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How To Celebrate Day of Atonement for Christians

– Jim Staley

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Did you know that Yom Kippur is connected to Revelation's end times final day of judgement? That's right, hundreds of thousands of Christians around the world are being called by the Holy Spirit to go back to doing Bible things in Bible ways and learning about God's calendar and His feast days. And Yom Kippur is at the top of the list. If you want to learn more about this holiday and want to learn how to celebrate it in your family, Jesus style, stick with us. We're going to talk about it right after this.

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Hello, everyone. Jim Staley here, [Passion for Truth Ministries](#), and welcome to this week's broadcast where we're going to be uncovering and detailing the how to of **Yom Kippur**. Yom Kippur is the holiest day of God's calendar, and we're going to talk all about that and how you can celebrate it as a family. In the meantime, if this is your first time here, we want to welcome you. We are a ministry dedicated to helping believers do Bible things in Bible ways, understanding the scriptures from the original Hebraic and Jewish perspective that they were written in, taking what I call the front of the book, the Old Testament, and really, truly matching it with the back of the book. Without understanding the front of the book and all of the idiomatic expressions and cultural nuances that were found in the New Testament, we're simply going to read into it what we already believe from a denominational bias. So, if this is the type of content you're looking for, hit [subscribe](#) right now, and you'll be glad that you did. Hit the notification bell to make sure you don't miss anything here at PFT. All right, now let's get to today's broadcast and really uncover this. If you want to learn all about Yom Kippur itself, I encourage you to click the link at the top of your screen or in the description where I go all about Yom Kippur. Today,

we're not going to go into all the details of Yom Kippur. We're going to talk about how to celebrate it.

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But let's give a little bit of review just for those that are brand new. So, **Yom Kippur**, or what's better known as the **Day of Atonement**, is one of the most sacred days in the Hebrew calendar, God's calendar, the biblical feast days. It's observed on the 10th day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei, which is the seventh month of the biblical calendar. This corresponds to around September, October in the Gregorian calendar, the calendar that we all use today. This solemn occasion is marked by fasting, prayer, deep reflection. It all allows us to emphasize themes of repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation. There could not be a better time once a year to recalibrate into this place of introspection and forgiveness. Yom Kippur is directly connected to Jesus. I like to call Him by His Hebrew name, Yeshua, which literally means salvation. It's also called Judgement Day. This is the Judgement Day that Revelation is talking about.

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It has its roots all the way back in Leviticus chapter 23 in the Torah, and it talks about the high priest and what he did on that day. This is a significant day among all others. Why? Because this is the day that the high priest, once a year, would go into the Holy of Holies. First, he would sacrifice for his own family and his own sins. Then, when that was all taken care of, he would go and he would sacrifice for all the sins of Israel. This was significant because all of Israel is banking and having faith on the high priest that he would do his job. They were having faith in the high priest, I should say, that everything he was going to do was going to be exactly the way it needed to be done. This is why the gospel is set up for all of creation right here in **Leviticus chapter 23**, in the story of the high priest. Israel cannot have forgiveness without trusting in the high priest.

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In the same way, of course, Jesus, Yeshua, is our high priest in the order of Melchizedek. No one can go to the Father except through Him. It's because He's the high priest. That's what Yom Kippur is all about. It really centers around a shofar, just like Yom Teruah, the feast of trumpets that we just celebrated. If you haven't seen that one, I encourage you to watch that one as well. The shofar blast of Yom Kippur carries a profound prophetic significance, resonating with both traditional Jews and Messianic Christian believers. It serves as a reminder of the final heavenly trumpet that will announce the coming day of the Lord, Judgement Day. This day, filled with both glory and awe, marks the return of our King.

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Many believe that Yom Kippur is highly prophetic. I believe that it's incredibly prophetic. It anticipates a future fulfillment when all of Israel will recognize that Yeshua, Jesus, is the Messiah. [Zechariah 12:10](#) speaks of a time when the people of Israel will mourn for the one they pierced, which many interpret as a reference to the ultimate recognition of Yeshua in the context of national

repentance. This prophetic view enhances the understanding of Yom Kippur as not only historical observance, but also a foreshadowing of future redemption. As a matter of fact, **Zechariah 12:10** says this, *"¹⁰ And I'll pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, who they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."* What an incredible scripture directly connected to Christ Himself.

