

Opening Scripture Reading/Prayer:

Exodus 31:12-17

The Sabbath

¹² And the Lord said to Moses, ¹³ “You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you . . .
¹⁶ Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. ¹⁷ It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.’”

Isaiah 56

Salvation for Foreigners

¹ Thus says the LORD:
“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my righteousness be revealed.
² Blessed is the man who does this,
and the son of man who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,
and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”
³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;
and let not the eunuch say,
“Behold, I am a dry tree.”
⁴ For thus says the LORD:
“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,
⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.
⁶ “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”
⁸ The Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

Isaiah 58:13-14

¹³ “If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,
from doing your pleasure on my holy day,
and call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 66:22-23

²² “For as the new heavens and the new earth
that I make
shall remain before me, says the LORD,
so shall your offspring and your name remain.
²³ From new moon to new moon,
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before me,
declares the LORD.

Ezekiel 20:20

*I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my
judgments, and do them; and keep my SABBATHS holy; and they shall
be a SIGN between me and you,
that ye may now that I am the LORD your God.*

Jesus Lord of the Sabbath

“For the Son of Man is **Lord of the Sabbath.**” **Matthew 12:8**

Shadows

Freedom from Human Rules

“Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths which are a shadow of what is to come but the Body of the Messiah.”

Colossians 2:16-17 (KJV)

Here, he is telling us that the **Appointed Times** (Feast Days) and the Sabbath are a **shadow of things to come**. A shadow is of the same image as what it is portraying. So, doesn't this imply these will be observed in the future kingdom? And note the text says that these commands **ARE** a shadow of things to come, **not** “were a shadow” or “used to be a shadow” of things to come. He then says, ‘**let no man judge you**’ (in these things: new moon; Sabbath; feasts) ‘*but the Body of Messiah.*’ The word “is” has been added to the original text and did not appear in the Greek.

The Body of Messiah is to judge each other with regard to these things. A second witness to this can be found in the following verses:

“But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone called ‘a brother,’ if he is one who whores, or greedy of gain, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge, to pick out by separating, to be of opinion, to judge those who are inside? But Elohim judges those who are outside. And put away the wicked one from among you!” **1 Corinthians 5:11-13**

“*not judge*” - (*krinō* (2919): to distinguish (to approve what is correct and reject what is wrong - discern).

“*to pick out*”: choose.

“*opinion*”: decide.

“*to judge*”: “bringing to trail” - expressing severe disapproval of (someone or something), typically in a formal statement).

Let's Remember what God told the People to do before they got delivered out of Egypt, which we are reminded to do prior to Christ's 2nd Coming:

1. I Will Provide the Way Out and All the Way Into the Promise Land

Exodus 11:2 - Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.”

2. Know the Times

Exodus 12:1-17 - The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “**This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.**”³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

...⁷ “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it . . .

...¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast . . .

...¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.”

Word Study by Ryan Roberts of Key 2 Changes

Reflective Scripture:

*⁹ Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let him know them;
for the ways of the LORD are right,
and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them. Hosea 14:9*

“You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed.” (Isaiah 52:3)

Opening Scripture Reflection:

Jeremiah 23:16-40

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. **They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord.** ¹⁷ **They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”**

¹⁸ For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

¹⁹ **Behold, the storm of the Lord!**

**Wrath has gone forth,
a whirling tempest;**

it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

²⁰ The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart.

In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

²¹ **“I did not send the prophets,
yet they ran;
I did not speak to them,
yet they prophesied.”**

²² But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

²³ “Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. **Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.** ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ ²⁶ **How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? ³⁰ **Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the Lord, who steal my words from one another.** ³¹ Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the Lord, who use their tongues and declare, ‘declares the Lord.’ ³² **Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the Lord, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the Lord.****

³³ “When one of this people, or a prophet or a priest asks you, ‘**What is the burden of the Lord?**’ you shall say to them, ‘**You are the burden, and I will cast you off, declares the Lord.**’” ³⁴ And as for the prophet, priest, or one of the people who says, ‘The burden of the Lord,’ I will punish that man and his household. ³⁵ **Thus shall you say, every one to his neighbor and every one to his brother, ‘What has the Lord answered?’ or ‘What has the Lord spoken?’** ³⁶ But ‘the burden of the Lord’ you shall mention no more, for the burden is every man’s own word, and you pervert the words of the living God, the Lord of hosts, our God. ³⁷ **Thus you shall say to the prophet, ‘What has the Lord answered you?’ or ‘What has the Lord spoken?’** ³⁸ **But if you say, ‘The burden of the Lord,’ thus says the Lord, ‘Because you have said these words, “The burden of the Lord,” when I sent to you, saying, “You shall not say, “The burden of the Lord,””** ³⁹ therefore,

behold, I will surely lift you up and cast you away from my presence, you and the city that I gave to you and your fathers. ⁴⁰ And I will bring upon you everlasting reproach and perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.”

“Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Messiah will shine on you. Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”

Ephesians 5:14–16

“Yet they seek me daily
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that did righteousness
and did not forsake the judgment of their God . . .”

Isaiah 58:2

This Week:

VAYELECH (And He Went)

Deuteronomy 31:1–30; Hosea 14:1 (2)–9 (10); Joel 2:15–27; Micah 7:18–20; Isaiah 55:6–56:8; Romans 10:14–21
&

HA’AZINU (Listen!) - Deuteronomy 32:1–52
Deuteronomy 32:1–52; 2 Samuel 22:1–51; Romans 11:1–36

Passing the Baton into Eternity!

Two Weeks ago, in the Reading “You Are Standing”, God emphasized that we have freedom of choice to follow after the way of life or the way of death.

In this week’s Scripture Reading, “And He Went (out)” - Moses invests Joshua with leadership and initiates the writing down of the Torah.

“And He Went” (Vayelech) is the shortest Torah reading of the year, consisting of only one chapter.

The reading for this particular Sabbath, which comes after Rosh Hashanah (**Yom Teruah – the Feast of Trumpets**) and before the Day of Atonement (**Yom Kippur**), falls during the Ten Days of Awe during which time we are to seek the Lord with sincere repentance for our sins.

This special Shabbat is called **Sabbath of Return** because the special prophetic reading from the Book of Hosea starts with (Return O Israel).

It is also called **Shabbat of Repentance** as it calls the people of God to turn from their sins and rebellion and to return to God (repentance – stop doing it your way and start doing it God’s way).

This Sabbath actually has two special Haftarah readings. Hosea 14:1(2)–9(10) emphasizes the importance of heartfelt repentance, and Micah 7:18–20 praises God’s mercy:

Hosea 1

¹The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

Hosea's Wife and Children

²When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.” ³So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴And the Lord said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. ⁵And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

⁶She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the Lord said to him, “Call her name No Mercy, for I will not have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. ⁷But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”

⁸When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. ⁹And the Lord said, “Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”

¹⁰Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.” ¹¹And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

Hosea 2

Israel's Unfaithfulness Punished

¹Say to your brothers, “You are my people,” and to your sisters, “You have received mercy.”

²“Plead with your mother, plead –
for she is not my wife,
and I am not her husband –
that she put away her whoring from her face,
and her adultery from between her breasts;
³I will strip her naked
and make her as in the day she was born,

and make her like a wilderness,
and make her like a parched land,
and kill her with thirst.
⁴ Upon her children also I will have no mercy,
because they are children of whoredom.
⁵ For their mother has played the whore;
she who conceived them has acted shamefully.
For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers,
who give me my bread and my water,
my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.’
⁶ Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns,
and I will build a wall against her,
so that she cannot find her paths.
⁷ She shall pursue her lovers
but not overtake them,
and she shall seek them
but shall not find them.
Then she shall say,
‘I will go and return to my first husband,
for it was better for me than now.’
⁸ And she did not know
that it was I who gave her
the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and who lavished on her silver and gold,
which they used for Baal.
⁹ Therefore I will take back
my grain in its time,
and my wine in its season,
and I will take away my wool and my flax,
which were to cover her nakedness.
¹⁰ Now I will uncover her lewdness
in the sight of her lovers,
and no one shall rescue her out of my hand.
¹¹ And I will put an end to all her mirth,
her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths,
and all her appointed feasts.
¹² And I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees,
of which she said,
‘These are my wages,
which my lovers have given me.’
I will make them a forest,
and the beasts of the field shall devour them.
¹³ And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals
when she burned offerings to them
and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry,
and went after her lovers
and forgot me, declares the Lord.
The Lord’s Mercy on Israel
¹⁴ “Therefore, behold, I will allure her,
and bring her into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.
¹⁵ And there I will give her her vineyards
and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.
And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth,
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.
¹⁶ “And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me
‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My
Baal.’ ¹⁷ For I will remove the names of the Baals from her
mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no
more. ¹⁸ And I will make for them a covenant on that day
with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the
creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the
sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down
in safety. ¹⁹ And I will betroth you to me forever. I will
betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast
love and in mercy. ²⁰ I will betroth you to me in faithfulness.
And you shall know the Lord.
²¹ “And in that day I will answer, declares the Lord,
I will answer the heavens,
and they shall answer the earth,

