



SERMON NOTES

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“The Torah Tablets of Yom Kippur”

- Yom Kippur is a test. It time of fasting, prayer, and retrospection. It is a day to refrain from the cares of the world and solely focus on YHWH. This teaching will examine the holy day and help us understand the true purpose of the day.

The story is told of a guy named Morris who goes to the rabbi and says, "I committed a sin and I want to know what I can do to repent."

"What was the sin?" the rabbi asked.

"It happened just once," Morris assures him. "I didn't wash my hands and recite the blessing before eating bread."

"So, if it really only happened once," the rabbi said, "that's not so terrible. Nonetheless, why did you neglect to wash your hands and recite the blessing?"

"I felt awkward Rabbi," said Morris. "You see, I was in an un-kosher restaurant."

The rabbi's eyebrows arch. "And why were you eating in an un-kosher restaurant?"

"I had no choice," Morris said. "All the kosher restaurants were closed."

"And why were all the kosher restaurants closed?" the rabbi asked.

Morris replied, "It was Yom Kippur."

- Sure, we can compromise on Yom Kippur OR we can celebrate the day and learn about the Torah Tablets of Yom Kippur.

Exodus 32:7-20

“And YHWH said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. "They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'" And YHWH said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!

"Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation." Then Moses pleaded with YHWH his Elohim, and said: "YHWH, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"

"Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.

“So YHWH relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people. And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. Now the tablets were the work of YHWH, and the writing was the writing of YHWH engraved on the tablets. And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." But he said: "It is not the noise of the shout of victory, Nor the noise of the cry of defeat, But the sound of singing I hear." So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it.”

1st Yom Kippur 10th of Tishri

- After the Israelites alienated God by worshipping the golden calf, Moses ascended Mount Sinai to ask God for forgiveness. While Moses was on the mountain, the Israelites repented by fasting. On the tenth day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei (Yom Kippur), Moses descended Mount Sinai with the second Tablets. Thus, on the first Yom Kippur (approximately 3,500 years ago), the Israelites succeeded to atone for their sins and renegotiate their covenant with God.

Exodus 34:1~5

“YHWH said to Moses, ‘Carve out two tablets for yourself, just like the first ones. I will write on those tablets the same words that were on the first tablets that you broke. Be ready in the morning, so that you will be able to climb Mount Sinai in the morning and stand waiting for Me on the mountain peak. No man may climb up with you, and no one else may appear on the entire mountain. Even the cattle and sheep may not graze near the mountain.’”

- Moses descends from the mountain with the second set of Tablets
- Though we celebrate the giving of Torah on Shavuot / Pentecost, we can ALSO conclude that Torah was given on Yom Kippur. The tablets of Yom Kippur were written by Moshe and given special recognition.

- The first set, written by the very hand of YHWH, were broken and then placed in tabernacle as a remembrance.
- The nation has been corporately fasting and repenting since the sin of the golden calf.
- These people failed to hear the voice of YHWH and journeyed in the wilderness for 40 years

Temple Yom Kippur

10th of Tishri

- A week before the holiday, the High Priest would leave his home to live inside the temple. That week, he would perform all the temple duties himself. In addition, he would study two Torah portions and learn one by heart to make sure he didn't make any mistakes. The night before, the High Priest would stay up all night learning Torah and preparing himself spiritually. If he fell asleep, young priests woke him up by reciting psalms. Sometimes they would make the High Priest stand all night on the cold, stone floor.

In the morning, he would put on his priestly clothes and go about the daily morning service, including the morning's sacrifice, the lighting of the menorah and the burning of incense. Then he would wash his hands and feet in a golden basin. Afterwards, he took a bath, a ritual he repeated throughout the day.

Then, the High Priest would change into a simple robe made of white linen and walk over to a young bull and recite for himself and for his family the first of three confessional prayers. Three times during the prayer he pronounced the Shem / name Yod Hey Waw Hey – YHWH.

The crowd of worshipers, in awe of the moment, fell on the floor, and cried out in loud voices, "Baruch Shem Kevod Malchuto Le'olam Va'ed," Blessed be the Name, the glory of His kingdom forever and ever, a phrase, that even today, is only said out loud on Yom Kippur.

The High Priest then walked over to two identical goats. Through a lottery, one goat was chosen as a sacrifice to YHWH, and the other, a scapegoat, with red wool tied around its horns, was sent out into the wilderness, a symbol of the collective sins of the people. The young bullock was then slaughtered and its blood collected in a basin for later use.

Then came the most important part of the ceremony. The High Priest walked up a special ramp (so temple priests could ascend with modesty in tact) to the altar, filled a gold pan with coals and a golden ladle with incense. Then, with everyone watching, he walked into the Kodesh K'dashim, the Holy of Holies, the inner sanctuary where YHWH's spirit dwelled and where no one but the High Priest entered except on Yom Kippur. Once inside, he lit the incense, and if all went well, emerged unscathed from the inner chamber.

The ritual continued with the High Priest sprinkling blood on the curtain of the Holy of Holies as an act of purification. Next, the remaining goat was slaughtered and additional blood sprinkled on the curtain and around the base of the altar.

The scapegoat was then led through the temple's gate to a waiting priest whose job it was to take it to predetermined spot about ten to twelve miles away. When the priest came to the final station, he pushed the goat off a cliff. Using a system of signal flags, the priest leading the animal would message back to the temple that the sins of the people were forgiven as the red wool around the goat's horns turned miraculously white.