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This day is set apart, my friends, for God's people to seek forgiveness and to make amends with others. Without a doubt, we can seek forgiveness every day. But the Christian life has lost the rhythm of the feast days that focus on certain things. Yom Teruah, the Feast of Trumpets, Rosh Hashanah, reminds us of the coming of the Messiah and the celebration of that. It is Yom Kippur that reminds us of a National Day of Repentance, that we truly put everything aside and we focus for 24 hours just on Him, looking on the inside. It serves as a time for introspection where individuals examine their actions over the past year and we strive for personal and communal renewal. This theme of communal responsibility is vital as Yom Kippur emphasizes that individual actions impact the larger community. This is something that our children need to learn.

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Teenagers have a hard time understanding that their individual decisions affect everyone that's around them. Yom Kippur teaches us that. It's not just about you, your decisions impact all of us. When God graciously established the New Covenant promise to Israel in [Jeremiah 31:33](#), you're familiar with that passage, He transformed the way we understand atonement with the singular blood sacrifice of Messiah Yeshua. Atonement for all humanity was achieved once and for all. I love the way [Hebrews 7 puts it, verse 27](#), he says, reminds us, he says, *"he sacrificed for their sins once and for all when he offered himself."* In light of this profound truth, many Christians today find themselves unsure about or even if they should observe Yom Kippur and honor the Lord on this special day. Although Christ fulfilled part of the prophetic picture of this most holy day, it is still yet to be completely fulfilled through the inevitable judgement day at the very end of time.

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Also, if we believe that we're part of the holy priesthood, as described in [1 Peter 5](#), then that offers believers a unique opportunity to connect intimately with the Father on this sacred occasion. It's a look back for what He did and a prophetic rehearsal for what's to come. At the center of Yom Kippur is the profound celebration of the sacrificial atonement made by Messiah. Now, let's just stop here for just a moment because we're talking about the Day of Atonement and we've mentioned the word atonement many times. But that word in Hebrew, which is where we get the word Kippur from, Yom being day, the Day of Atonement, atonement means to cover, to purge. Quite frankly, a great word

picture is to paint over with pitch. I love that definition because it's the idea of your sin is covered by the blood, it's pitched over by the blood of Christ. No more does God see your sin, but He sees the blood of His Son covering it, what atonement does.

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I'll be looking forward to that day when the Messiah comes and all sin is purged from the earth and would truly be put from east to west, never to be remembered again. I love [Hebrews 9, verse 11 through 12](#). It says, ***"¹¹ When Messiah appeared as high priest, he entered into the Holy of Holies once and for all, ¹² not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption."*** This gives us a tremendous, powerful pattern that the Torah's not done away with, the sacrificial system's not done away with. The moment He died, He entered into the Holy of Holies because it was necessary and He offered His own blood. That's a powerful look. One of the most amazing things that happened on this sacred day in ancient Israel is the high priest would take his hands, he would put it on the Azazel goat and he would confess all the sins of Israel and transfer them through his hands into that goat. Then they would take that goat and lead it off into the wilderness, never to be seen again.

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Simultaneously, they would take the La Adonai goat, the goat for God, and they would sacrifice that goat for God. Why all of this is a beautiful symbolism that one day all the sins of Israel will be placed on the head of one blood. On this sacred day, we dedicate ourselves to praising, magnifying, and celebrating Yeshua. It is both a somber day, a day of retrospection and forgiveness, repentance, but it's also a day of celebration for those who place their trust in Christ. We not only have our sins covered, but as the term Kippur suggests, He's completely eliminated them. That is something to celebrate. We do that in our family in the form of worship. We'll put on some worship music on YouTube or my daughter will play worship. We'll get out the djembe and we'll just give glory to our King.

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In biblical tradition, Yom Kippur is viewed as a appointment. It's a time when God's mercy is particularly accessible. The focus on repentance called teshuva is central. It involves a heartfelt return to God. Some key components of this observance include the following. First of all, wearing white. It's very popular and traditional to wear white on this day because this is the day where your sins are gone. It's also traditional to fast from the evening when the sun sets at the beginning of Yom Kippur to when the sun sets 24 hours later. We break that fast with a tremendous celebration meal and worship. Reading [Isaiah 53](#) and other scriptures is a very good way to add into your service of Yom Kippur.