²² and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the
oil,
and they shall answer Jezreel,
²³ and I will sow her for myself in the land.
And I will have mercy on No Mercy,
and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’;
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”

Hosea 14

A Plea to Return to the Lord

¹ Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God,
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.
² Take with you words
and return to the Lord;
say to him,
“Take away all iniquity;
accept what is good,
and we will pay with bulls
the vows^[a] of our lips.
³ Assyria shall not save us;
we will not ride on horses;
and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’
to the work of our hands.
In you the orphan finds mercy.”
⁴ I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.
⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily;
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;
⁶ his shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive,
and his fragrance like Lebanon.
⁷ They shall return and dwell beneath my^[b] shadow;
they shall flourish like the grain;
they shall blossom like the vine;
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.
⁸ O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
It is I who answer and look after you.
I am like an evergreen cypress;
from me comes your fruit.
⁹ Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let him know them;
for the ways of the Lord are right,
and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them.

Micah 7:18-20

God’s Steadfast Love and Compassion

¹⁸ Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression
for the remnant of his inheritance?
He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.
¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.
You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.
²⁰ You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and steadfast love to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our fathers
from the days of old

Trans:

Succession Planning: Moses and Joshua

"Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. And he said to them: 'I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in. Also the LORD has said to me, "You shall not cross over this Jordan."' (Deuteronomy 31:1-2)

In this Reading, Moses faces his imminent death. At the age of 120 years, he prepares his people for a future without his leadership.

Moses knows that he will not be the one to take the children of Israel across the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 31:1-6

Joshua to Succeed Moses

¹ So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel. ² And he said to them, "I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. The Lord has said to me, 'You shall not go over this Jordan.' ³ The Lord your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the Lord has spoken. ⁴ And the Lord will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. ⁵ And the Lord will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Although Moses would not go with the people, he assures them that God will go with them and give them victory against their enemies.

Deuteronomy 31:7-11

⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. ⁸ It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

The Reading of the Law

⁹ Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel. ¹⁰ And Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths, ¹¹ when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. ¹

God also gives a word to the people of Israel through Moses: "Be strong and of good courage."

Why did they need this encouragement?

It is because in the Promised Land they would be facing new enemies and challenges that they had never encountered in the wilderness.

They would also need to learn how to work the land instead of having manna rain down each day from Heaven.

Moses, however, was not about to leave the people leaderless, like sheep without a shepherd. He ordained Joshua as his successor to take over the leadership role.

"Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it." Deuteronomy 31:7

Moses gave us a beautiful example of someone who knew how to exit his position of prominence with grace and dignity. He knew when it was time to step down.

He not only passed on the torch to the next generation without any display of resentment or hurt feelings, he also publicly bestowed blessings, encouragement, and affirmation upon the one who would take his place "in the sight of all Israel."

Joshua ben Nun of the tribe of Ephraim was groomed for this leadership role.

We, too, when embarking upon a new venture, need to have the strength and courage to trust that God will be with us to help us overcome every challenge and to meet every need.

"Through God we will do valiantly, and it is He who shall tread down our adversaries." Psalm 60:12

Moreover, people may come and go in our lives, but God is the faithful One who will never abandon us.

"We may come to depend upon people, even those who are capable, strong, spiritual leaders, but ultimately we need to trust that it is God who will be our "ever-present help in times of trouble. Therefore we will not fear." Psalm 46:1-2

Deuteronomy 31:12-13

12 Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, 13 and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

Succession Planning and the Torah

Succession in this Reading was not only about leadership. Moses ensured that the people had what they needed to bring them into the future.

He wrote down the Torah and commanded the Israelites to read it every seven years in the year of the Shemittah (Sabbatical year) (this year, September 7, 2021 begins a 7-year Sabbatical year) at the time of Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles).

Moses entrusted the safekeeping of this Torah into the hands of the sons of Aaron who were the Cohanim (Jewish Priests) as well as all the Levites, who were charged with carrying the Ark of the Covenant, among other duties.

In this way, the Torah was to be taught and handed down to generation after generation so that they would fear the Lord and keep His commandments.