Although the special Yom Kippur service was concluded, the regular afternoon temple service still had to be completed. The High Priest again washed and changed his clothes, lit the menorah and burned the incense.

- During temple and tabernacle times, the second set of tablets are placed in the holy of holies, Hebrew 9:4, Devarim 10:4
- The people fast and repent as the High Priest goes before the mercy seat.
- The people failed to hear the voice of Y'shua as Moshiach and the temple was destroyed 70AD

Leviticus 16:29-31

"This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. "For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before YHWH. "It is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever.

Current Yom Kippur

10th of Tishri

- We fast and repent to search our hearts for sin and uncleanness.
- Like the first and second Yom Kippur times we face the challenge to hear the word of YHWH
- Now the Torah can be written on our tablets of flesh. We must purpose in our hearts to hear what YHWH says to us today
- We are told that when the temple was standing that the Kohen HaGadol would publicly proclaim the blessed name of YHWH on Yom Kippur After the profession of the sacred name the nation of Israel would shout "Baruch Shem Kavod Malchuto Lay Olam Va'ed"

- We are told that Moshe originally heard this phrase from the angels on the first Yom Kippur. Usually in the synagogue this phrase is spoken softly or softly after the Shema. On Yom Kippur it is tradition to shout this proclamation.
- By hearing the word of YHWH and the Name of YHWH we can write His Torah on our hearts: Psalm 119:11 – "In my heart I've hidden your word YHWH that I may not sin against you."

Romans 10:17

"Faith comes by hearing the word of YHWH."

- So, we have an apparent connection between Yom Kippur and the Shema
- Isaiah 55 - This is the fast that He has chosen
- The true message of Yom Kippur is not that of judgment but ahava towards YHWH and each other
- Shema Yisrael YHWH Eloheynu YHWH Echad
And you are to love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart –Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Love is the end of the Torah – completion, purpose, force, motivation

Romans 13:10

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 5:8

YHWH showed His great love for us for that while we were still sinners, Y'shua died for us

- As Y'shua has loved us we must love others.
- We can harden our hearts like stone tablets. YHWH will then have to break us in order to inscribe His word upon our souls. OR we can offer YHWH our hearts of flesh and learn from His greatness.
- All the prayers, confession, and fasting on Yom Kippur do NO good unless they lead to a greater revelation of YHWH's love in our lives.
- We must love YHWH and accept His love for us. It is only when we first accept His love for us that we can truly love others. Understand today that YHWH loves you more than your pain, problems, and parents. He loves you more than sickness, suffering, and strife.
- He loves you so much that He doesn't want you tired or sick He refuses to let you fail. He won't let you settle for less.
- YHWH is constantly pushing us towards His ahava

- This Yom Kippur we must choose to allow His love to touch us. He loves you and cares about you. He wants to see you prosper, walk in victory, experience healing.
- Everything that has happened – from the first tablets until today has occurred as YHWH showing you His ahava.
- Fasting on Yom Kippur brings this message to mind and to the stomach. When we fast on Yom Kippur our stomach growls and we hallucinate about steaks and potatoes. Though it only takes a few bites of cake to suppress hunger we seem to weaken by not eating for just a few hours. So, is it the end if your food is taken away? Is life all about food and entertainment?

The story is told of a big Red Sox fan comes running to his rabbi before Yom Kippur. "Rabbi, I have a dilemma. The Sox are playing their big game on Yom Kippur. What do I do?" The rabbi replies, "Well, what do you think they invented VCRs for?" And the person replies, "Rabbi, that's a great idea! But I didn't know Yom Kippur services were on cable?!"

- If your body is all that there is, then yes, you are what you eat and no more. BUT, in emet / truth, your body is not all. You are a living and breathing soul. Your body is a temporary home for your true identity. "All year we work, shop, cook, eat and exercise to feed our body. One day a year we step back from our bodily self and step into the world of the soul. This is a time to step outside of endless harassment and seek YHWH. It is during this day and time that YHWH can truly write His word on our hearts. Our body and will is broken and our flesh is weakened. Now, we are at a place when YHWH's pen of the Ruach can work.

Heb. 8:10

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel AFTER THOSE DAYS, saith YHWH; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts"

Jeremiah 31:31

Behold, the days come, says YHVH, that I will cut a new covenant with the house of Yisrael and with the house of Yahudah,

Jeremiah 31:32

not according to the covenant that I cut with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt (which covenant of Mine they broke, although I was a husband to them, says YHVH).

Jeremiah 31:33

But this shall be the covenant that I will cut with the house of Yisrael: After those days, declares YHVH, I will put My TORAH in their inward parts, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people.

Jeremiah 31:34

And they shall no longer each man teach his neighbor, and each man his brother, saying, know YHVH. For they shall all know Me, from the least of them even to the greatest of them, declares YHVH. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their Torahlessness no more.

- YHWH made a covenant with Moshe and Israel when the second set of tablets were given. He has renewed that covenant with Messiah Y'shua and His people. Today, YHWH is wanting to remind us of His covenant and power.

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the YHWH is upon me, Because YHWH has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; To proclaim the favorable year of YHWH And the day of vengeance of our Elohim; To comfort all who mourn, To grant those who mourn in Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of YHWH, that He may be glorified.

Romans 13:10

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

- This Yom Kippur we must allow the Ruach / Spirit of YHWH to impress His ahava / love upon us. As His love envelopes our lives THEN and ONLY THEN can we walk out true holiness. As we walk in ahava YHWH can write His Torah upon us and we can be all that YHWH has called us to be.

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