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Of course, like I mentioned multiple times, prayer and confession, the liturgy includes multiple prayers. One of my favorite prayers is a traditional prayer

called the AI-Chet prayer. It's a list of transgressions and it allows for collective atonement. What that means is simply, I or the communal leader or the leader of the home will read the AI-Chet prayer and there's a line for the leader and then everybody will respond to that prayer. It literally lists every kind of sin that you can almost imagine, allowing individuals to think about those sins and ask God to forgive them in that moment. It's an amazing little time where our family gets together, church gets together, community gets together, and just admits that we are sinners. If that's something that you would like to have, you want a list of the AI-Chet prayers that I particularly wrote and put together, then I encourage you to **text** the word **ATONEMENT to 844-763-9543**. That's type the word, text the word **ATONEMENT to 844-763-9543** and you'll get a [free download](#) immediately of that [AI-Chet prayer](#).

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Another thing that you can do is take communion together. Get some wine, grape juice, and some bread together, just like you do on Friday night, every Friday night, or on the Sabbath when you have that holy time where you connect with the body and the blood of Christ. This is an opportunity to do that and do it in a very serious way. We remember that Christ gave Himself, and this is the whole reason for this holiday to begin with. Also, seeking forgiveness. I can't stress this enough. God makes it very clear in His word, don't come before me if you have ought against your brother. So, it's very customary to seek forgiveness from others before this holiday actually begins. The last 10 days leading up to this holiday is called the 10 Days of Awe, the time when you want to get things right. You don't want to go into Yom Kippur with any kind of ought in your heart or with anyone having ought against you. Fostering a spirit of reconciliation and unity is what Yom Kippur is all about. The practice of Yom Kippur emphasizes the importance of interpersonal relationships. So, if you have an issue with your neighbor, this is an opportunity to make it. There is one big word, big phrase, I should say, in this day that means a lot, and it's called the Book of Life. It starts off on the Feast of Trumpets, and it ends here at Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is associated with the belief in the Book of Life, where it's believed that God inscribes the names of the righteous for the coming year. It starts and the book is open on the Feast of Trumpets, but it's shut here and everyone's name is written.

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This is why it says in Revelation that the Lamb opens up. He's the only one capable of breaking the seal and opening up the Lamb's Book of Life, and anyone's name that's not found in there will be thrown into the lake of fire. For the followers of Christ, this is the part of the evening that's filled with rejoicing and celebration. However, it's important to remember that true praise is sacrificial. It requires something from us, be it time, resources, our tithe, energy, or even our pride. The Lord knows we need to sacrifice more of that. Embracing this sacrifice enriches our worship and deepens our connection to Him. Observing Yom Kippur is an amazing and beautiful act of sacrificial giving.

You're not only giving straight to God through your repentance, but it's also traditional to give to others that are in need. Sometimes this means that you say, I'm going to purchase something for somebody that's less fortunate. I'm going to give a gift to someone that is in need. I'm going to work at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen. I love what [Hebrews 13:16](#) says, ***"¹⁶ Do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*** As a matter of fact, we're right in the middle of going through a verse-by-verse study on the book of Hebrews, just like we did in Acts, just like we did in Romans, and now in Hebrews. If you'd like to walk through Hebrews verse-by-verse from the first century Hebrew Jewish perspective and learn more than you've ever wanted to ever learn about the book of Hebrews, you'll be shocked at what you didn't know. I encourage you to check it out. [All About Hebrews Series](#) will impact your life.