We also have a responsibility to teach the Word of God to our children – that they may teach their children and so on down the generations – to fear God and obey His Word.

The responsibility to diligently teach our children the Scriptures is still taken seriously today, based on the command:

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Passing on our faith in God to our children is not the job of the youth ministry teacher once a week during congregation services; it is meant to be a lifestyle of living out faith and obedience in front of our children, as well as talking about God and His Word throughout the day – every day.

Deuteronomy 31:14-30

Joshua Commissioned to Lead Israel

14 And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, the days approach when you must die. Call Joshua and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, that I may commission him." And Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tent of meeting. 15 And the Lord appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud. And the pillar of cloud stood over the entrance of the tent.

16 And the Lord said to Moses, (#1 – Warning) "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers. Then this people will rise and whore after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them. 17 Then my anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide my face from them, and they will be devoured. And many evils and troubles will come upon them, so that they will say in that day, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?' 18 And I will surely hide my face in that day because of all the evil that they have done, because they have turned to other gods.

19 "Now therefore write this song and teach it to the people of Israel. Put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the people of Israel. (#2 – Warning) 20 For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to give to their fathers, and they have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise me and break my covenant. 21 And when many evils and troubles have come upon them, this song shall confront them as a witness (for it will live unforgotten in the mouths of their offspring). For I know what they are inclined to do even today, before I have brought them into the land that I swore to give." 22 So Moses wrote this song the same day and taught it to the people of Israel.

23 And the Lord commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them. I will be with you."

24 When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end, 25 Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, 26 "Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant (symbolic of our hearts) of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against you. 27 For I know how rebellious and stubborn you are. Behold, even today while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the Lord. How much more after my death! 28 Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears and call heaven and earth to witness against them. (#3 – Warning) 29 For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly and turn aside from the way that I have commanded you. And in the days to come evil will befall you, because you will do what is evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands."

The Song of Moses

30 Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel:

Sin, Repentance and the Glory of God

In this Reading, we come to realize that God knew that despite all His warnings, the people of Israel would go astray and commit spiritual adultery by seeking after other gods and worshipping the idols of the pagans around them in the Promised Land.

"And the LORD said to Moses: 'Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.'

"Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?'" Deuteronomy 31:16-17

Twice, God says He will hide His face from His people because of their sins. **This term does not indicate the lack of Divine Providence but the concealment of it.**

We can see this at work even today. God is **maintaining His state of being hidden from the people of Israel** – but the Father is revealed through Jesus the Messiah.

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 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." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

"Anyone who has seen Me," Jesus said, "has seen the Father." John 14:9

In Jesus, we see God in all of His glory:

"For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts **so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus the Messiah.**" 2 Corinthians 4:6

Transition:

Matthew 24:3-4, 15-28

Signs of the End of the Age

³As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to 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?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "**See that no one leads you astray . . .**

Opening Scripture Reading:

Daniel 12:8-13

The Time of the End

⁸I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" ⁹He said, "Go your way, Daniel, **for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.** ¹⁰Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. ¹¹And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. ¹²Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. ¹³But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

Daniel 11:32-33

³²He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. ³³And **the wise among the people shall make many understand,** though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder.

Daniel 7

Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts

¹In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, **Daniel saw a dream and visions** of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. ²Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. ³And **four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.** ⁴The **first** was like a lion (lion = Great Brittan) and had eagles' wings (eagle = United States of America). Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. ⁵And behold, another beast, **a second one, like a bear** (bear = Russia). It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' ⁶After this I looked, and behold, another (third), like a leopard (leopard = Germany), with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. ⁷After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had **ten horns.** ⁸I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, **a little one** (a little one = The Anti-christ), **before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots.** And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

The Ancient of Days Reigns

⁹"As I looked,

thrones were placed,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames;
its wheels were burning fire.
¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and came out from before him;
a thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;
the court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened (*the books were opened = The Feast of Atonement*).

¹¹ "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

The Son of Man Is Given Dominion

¹³ "I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.
¹⁴ And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.

Daniel's Vision Interpreted

¹⁵ "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. ¹⁶ I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. ¹⁷ "These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever."

¹⁹ "Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, ²⁰ and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. ²¹ As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

²³ "Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast,
there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth,
which shall be different from all the kingdoms,
and it shall devour the whole earth,
and trample it down, and break it to pieces.

