throne of your glory is for ever and ever, and for ever and ever is your name sanctified and glorified. You are blessed and glorified. You have made all things; you possess power over all things; and all things are open and manifest before you. You behold all things, and nothing can be concealed from you. You have seen what Azazyel has done, how he has taught every species of iniquity upon earth, and has disclosed to the world all the secret things which are done in the heavens. (9:3-5)

Here, the teaching of every manner of iniquity in the earth is attributed to Azazyel*. The Scriptures attribute the knowledge of sin to Satan, the deceiver of all mankind. Enoch is describing how "the souls of men" are complaining to Elohim about the works of Azazyel, and are asking for Yahuwah to judge him for it.

* **Azazel** (/əˈzɛɪzəl, ˈæzəˌzɛl/; Hebrew: אַזַּזֵּל; Arabic: عَزَازِيل, translit. *ʿAzāzīl*) is a fallen angel; he was sent a scapegoat bearing the sins of the Jews during Yom Kippur. In the Bible, he only appears in association with the scapegoat rite. During the Second Temple period, he appears as a fallen angel responsible for introducing humans to forbidden knowledge.

**Cultural Representation
In Judaism**

For early Semitic tribes, Azazel (literally “strong one against God”) was a very real force of evil. It was common for them to make sacrifices to Azazel at the same time that they made sacrifices to their god, Yahweh. As described in the Hebrew Bible, Azazel’s sacrifices were made by driving a goat into the desert wilderness or by pushing it into a deep ravine. These sacrifices were not meant to honor Azazel as a deity; rather, they symbolized the people sending their sins back to their original source.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Book of Enoch, and the Apocalypse of Abraham provided more details about how Azazel came to earth, what he did to spread sin on earth, and how he was punished by God.

In Christianity

Azazel is a less well-known figure among Christians, since the Latin and English versions of the Bible translated his name as "scapegoat" or "wasteland." Seventh Day Adventists acknowledge Azazel as Satan's right-hand man and claim that a special kind of torment awaits him on the Day of Judgment.

In Islam

Muslim tradition takes the story of Azazel even farther back, to the days when he ranked among the good angels. Some scholars believe that he was among the most wise and noble angels and that he fought against the jinn who lived on earth before humans. Others believe that he was a jinn who, as a reward for fighting against other jinn, was allowed to enter heaven and be called an angel.

Unfortunately, his position of honor made him arrogant, and when God created man, he refused to bow down to the new creation. For this reason, he was cast back to earth and became a plague on men.

Next, Enoch is told of the coming flood which was to engulf the whole earth. This is the judgment of Elohim which was to cause everything on the earth to perish. And instructions were to be given to mankind regarding how he may escape this judgment.

Then explain to him the consummation which is about to take place; for all the earth shall perish; the waters of a deluge shall come over the whole earth, and all things which are in it shall be destroyed. And now teach him how he may escape, and how his seed may remain in all the earth. Again the Lord said to Raphael, Bind Azazyel hand and foot; cast him into darkness; and opening the desert which is in **Dudael**, cast him in there. Throw upon him hurled and pointed stones, covering him with darkness; There shall he remain for ever; cover his face, that he may not see the light. And in the great day of judgment let him be cast into the fire. Restore the earth, which the angels have corrupted; and announce life to it, that I may revive it. (10:4-10)

* ('Place of Fire', the prison of all the fallen angels, especially the evil Watchers, the entrance of which is located to the east of Jerusalem, which overlooks the area in where Jesus was born. The way this place is described is sometimes considered as a region of the underworld, comparable to Tartarus or Gehenna. As the Hebrew language evolved, 'Dudael' became 'Alj'halil, meaning Holy Land, and eventually became 'Palestine'. Interesting enough, Dudael was the place that the Angel Azazel was imprisoned by the Powers of Heaven making him a scapegoat to be an example to the Fallen Angels.)

In conjunction with the judgment, Azazyel was to be bound and thrown into darkness, covered and held for the ultimate judgment, when he would be cast into the fire. Similarly, the book of Revelation describes Satan as being bound and thrown into a pit where he would be covered and sealed:

He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. Revelation 20:3

Also, recall that Satan is to be ultimately thrown into the Lake of Fire as his finally destiny:

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Revelation 20:10

Again, Satan's destiny as revealed in the Scriptures fits perfectly with the description of Azazyel's judgment. The identity of Azazyel as Satan is almost complete.

And finally, hope is given to mankind. A promise that not all men would be destroyed in the flood.

