

I. YEARLY RHYTHMS OF CREATION

- A. For only about 2–3 weeks each year, fireflies in the great smokey mountains enter their mating season. Thousands begin synchronizing their flashes followed by a period of darkness, producing waves of light through the forest. The exact peak varies with temperature and soil conditions.
- B. Each year, tens of millions of red crabs leave the forest and march toward the ocean to reproduce. Even more remarkable, their spawning is synchronized with rainfall, lunar phase, tides, and time of day: they release their eggs before dawn during a receding high tide around the moon's last quarter.
- C. What makes these examples fascinating isn't merely that they happen annually, but many involve an intersection of season, temperature, rainfall, moonlight, tides, reproduction, food availability, and biological rhythms.
- D. Even in the natural rhythms of creation, we see the order of God and the reality of appointed times and seasons. Though God transcends time, He sovereignly works within time to accomplish His eternal purposes, unfolding His redemptive plan in our lives and throughout the nations.
- E. He unfolds His eternal purposes through His seven feasts.

1. *"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven."*-Ecc 3:1

- F. ***Today, we will look at an event that took place once a year on one appointed day, yet ultimately found its complete and eternal fulfillment in one extraordinary day, the Day of Atonement.***

II. DAY OF ATONEMENT

- A. Of God's seven appointed feasts, none was more solemn than the Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur, which was regarded as the holiest and most sacred day of the year.
 - 1. ***"²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²⁷ 'Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. ²⁸ And you shall do no work on that***

***same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. ²⁹ For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. ³⁰ And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. ³¹ You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ³² It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."*-Lev 23:26-32**

III. WHAT IS THE DAY OF ATONEMENT?

- A. The Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur, is the second of Israel's three fall feasts and was considered the most solemn day of the year. It was observed on the 10th day of the seventh month, ten days after the Feast of Trumpets.
- B. The Day of Atonement has historical significance for Israel, spiritual application for believers, and prophetic significance concerning God's redemptive purposes for national Israel.
- C. Yom Kippur is a day of repentance and reconciliation with God and others in order to be ready and prepare for the last feast of the year, tabernacles.

IV. HISTORICAL DAY OF ATONEMENT

- A. On this day, Israel was commanded to afflict their souls,(fast) rest from their work, and humble themselves before God and seek repentance.
- B. Most importantly, this was the one day each year the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies to make atonement for Israel's sins.
- C. The High Priest first washed and put on sacred garments. He then sacrificed a bull for his own sins and those of his household and brought its blood before the Mercy Seat.
- D. He then presented two goats. One was sacrificed for the sins of Israel, and its blood was brought into the Holy of Holies. Over the second, the scapegoat, the High Priest laid his hands on its head and confessed the

sins of Israel and sent it into the wilderness, symbolically carrying their sins away.

1. **One goat pictured the price of sin being paid; the other pictured sin being removed.**

V. THE WORD ATONEMENT

- A. The word "atone" or "atonement" is used over 100 times in scripture.
 1. To atone is to suffer the penalty for sins, thereby removing the effects of sin from the repentant sinner and allowing him or her to be reconciled to God.
- B. Atonement always requires a substitutionary death in place of the sinner to atone for people's sins and to be reconciled to God. The shedding of blood was always required for atonement to be complete.

VI. THE WORK OF ATONEMENT DOES FOUR POWERFUL THINGS

1. Appeases or satisfies the wrath of God against sin. (blood shed)
2. Cleanses the sinner of sin
3. Forgives the sin by covering it
4. Reconciles man to God relationally

VII. JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

- A. The Day of Atonement found its ultimate fulfillment 2,000 years ago—not merely on another holy day, but on the holiest day in history, when Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross in Jerusalem and offered Himself as the perfect substitute for our sins.
- B. Jesus accomplished once for all what Israel observed once every year.
 1. ***"14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession."*-Heb. 4:14.**

2. ***"For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." – Hebrews 9:24***
3. ***"Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all." – Hebrews 9:12***

VIII. FORSHADOWS OF JESUS IN THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

- A. The high priest washed his body before entering into the Holy of Holies, Jesus as the ultimate High Priest was baptized in the Jordan in preparation of final atonement.
- B. The High Priest changed His clothing and put on white garments before entering in the most holy place, Jesus laid His heavenly garments of glory and put on the clothing of humanity.
- C. The High Priest entered the earthly sanctuary with an animal's blood Jesus entered the heavenly mercy seat with His own blood.
- D. The scapegoat took Israel's sins outside the camp, Jesus took our sins and died outside the city walls.
- E. The high priest entered an earthly sanctuary, Jesus entered the heavenly one.

IX. FINAL APPLICATION FOR THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

- A. The Day of Atonement also points to a future final fulfillment, when national Israel will come into Jesus' atoning work.
 1. ***"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son" -Zech 12:10***
 2. ***"On that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness."-Zech 13:1***

X. SEVEN SPRINKLES OF BLOOD

- A. God commanded the High Priest to take the blood of the bull and sprinkle it seven times on the mercy seat.
 - 1. ***"He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times."-Lev 16:14***
- B. According to Scripture, God appointed blood, the life of a substitute, as the means of atonement, satisfying sin's penalty and reconciling sinners to a holy God.
 - 1. ***"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."-Lev 17:11***
 - 2. ***"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."-He 9:22***

XI. JESUS AS HIGH PRIEST SPRINKLED BLOOD SEVEN TIMES

- A. HIS TEARS FROM HIS EYES
 - 1. ***"And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."-Lk 22:44***
- B. CROWN OF THORNS ON HIS HEAD
 - 1. ***"When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand."-Mt 27:29***
- C. HIS FACE
 - 1. ***"Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, saying, 'Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?' -Mt 26:67-58***

D. HIS BACK

1. ***"So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him."-Jn 19:1***

E. HIS HANDS AND FEET (two areas)

1. ***"They pierced My hands and My feet."-Ps 22:16***

F. HIS SIDE

1. ***"But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out."-Jn 19:34***