²⁴ As for the ten horns,
out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise,
and another shall arise after them;
he shall be different from the former ones,
and shall put down three kings.

²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High,
and shall wear out the saints of the Most High,
and shall think to change the times and the law;
and they shall be given into his hand
for a time, times, and half a time.

²⁶ But the court shall sit in judgment,
and his dominion shall be taken away,
to be consumed and destroyed to the end.

²⁷ And the kingdom and the dominion
and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven
shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;
his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom,
and all dominions shall serve and obey him.³

²⁸ “Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.”

Four Accounts of the Second Coming

The Book of Revelation is such an exciting book because it deals mostly with the events that are to occur in the end times. The Book of Revelation is not really the Book of Revelation. The first verse of the first chapter says, “The revelation of Jesus Christ.” The word revelation comes from the Greek word apocalypsis, which means the revealing, or the “unveiling”

The “Unveiling of Jesus Christ” is the design of the entire Book of Revelation. Revelation contains four very dramatic and exciting accounts of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ back to this earth (**and the Fulfillment of both the Feast of Trumpets & Atonement**).

The theme of the entire Book of Revelation is found in this passage, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen,” (Revelation 1:7).

THE THREE SECTIONS OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

In order to really understand the Book of Revelation, we need to know it is recorded in three sections. They are defined for us in the following verse, “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter,” (Revelation 1:19).

- The “things which thou hast seen” are recorded in chapter 1.
- The “things which are” are recorded in chapters 2 and 3.
- The “things which shall be hereafter” are recorded in chapters 4–22.

Let’s take a closer look at these three sections of the Book of Revelation.

Things Thou Hast Seen

John saw the Lord, and the Lord introduced Himself to John saying, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty,” (Revelation 1:8). He further reveals Himself as being Jesus Christ when John says, “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death,” (Revelation 1:17-18). These are the “**things which thou hast seen**.”

Things Which Are

The “**things which are**” are contained in chapters 2 and 3. These are the messages to the seven churches of Asia Minor which existed at that particular time. The churches were Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. History records after John was released from exile on the Isle of Patmos, he returned to Asia Minor, which today is Turkey. He was the overseer of the seven churches. Almighty God gave John specific messages to each of those seven churches to present to them, which he did after he was liberated from the exile.

Things Which shall be Hereafter

Now we come to the larger part of the Book of Revelation. These are the “**things which shall be hereafter**” found in chapters 4–22. **The prophetic portion of the Book of Revelation begins in chapter 4**, “After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, **Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter**,” (Revelation 4:1).

FOUR ACCOUNTS OF THE SECOND COMING

We need to understand another very important fact as we are taking this overview of the entire Book of Revelation. Revelation contains four different accounts of the Second Coming of Jesus, or we might say four different accounts of the “unveiling” of Jesus. The entire book is about the “Unveiling of Jesus Christ,” or the “revealing of Jesus Christ” to the world at the time of the Second Coming.

CONCLUSION

Throughout the Book of Revelation, we fill in all the blanks, but we need to retain two pieces of crucial information. The first one is, there are four accounts of the Second Coming. The second piece of crucial information to remember is, there are three divisions of the Book of Revelation.

First Account

It begins in Revelation 4 and concludes in Revelation 8:5. This is where the Seven Seals are recorded, concluding with the Second Coming.

Second Account

We find this account in Revelation 8:2 through Revelation 11:19. The passage gives many events leading up to the Second Coming, but concludes once again with the Second Coming.

Third Account

In chapter 12, God reveals to us more events from a totally different perspective. Revelation 12-14 again, from a different perspective, tells us the story of the events that lead up to the dramatic "Unveiling of Jesus Christ" which happens in Revelation 14:14-20.

Fourth Account

The Book of Revelation starts over again in chapter 15 and gives us a record of the Seven Vials. These events culminate in chapter 19:

- Heavens departing
- Jesus comes to earth
- Fights the Battle of Armageddon
- Antichrist and False Prophet thrown into the Lake of Fire
- Satan is bound for 1,000 years
- Kingdom of God is established

Again, the second piece of crucial information to remember is, there are three divisions of the Book of Revelation.

Three Divisions of the Book of Revelation

- Things which thou hast seen
- Things which are
- Things which shall be hereafter

Once again, The entire Book of Revelation is broken down into four different accounts of the Second Coming and is divided into three divisions.

John was told, "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter," (Revelation 1:19). As we mentioned, there are four different accounts of the unveiling.