All the sons of men shall not perish in consequence of every secret, by which the Watchers have destroyed, and *which* they have taught, their offspring. All the earth has been corrupted by the effects of the **teaching of Azazyel**. To him therefore ascribe the whole crime. (Enoch 10:11-12)

Again, it is repeated that the reason for this judgment on Azazyel is that he corrupted the whole earth. And the final nail in the coffin of evidence is that Azazyel is to be ascribed with the whole crime. All the blame of sin on the earth and the fall and corruption of mankind is to be placed on Azazyel. It is all his fault and doing. **He must bear the entire blame for the rebellion against the Creator.**

This blame which Azazyel must bear corresponds with the fate of Azazel in Leviticus 16. The Cohen HaGadol lays his hands on the goat which was selected "for Azazel" and he confesses all the sins of the nation over him. He then sends the goat out into the wilderness, bearing the sin of Israel, and left there. This is the picture of Satan's judgment at the time of the flood and the ultimate destiny of Satan being cast into the Lake of Fire.

This annual ritual of confessing all the sins of the nation onto the head of the goat is a prophetic picture of the judgment of Satan, when he will be held to account for his rebellion and corruption of the universe. Though Messiah died as a substitute payment for the transgression of all who confess and repent of their sins, Satan will still bear the blame for all sin and will be judged for his primary role in the rebellion. This will occur at the appointed time of Yom HaKippurim - Judgment Day.

8. He takes coals from the fire of the brazen altar and two handfuls of incense into the Holy Place and places them on the golden altar, thus **filling the temple with smoke and incense**. He leaves the censer in the Holy Place.

"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished." **Revelation 15:5-8**

9. He then prays God's blessing for the people.
10. Next **the blood of the bull** is taken into the Holy of Holies and the high priest sprinkles it with his finger, once upward toward the mercy seat and seven times downward in front of the mercy seat. **The high priest is making atonement for himself and his family.**

"and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished." **Revelation 15:5-8**

11. The high priest **kills one of the goats, the one chosen by lot ... “for Yahuwah”**, drains its blood and takes it into the Holy of Holies and sprinkles it the same as before. This goat’s blood is for the people of Israel to make atonement for their sins.
12. The blood of the bull is then sprinkled in the same manner towards the veil that divided the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place.
13. The blood of the goat “for Yahuwah” is then sprinkled in the same manner towards the veil that divided the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place.
14. **Finally, the blood of the bull and the goat are commingled and their blood sprinkled once on each of the four horns of the golden altar and the seven times on top of it.**
15. The remainder of the blood is poured out at the base of the altar of burnt offerings on the west side.
16. **The high priest sprinkles blood forty-three times that day**, thereby cleansing the sanctuary from defilement by priests and worshippers. **They have been atoned for. At this point sin has been forgiven and fellowship with God restored.**
17. The other goat chosen by lot ... “the scapegoat” was made to face the people at the time the high priest was making the offering.
18. **The high priest confessed the sins of all the people upon this goat for a guilt offering.**
19. The scapegoat was then led out of the temple and city by a man and taken into the wilderness. **Although the people do not get to see what happens to the scapegoat it is believed that when it was taken into the wilderness that the man leading it would push it off of a cliff.**

By removing the defilement of sin from the Most Holy Place, the Tabernacle and the Altar, the process of cleansing was completed. Note well, that the ceremony of the goat led away pictured the removal of the defilement of sin from the Most Holy Place the Tabernacle of Meeting and the Altar not the atonement for that sin.

The outpouring of the seven bowls of God's wrath literally cleanses and makes atonement for the earth (not the people) defiled by man's sin. The Earth is the true Altar of God. God could not sacrifice his Son on anything but the true Altar of Heavenly Tabernacle. Christ's blood was shed on Calvary and poured out upon the earth. The cleansing of the tabernacle altar was accomplished by the sprinkling of the blood seven times. The number seven signifies the completeness. The cleansing is complete after the seventh sprinkling.

It is clear that the seven sprinklings of blood which cleansed the brazen altar, correspond to the seven bowls of God's wrath. At the pouring out of the seventh and final bowl of God's wrath the earth is cleansed of Babylon, the deceiver and corrupter of the world. (Rev. 18:23, 19:2)

*Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. **Revelation 20:1-3***

20. At this juncture the people’s sins have been removed as far as the east is from the west. **The term Azazel means to “wholly go away” which points to the truth that sin is not merely forgiven but also entirely removed.**
21. The high priest takes off his holy attire in the Holy Place and leaves it there. He then bathes himself and puts on his normal golden vestments.
22. A burnt offering of a ram is then made at the brazen altar to make atonement for it.
23. The fat of the bull and goat, which had been slain as a sin offering is then offered up in the smoke of the burnt offering.
24. **The carcasses of the bull and goat, which had been slain as a sin offering are taken outside the camp and burned.**
*And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. **Revelation 19:20***
25. Those who led the goat “for Azazel” away and took the carcasses of the bull and goat outside the camp wash their clothes, bathe themselves and return to the temple.
26. The high priest bathes himself again and puts on his white linen garments.
27. Then retrieves the censer that was left in the Holy Place.
28. He bathes again and puts on his golden vestments for the remainder of the day.
The Day of Atonement is the only day of the year on which the Ark of the Covenant can be seen; therefore it serves as a marker to the readers of the book of Revelation as to when events are occurring.