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If you have kids, here's a few traditions that you can do. First of all, explain the meaning of atonement with simple illustrations, with covering and cleansing. You can think of many different things that you can do. You can have a child sitting, laying down on the ground, and then bring a cover and cover over the top of them, showing them and their brothers and sisters, this is what happens. You can't see your brother and sister under the cover in the same way when Jesus, when Yeshua died on the cross for our sins, for those that believe and want to be covered, He doesn't see them anymore. He sees the cover, and the cover is the blood. You can read Jonah. This is often read in the synagogues for the Jewish people on Yom Kippur, and talk about repentance and God's mercy, because Jonah, quite frankly, he was a bit rebellious, probably like an average teenager or young person today, and show how that rebellion didn't lead anywhere. But God's mercy brought him to the shores of Nineveh. He fulfilled his mission, and that is a God-given Yom Kippur moment for sure. You can also create a forgiveness tree, where children write names of people to forgive, and the leaves that they hang on a paper tree. In other words, you can create a tree, they can create the leaves, and write down people's names that they need to forgive. Maybe it's their brother, maybe their sister. They can also write down their own sins that they can get rid of, maybe thrown in a fire or something like that. Also, you can do short fasts, because fasting, even though they may not be able to fast from food, or it will be a very long day if you try to make them do that, but you can also have them fast from not eating sweets, or screen time, or not full food and water, maybe just a little bit, just to teach them year by year. Sacrificing is an honor for God.

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Each and every week, our family celebrates the Sabbath, we celebrate the Shabbat, Friday night to Saturday night. We don't buy, we don't sell, we're not making people work for us, and sometimes it's hard. But the truth is that Americans are so filled with doing what we want to do in our heart, we forget sacrifice is an honor. It is an honor to sacrifice. If it hurts, and I have to fast all

day because I forgot to bring food with me to whatever, then so be it. What an honor it is to keep the Sabbath day holy. That means it's set apart. God tells us just a few short things, and that's why I love Yom Kippur. It's an opportunity not to, through ritual and legalism, to fast and to pray. No, it is an honor to fast, and to pray, and to teach my children in the ways that they should go. To honor God in this way is a beautiful thing -- remembering what Christ did, and looking forward to what He's going to do. Come up with some ideas, creative ideas, that you can do that the children will resonate with. Other ideas is you can spend extended quiet time in prayer and journaling, especially if you're single, you don't have a family, maybe you're a senior. This is an opportunity for you to just extend your time in prayer and in the Word. Write a confession letter to God, private, symbolic, then burn it or bury it as a sign of release from whatever might be holding you back.

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At the end of the day, Yom Kippur foreshadows God's final judgement. [Revelation 20, verse 11 through 15](#), look at that on your own. Messiah is both our high priest and our sacrifice. That's a major theme of Yom Kippur. He is high priest and He's the king, just like the first Melchizedek. In Yeshua, we wear new garments of righteousness. That is a final hope to write home about. The fact that we get new garments of righteousness, and that comes from [Isaiah 61:10](#) and [Revelation 7:14](#). Yom Kippur may be a day of fasting and repentance, but it becomes a day of confidence, celebration, and joy because of His atonement. Yom Kippur is just that. It's the day of covering. It's the day that Christ covered our sins once and for all. This is the day that the Lord has made, and we will rejoice and be glad. There's a lot of traditions related to Yom Kippur, and you can make up your own as your own family, or you can follow some of the ones that I put in mind. I hope this really encouraged you and helped you get on board with God's calendar system and begin the process of doing Bible things right. Speaking of, if you'd like to learn more about what we do here at Passion for Truth, we have literally hundreds of articles on almost every topic on our website, passionfortruth.com. In [our playlist](#) on [our YouTube channel](#) is all the feast days that you can learn about.

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I encourage you to go back through and just spend the time binge watching as many videos as you can to learn about God's feast. It will radically impact your life. Thank you so much, my friends, for taking the time out of your day to watch this video. Please pass this on. It's a great compliment. Give us a comment down below, and when you share this, it's the best compliment you can give us. Also, don't forget, if you'd like a [free download](#) on Yom Kippur, one of the AI-Chet prayers, I encourage you to type in text **ATONEMENT to 844-763-9544**. In the meantime, my friends, thank you so much for spending time with us. Thank you for your prayers.

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If you're not part of a local church and you're not giving anywhere, would you consider partnering with us and paying it forward so that we can do what we need to do to truly get this message out there? We really want people to learn the front of the book and get into a deeper alignment, and we can't do it without you. If that's you and you want to say thank you in that way, please go to passionfortruth.com right now. Go to the upper corner, right-hand corner, and you can hit the [donate](#) button, and it'll walk you. In the meantime, my friends, like always, I'm Jim Staley with Passion For Truth Ministries, and I'll see you in the next video. Next week is going to be how to celebrate Sukkot.

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