Why did God write the Book of Revelation like this? It appears He was looking forward with great excitement to the culmination of everything! I'm talking about Calvary; I'm talking about His ministry; I'm talking about the church age. Everything is all going to culminate with this ultimate goal — the Second Coming or the Unveiling of Jesus to the earth!

Let's go back to the theme of the Book of Revelation, "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen," (Revelation 1:7).

Revelation 13

The First Beast

¹ And I saw a **beast rising out of the sea** (*a beast = a nation*), with **ten horns** (*ten horns = 10 kings*) and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. ² And the beast that I saw was like a **leopard** (*leopard = Germany*); its **feet were like a bear's** (*bear = Russia*), and its **mouth was like a lion's** (*lion = Great Brittan*) mouth. And **to it the dragon** (*dragon = Satan*) **gave his power and his throne and great authority**. ³ One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. ⁴ And **they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast**, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

⁵ And the beast was given a **mouth** (*mouth of a lion = Great Brittan, speaking English*) uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months (*42-months = 3 1/2*). ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ **Also it** (*it = Followers of Messiah/Yeshua*) **was allowed to make war on the saints** (*saints = Followers of Messiah/Yeshua*) **and to conquer them**. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and **all who dwell on earth will worship it**, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. ⁹ *If anyone has an ear, let him hear:*

¹⁰ **If anyone*** is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;

if anyone* is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

* *anyone taken captive . . . anyone slain with the sword = verse 7, those Satan make war on the saints.*

The Second Beast

¹¹ Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. ¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. ¹⁶ Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

This week we will be teaching on Armageddon, The Feast of Trumpets, and The Feast of Atonement, beginning with:

Revelation 12

The Woman and the Dragon

¹ And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵ She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne. **(nearly 2,000 years separate verse 5 and verse 6, the Ascension of Jesus and the Second Coming of Jesus)** ⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days (3 ½ years).

Satan Thrown Down to Earth

⁷ **Now war arose in heaven,** Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ **And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.** ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.**" ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² **Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"**

¹³ **And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.** ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where **she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time** (3 ½ years). ¹⁵ **The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.** ¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷ **Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.** And he stood on the sand of the sea.

This week we will be teaching on Armageddon, found in:

Revelation 16

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

¹ Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

² So **the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth,** and **harmful and painful sores** (6th Plague – Exodus 9:9) came **upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.**

³ **The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea,** and **it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea** (1st Plague – Exodus 7:20). (Revelations 7:2-3 – God's People not hurt during God's Wrath – Revelation 6:15-23 – example Exodus 8:22 – Goshen)

Revelations 7:2-3 ² Then 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, ³ saying, "**Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.**"

Revelation 6:15-23 ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Exodus 8:22 But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.

Revelation 16 (continued) v. 4-6

⁴ **The THIRD angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood** (1st Plague (Repeat) – Exodus 7:20). ⁵ And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say,

"Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments.

⁶ **For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets** (Saints Killed during the Great Tribulation), and you have given them blood to drink.

It is what they deserve!"

Revelation 12:7-17 (Satan Thrown Down to Earth) ⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ **And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.** ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and

the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time (3 ½ years) . . . ¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Matthew 24:15-31 (*The Abomination of Desolation*) ¹⁵ "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²² And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ²³ Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶ So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Revelations 14:9-13 ⁹ And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

¹² Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

Revelation 16 (continued) v. 7-16

⁷ And I heard the altar saying,

"Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!"

⁸ The FOURTH angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire (1st Plague – Exodus 7:20). ⁹ They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

¹⁰ The FIFTH angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness (9th Plague – Exodus 10:21). People gnawed their tongues in anguish ¹¹ and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

¹² The SIXTH angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. ¹³ And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs (*What is this spirit(s)? – Daniel 7:20 – "and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions."*). ¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. ¹⁵ "Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on (Revelation 22:14, "Blessed are they that do his commandments (who wash their robes), that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.), that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!" ¹⁶ And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called ARMAGEDDON.

Ezekiel 38:14-18

¹⁴ "Therefore, son of man, prophesy, and say to Gog, Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day when my people Israel are dwelling securely, will you not know it? ¹⁵ You will come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great host, a mighty army. ¹⁶ You will come up against my people Israel, like a cloud covering the land. In the latter days I will bring you against my land, that the nations may know me, when through you, O Gog, I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

¹⁷ "Thus says the Lord GOD: Are you he of whom I spoke in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel, who in those days prophesied for years that I would bring you against them? ¹⁸ But on that day, the day that Gog shall come against the land of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, my wrath will be roused in my anger.