*And I saw **heaven opened**, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is **clothed with a robe dipped in blood**, and His name is called **The Word of God**.” **Revelation 19:11-13***

29. **The high priest conducts the afternoon service (Minah) at which time the Book of Jonah is read.** It stands as a constant reminder to them of God’s great love for lost people and is actually a picture of the gospel being preached.

Why Jonah?

Why Jonah is read has evoked many explanations, such as the following:

- **It is an example of a whole city with no particular relationship to God who repent of their evil ways and are forgiven.** What better example of successful repentance and its consequence could be found!
- A message Jonah does not comprehend until the very last line in the book is that **God cares compassionately for all living things and prefers repentance to destruction.** God’s compassion is meant to be a model for us to copy.
- **Jonah shows us that we cannot flee from the service of God.**

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

A Commentary On Jonah

Jonah has known all along that the Lord is compassionate toward all His creatures. He tells us in chapter 4, verse 2:

And he prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore, in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that Thou art a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity."

Jonah understands God's nature well enough ... but disagrees with it! He has no compassion in him. He believes in strict unmitigated justice. Whether Jonah becomes convinced of God's case at the end of the book is not the story's concern. The story ends without divulging Jonah's reaction because it is not important how Jonah responds. It is crucial how we, the audience, respond. **The ending of the tale is in our hands.**

A Christian Viewpoint

Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees that the only sign that would be given to that adulterous generation was sign of Jonah.

*But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the **sign** of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Matthew 12:39-40*

The Pharisees, who knew the Scriptures well, also lied concerning Jesus when they said, "Search and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee. (John 7:52) They disregarded Jonah, who was born in Gath Hephher a town in the Galilee, three miles north of the town of Nazareth where Jesus was raised.

God sent Jonah as a prophet not to the Jews but to the gentiles. Immediately after Jonah came forth from the fish he traveled to the wicked city of Nineveh. **The city was so large that it would take three days to walk all of its streets. Yet on the first day of Jonah's preaching the people repented and the city was spared.**

- The name **Jonah** means "**dove**".
- *In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the **Spirit like a dove descending upon Him.** (Mark 1:9-10) This passage of Scripture could also be read as: In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a **Jonah** descending upon Him.*
- From the text above we see that **the Holy Spirit is represented by a dove (Jonah).**
- **Immediately after Jesus' ascension into heaven the Holy Spirit (a dove or Jonah) came upon the Church with the power to prophesy or witness.**
- **The message proclaimed is the gospel ... the "good news" of how to make peace with God. This takes us back to the story of Noah who released a dove (Jonah) three times (Genesis 8:8-12). The first time the dove returned to Noah, the second time the dove brought an olive branch back to Noah and the third time the dove did not return.** The olive branch that the dove carried in its mouth was the symbol of peace, the same message that the Holy Spirit is speaking through the mouths of Christians.
- **In the story of Jonah, God sent Jonah (dove or Holy Spirit) the first time and he experienced three days and nights in the belly of the fish.** This is indicative of the Lord Jesus Christ, who had the dove descend upon Him at His baptism, declared that the Kingdom of God was at hand and spent three days and nights in the grave.
- **God sent Jonah a second time and he preached to the gentile city of Nineveh "Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying ..." (Jonah 3:1) This is indicative of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Church at Pentecost. The message that has been preached for the last two thousand years has primarily been to the gentiles.**
- **God will send the Holy Spirit (dove or Jonah) the third time. We see this beginning to happen immediately prior to the sounding of the seventh (last) trumpet in the book of Revelation:**

And they said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings." Revelation 10:11

At that time the **two witnesses** and the 144,000 Israelites who have been **sealed** preach the **truth**.