Revelation 16 (continued) v. 17-18

The Seventh Bowl

¹⁷ The SEVENTH angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. (*Ezekiel 38:22 – "With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur."*)

7th Trumpet
The Seventh Trumpet

Revelation 11:19

"Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and **the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple (only one time a year is the ark of the covenant seen, during the Feast of Atonement, late September to early October)**. There were **flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder**, an **earthquake**, and heavy hail."

Revelation 15:1-3 (-8)

The Seven Angels with Seven Plagues – ("The Feast of Atonement")

¹ Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.

² And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire – and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. ³ And they sing the **song of Moses** (Deuteronomy 32 – right before Israel was about to cross the Jordan into the Promise Land, with Joshua (Yeshua – Jesus) being our Leader who victoriously leads us into the Promise Land), the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

*"Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed."*

(Full Version)

Deuteronomy 32
The Song of Moses

¹ **"Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak,
and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.**

² **May my teaching drop as the rain,
my speech distill as the dew,**

like gentle rain upon the tender grass,
and like showers upon the herb.

³ For I will proclaim the name of the LORD;
ascribe greatness to our God!

⁴ "The Rock, his work is perfect,
for all his ways are justice.

A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,
just and upright is he.

⁵ They have dealt corruptly with him;
they are no longer his children because they are blemished;
they are a crooked and twisted generation.

⁶ Do you thus repay the LORD,
you foolish and senseless people?
Is not he your father, who created you,
who made you and established you?

⁷ **Remember the days of old;
consider the years of many generations;
ask your father, and he will show you,
your elders, and they will tell you.**

⁸ When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance,
when he divided mankind,
he fixed the borders of the peoples
according to the number of the sons of God.

⁹ But the LORD's portion is his people,
Jacob his allotted heritage.

¹⁰ "He found him in a desert land,
and in the howling waste of the wilderness;
he encircled him, he cared for him,
he kept him as the apple of his eye.

¹¹ **Like an eagle that stirs up its nest,
that flutters over its young,
spreading out its wings, catching them,
bearing them on its pinions,**

¹² **the LORD alone guided him,
no foreign god was with him.**

¹³ He made him ride on the high places of the land,
and he ate the produce of the field,
and he suckled him with honey out of the rock,

and oil out of the flinty rock.
14 Curds from the herd, and milk from the flock,
with fat of lambs,
rams of Bashan and goats,
with the very finest of the wheat—
and you drank foaming wine made from the blood of the grape.
15 "But Jeshurun (*Jeshurun: Israel*) grew fat, and kicked;
you grew fat, stout, and sleek;
then he forsook God who made him
and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.
16 They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods;
with abominations they provoked him to anger.
17 They sacrificed to demons that were no gods,
to gods they had never known,
to new gods that had come recently,
whom your fathers had never dreaded.
18 You were unmindful of the Rock that bore^{lel} you,
and you forgot the God who gave you birth.
19 "The LORD saw it and spurned them,
because of the provocation of his sons and his daughters.
20 And he said, 'I will hide my face from them;
I will see what their end will be,
for they are a perverse generation,
children in whom is no faithfulness.
21 **They have made me jealous with what is no god;
they have provoked me to anger with their idols.
So I will make them jealous with those who are no people;
I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.**
22 For a fire is kindled by my anger,
and it burns to the depths of Sheol,
devours the earth and its increase,
and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.
23 "And I will heap disasters upon them;
I will spend my arrows on them;
24 they shall be wasted with hunger,
and devoured by plague
and poisonous pestilence;
I will send the teeth of beasts against them,
with the venom of things that crawl in the dust.
25 Outdoors the sword shall bereave,
and indoors terror,
for young man and woman alike,
the nursing child with the man of gray hairs.
26 I would have said, "I will cut them to pieces;
I will wipe them from human memory,"
27 had I not feared provocation by the enemy,
lest their adversaries should misunderstand,
lest they should say, "Our hand is triumphant,
it was not the LORD who did all this."
28 "For they are a nation void of counsel,
and there is no understanding in them.
29 If they were wise, they would understand this;
they would discern their latter end!
30 How could one have chased a thousand,
and two have put ten thousand to flight,
unless their Rock had sold them,
and the LORD had given them up?
31 For their rock is not as our Rock;
our enemies are by themselves.
32 For their vine comes from the vine of Sodom
and from the fields of Gomorrah;
their grapes are grapes of poison;
their clusters are bitter;
33 their wine is the poison of serpents
and the cruel venom of asps.
34 "Is not this laid up in store with me,
sealed up in my treasuries?
35 Vengeance is mine, and recompense,
for the time when their foot shall slip;

for the day of their calamity is at hand,
and their doom comes swiftly.⁷

**36 For the LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants,
when he sees that their power is gone
and there is none remaining, bond or free.**