Two witnesses: (The two witnesses are Elijah and Moses)

³ And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. ⁵ And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. ⁶ They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. ⁷ And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit^[a] will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, ⁸ and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically^[b] is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. ⁹ For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, ¹⁰ and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and

great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹²Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them." **Revelation 11:3-12**

The Two Witnesses

The two witnesses in Revelation 11:1-14 appear to be Moses and Elijah. These two are seen standing with the Lord Jesus Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration. *"Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."* Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and **led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. (Matthew 16:28-17:3)*

This same allusion of the three together can be seen in Zechariah. *He said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; also two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side."* (Zechariah 4:2-3) Then I said to him, *"What are these two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on its left?" And I answered the second time and said to him, "What are the two olive branches which are beside the two golden pipes, which empty the golden oil from themselves?" So he answered me, saying, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth."* (Zechariah 4:11-14) This is confirmed by Revelation 11:4, *These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.*

A further confirmation of their identity comes from the actions of these two witnesses in Revelation 11:5-6. In similar fashion, Moses turned water to blood (Exodus 7:20) and initiated nine more plagues in Egypt (Exodus 8 – 12:30). And Elijah stopped the rain for three years (1 Kings 17:1) and called down fire from heaven (1 Kings 18:38).

It was also prophesied that Elijah would return before the Day of the Lord and in that prophesy he is connected to Moses. *"Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."* (Malachi 4:4-6)

Interestingly, at every Passover meal the Jewish people set aside a cup of wine for the prophet Elijah and open the door to their houses awaiting his arrival to restore them. And after his arrival wrath is sent on the world when the following words are said. *"Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You, and upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Your name. For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation."* (Psalms 79:6-7) *"You will pursue them in anger and destroy them from under the heavens of the LORD!"* (Lamentations 3:66)

Moses represents the Law and Elijah represents the Prophets. These two support and shed light upon Jesus Christ, The Word of God. Moses also represents the righteous dead, who will be raised to life at the second coming of Christ and Elijah represents those who are alive at the second coming of Christ and are taken to heaven.

It should be noted that some early Christians, such as Irenaeus and Hippolytus of Rome concluded that the two witnesses would be Enoch and Elijah because neither one of them died. The justification for this comes from Hebrews 9:27, *"And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment."* If this is the case, then there is a testimony before the earth was destroyed the first time (Enoch) and a testimony before the earth is destroyed a second time (Elijah).

Interestingly, Enoch was alive when some of the angels rebelled against God the first time by cohabiting with women. *And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day. (Jude 1:6)* And he also prophesied about the final judgment of certain men who creep into the Church and turn the grace of God into licentiousness and deny the only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ as well. *It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."* (Jude 1:14-15)

sealed: After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. ²Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." **Revelation 7:1-3**

truth: Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps,³ and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless." **Revelation 14:1-5**

- The three-day walk through Nineveh is prophetic in that it will take three 1000-year days ("But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day," **2 Peter 3:8**) to reach all the gentiles.
- **On the first day** that Jonah preached, the gentiles repented then he went out of the city and built a shelter. **This is indicative of the initial preaching of the gospel by Christians when gentiles repented and were reconciled to God.**

- **On the second day** God caused a plant to grow up to shade Jonah from the heat of the day. **Christians no longer suffered extreme persecution.**
- **On the third day** Jonah's plant withered. **It serves as a warning sign to Christians that they are losing compassion for the lost.**

Closing The Gate

Just prior to nightfall a hushed congregation prepares to observe the last service of Yom Kippur called Ne'ilah, which means, "closing the gate" (A person could not have atonement and forgiveness without entering the temple courts before the gate was closed.). The cantor calls, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord (Yahuwah/Jehovah) is our God, the Lord (Yahuwah/Jehovah) is one." Immediately following this comes the threefold repetition of the words, "Blessed be the name (Yahushua/Joshua/Jesus) of Him whose glorious kingdom endures forever." The attendant worshipers anciently uttered these words when the high priest pronounced the name of God (Yahuwah/Jehovah) in the Temple. Then, beginning in a whisper and progressively increasing in volume of his voice, the cantor declares seven times, "The Lord (Yahuwah/Jehovah) is God." When the last notes of the chant have died away, a long blast, Tekiah Gedola is sounded on the shofar and the Day of Atonement comes to an end. This **last** trump proclaims the year of Jubilee every fiftieth year.

When the service ends the unmarried women dress in white and sing and dance in the vineyards. Having become ritually clean they do these things in order to attract man for marriage. (The church is a bride.) The high priest is led away in procession to his own house and then a great **feast** commences. (The wedding feast of the Lamb.) Five days after the Day of Atonement the Feast of Tabernacles begins, the time when God's people **dwel**l in His presence.

The message of the Day of Atonement is **purification** and alludes to a future time. *Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. (1 Corinthians 15:51-58)*

Revelation 16

Revelation 17

Revelation 18

Revelation 19

The Day of Atonement is the only day of the year on which the Ark of the Covenant can be seen; therefore it serves as a marker to the readers of the book of Revelation as to when events are occurring.