³⁷ Then he will say, "Where are their gods,
the rock in which they took refuge,
³⁸ who ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their drink offering?
Let them rise up and help you;
let them be your protection!

**39 "See now that I, even I, am he,
and there is no god beside me;
I kill and I make alive;
I wound and I heal;
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.**

**40 For I lift up my hand to heaven
and swear, As I live forever,**

**41 if I sharpen my flashing sword
and my hand takes hold on judgment,
I will take vengeance on my adversaries
and will repay those who hate me.**

**42 I will make my arrows drunk with blood,
and my sword shall devour flesh –
with the blood of the slain and the captives,
from the long-haired heads of the enemy.⁸**

**43 "Rejoice with him, O heavens;
bow down to him, all gods,
for he avenges the blood of his children
and takes vengeance on his adversaries.
He repays those who hate him
and cleanses his people's land."**

⁴⁴ Moses came and recited all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he and Joshua the son of Nun. ⁴⁵ And when Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, ⁴⁶ he said to them, "Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law." ⁴⁷ For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

Revelation 15 (continued) v. 5-8

⁵ After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the **tent of witness in heaven was opened**, ⁶ and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, **clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests**. ⁷ *And 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.* ⁸ and **the sanctuary was filled with smoke** from the glory of God and from his power, and **no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished**.

Key to Unlock Revelation 15-19 – 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**

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 (**Ethanim** or **Tishri** - **Ethanim** means "permanent". The Jewish people currently call this month Tishri.) of God's **sacred** calendar and is considered by Jewish people to be the most holy day of the year. It is the time when God cleanses them of their sins, both individually and corporately, then removes their guilt.

The Day of Atonement is a Sabbath day and the only fast day that God declared in the Scriptures. 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.**

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 five times on this day. He washes his hands and his feet ten 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**

The Order Of 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** 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.
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***

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

²⁰ And 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**

7. One of the two goats is 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 TaNaCh (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 Hanok, 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 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.

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)

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 Vayikra 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.
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**.
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.**

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.
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.**

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 Hopher 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. ¹² Then 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, ³and 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 **dwell** 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)*

Nillah: Closing the Gate

On Yom Kippur, the closing service is called Nillah, which means the closing of a gate.

Jewish tradition holds that up until this very last moment, we can repent and pray for God's mercy. In fact, it is said that access through this gate is never easier than in the hours before Yom Kippur. This is a time when the heavens are open wide.

However, when dusk comes and the fast of Yom Kippur is finished, the gate is closed and judgment is sealed.

In the Brit Chadashah (New Testament), Yeshua (Jesus) said that He is the gate for His sheep. That Gate is always open wide for those who want to enter through Him.

"I am the Gate, whoever enters through Me will be saved." (*John 10:9*)

To understand what Yeshua meant by this, let's examine the purpose of a gate.

- **A gate gives us access** to a place; to get to the other side, we go through the gate. Through Yeshua, by faith, we gain access to eternity:
"Those who believe in Me, even though they die like everyone else, will live again. **They are given eternal life for believing in Me**, and will never perish." (*John 11:25-26*)
- A gate also provides **a way through a barrier**. **Our sins separate us from God**, but through Yeshua, Jew and Gentile have access to the Father in Heaven (**Abba b'Shamayim**).
"Yeshua said, 'I am the way, the truth and the Life; no one can come to the Father but **through Me**.'" (*John 14:6*)
- **A gate controls who may or may not enter**:
"Blessed are *they that do his commandments*, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life and may **go through the gates into the city**. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood." (*Revelation 22:14-15*)
- Yeshua tells us that **anyone trying to climb in by some other way is a thief and robber**:
"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not **enter the sheep pen by the gate**, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber." (*John 10:1*)

Next Week:

Eternity Conceived

**The Sights, The Sounds, The Teaching of the
"Feast of Tabernacles"**

this year Monday, September 20th 6pm to Monday, September 27th 6pm