*And I saw **heaven opened**, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is **clothed with a robe dipped in blood**, and His name is called The Word of God." **Revelation 19:11-13***

The Picture of the Anti-Christ

Revelation 7:4-8

⁴ And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

⁵ 12,000 from the tribe of **Judah** were sealed,

12,000 from the tribe of **Reuben**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Gad**,

⁶ 12,000 from the tribe of **Asher**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Naphtali**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Manasseh**,

⁷ 12,000 from the tribe of **Simeon**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Levi**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Issachar**,

⁸ 12,000 from the tribe of **Zebulun**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Joseph**,

12,000 from the tribe of **Benjamin** were sealed.

Note: Dan is missing from this list, and Joseph's family is mentioned twice, a double portion, both Joseph and his son Manasseh.

Why is this?

Jacob Blesses His Sons

"Then Jacob called his sons and said, 'Gather yourselves together, **that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.**'" **Genesis 49:1**

Genesis 49:16-17

"**Dan shall judge his people** as one of the tribes of Israel. **Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward.**"

Note: Dan would cause the people of God to **Fall Away**:

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then **many will fall away** (the word used here is apostatized, breaking of a covenant, idolatry) and betray one another and hate one another. And **many false prophets will arise and lead many astray** (the word used here is apostatized, breaking of a covenant, idolatry). And because lawlessness (not walking in the ways of God's teaching and instruction) will be increased, the love of many will grow cold (because walking by Spirit, the teaching and instruction of God, reveals the heart of the Father, John 16:8, 15, 1 Corinthians 2:10-13, Ezekiel 36:27).¹³ But **the one who endures to the end will be saved**. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." **Matthew 24:9-14**

Note: Jesus warned us to beware, be alert/awake, be watchful not to be mislead from false teachers, false prophets, and false messiahs, telling us the following: "I have said all these things to you to keep you from **falling away** (the word used here is apostatized, breaking of a covenant, idolatry)," **John 16:1**.

Jeremiah 8:15-17

"We looked for peace, but no good came; for a time of healing, but behold, terror. The **snorting of their horses is heard from Dan**; at the sound of the neighing of their stallions the whole land quakes. **They come and devour the land and all that fills it**, the city and those who dwell in it. For behold, I **am sending among you serpents, adders that cannot be charmed, and they shall bite you**," declares the LORD."

Note: It was Jesus' Reason for coming, to destroy the works of the devil (lawlessness, the teaching and instruction that would contradict and oppose the teaching and instruction of God (the Law)), which he empowered his followers to do the same.

"Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil**. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God." **1 John 3:7-9**

"Behold (listen with understanding), **I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing shall hurt you." **Luke 10:19**

Zechariah 11:15-17

"Then the LORD said to me, "Take once more the equipment of a **foolish shepherd**. For behold, I am raising up in the land a **shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs**. 'Woe to **my worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock!** **May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! Let his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded!**"

Note: God here gives a picture of *who* the Anti-Christ will come from, "a foolish shepherd . . . tearing off even their hoofs . . . who deserts the flock," the tribe of Dan, a shepherd of the people of God, from the curse spoken of Dan from his father Israel/Jacob. In addition, God gives us a picture of the *physical attributes* of the Anti-Christ, "his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded."

A secondary picture is also found in scripture of the Story of God's Redemption, as read in Judges:

Judges 13:2-5, 24

"There was a certain man of Zorah, of the **family of the Danites**, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no children. Then the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, 'Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son. Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines' . . . Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him **Samson**; and the child grew up and the LORD blessed him."

Judges 14:8-9, 13-14, 18

⁸ After some days he returned to take her. And he turned aside to see **the carcass of the lion**, and behold (listen with understanding), there was a **swarm of bees in the body of the lion**, and **honey**.⁹ He scraped it out into his hands and went on, eating as he went. And he came to his father and mother and gave some to them, and they ate. *But he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey from the carcass of the lion.*

And they said to him, "Put your *riddle*, that we may hear it."¹⁴ And he said to them, "Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet." And in three days they could not solve the riddle.

¹⁸ And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What is sweeter than **honey**? What is stronger than a **lion**?"

Note: The Lion is a symbol of Judah, from whence the Messiah would come out of, the Carcass is a symbol of the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah out of the line of Judah, the honey is a symbol of the Messiah, Jesus, ("My son, eat thou **honey**, because it is good: and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: so shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off." **Proverbs 24:13-14**) and the bees are a symbol of the Tribe of Dan, of which come the same symbol and teaching of the present day Freemasonry/Masonry.