

Lesson Guide 37

Feast of Atonement

In Old Testament times a very special ceremony, involving two goats, occurred on the Day of Atonement. One represented Amanuwal, the other Satan. Only YAHUWAH could determine which was which.

You need to be sure which you are worshiping -- the real Amanuwal or the counterfeit!

Day of Atonement -- AT-ONE-MENT WITH YAHUWAH!

You have no doubt heard the claim that there is a "great controversy" between YAHUWAH and Satan. That Amanuwal and the Devil are in a running battle for men's souls.

If this doctrine were true, then Satan indeed is WINNING! More souls are "unsaved" today than ever before in human history. Satan, according to this view, is made out to be actually STRONGER than Amanuwal!

But Satan is NOT stronger than Amanuwal! Amanuwal is returning to RULE THIS EARTH WITH A ROD OF IRON -- to depose Satan and set up the Kingdom of YAHUWAH. When Amanuwal returns He will not leave this world in the hands of the Devil.

Why Amanuwal OUSTS Satan!

For 6,000 years Satan has invisibly swayed the nations. He has guided human governments, influenced man's civilization, possessed mighty leaders and inspired World Wars. Satan has had his part in causing the misery, hate, suffering, and violent deaths that have plagued mankind since creation.

Satan has occupied the POSITION OF THIS WORLD'S RULER ever since YAHUWAH gave him that office when he was Lucifer (Hillel). But his days in that office are NUMBERED!

YAHUWAH is not in competition with Satan -- there is no "great controversy"! The question of who will rule this earth has ALREADY BEEN DECIDED!

Amanuwal has already OVERCOME the Devil and QUALIFIED to replace him. Amanuwal is COMING AS KING OF Kings AND SOVEREIGN OF Sovereigns to take over the governments of this world and DEPOSE SATAN THE DEVIL!

Only when Amanuwal reigns supreme will this world have peace for one thousand years.

But what will happen to Satan? The Day of Atonement reveals the answer. But how many have ever heard of this day -- let alone understood its meaning for us today? It reveals Satan's fate in YAHUWAH's Master Plan. By studying this Holy Day you will find astounding answers to these and many other questions.

What the Day of Atonement Pictures

YAHUWAH's Holy Days constantly remind us how, step by step, YAHUWAH is working out His Master Plan.

The first three of these -- Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost -- picture the first harvest of souls. The preparation, training and final reaping of the firstfruits -- THOSE FEW NOW being called.

The last four show the plan YAHUWAH has for completing salvation for the REST OF THE WORLD.

We learned in the last lesson, how Amanuwal will suddenly intervene in this world at His return. He will be swift and firm in punishing the nations.

But what about Satan? What happens to him?

The fifth annual Sabbath -- the Day of Atonement (or At-one-ment) -- reveals the answer. It pictures Amanuwal depositing Satan the Devil from his present position as world ruler, and removing him to a place completely away and apart from mankind. He will be bound, no longer able to deceive the nations, for one thousand years! (Rev. 20:1, 2.)

The Day of Atonement has also a deep PERSONAL meaning for EVERYONE whose eyes have been opened. When Satan and his demons are dethroned and removed from office, they must be replaced by qualified rulers. Satan will be replaced by Amanuwal. His demons by those of us who have surrendered to YAHUWAH and been willing to obey Him.

ARE YOU QUALIFYING to rule this world as it ought to be ruled? COULD YOU do a better job than the President, better than the rulers of Russia, of Germany, or Red China? You may THINK YOU could, but COULD YOU really?

The fact is we do not NOW have the power, or the ability or capacity. OF HIMSELF no man is great enough to even BEGIN TO COMMENCE to measure up to the standard necessary to bring peace and happiness to the nations. It takes the power of YAHUWAH -- the life of YAHUWAH -- the mind and nature of YAHUWAH. That is possible only through conversion. Through conversion every single individual, great or small, can have YAHUWAH's own power and nature added to him by receiving the Ruwach Ha'Kadosh!

That's the message of the good news. Most human beings cannot grasp this marvelous truth. They are unwilling to humble themselves under the mighty hand of YAHUWAH and wait to be exalted in His due time.

Humility through Fasting

The Day of Atonement is perhaps the most unusual Holy Day. For it is the one day on which YAHUWAH has commanded us to fast!

WHAT, exactly, is FASTING? What is its purpose? The purpose of fasting is to humble oneself -- to help us to see ourselves as we are! And to see YAHUWAH as He is!

Fasting on the Day of Atonement means denying yourself food and water for 24 hours -- from sunset to sunset. Fasting is NOT penance NOT A HUNGER STRIKE to force your own will on YAHUWAH. Mahatma Gandhi fasted that way. A Believer is to fast in order to humble his or her own fleshly mind with its carnal will and to draw closer to YAHUWAH. To ACKNOWLEDGE his or her own NOTHINGNESS and ask for YAHUWAH'S strength.

AMANUWAL RECEIVED the strength to resist the Devil's strongest temptation by fasting 40 days and nights! Spiritually, He was at His strongest at the end of 40 days, because He was COMPLETELY humble before YAHUWAH. YAHUWAH, of course, doesn't ask or expect us to fast 40 days. He only commands one day of us each year, though we are also told to fast voluntarily at other times.

A little hunger on the Day of Atonement serves to prove to every one of us that we, as Job, are just like WORMS (Job 25:6) -- puny, insignificant little creatures down here inwardly WARRING WITH ONE ANOTHER! How absolutely DEPENDENT we are on the food and the water of this earth!

Fasting on the Day of Atonement reveals to us how much we still love ourselves. How DIFFICULT it is to give up some of SELF! This day is a TEST to see which we will put FIRST. WILL it be the cry of the body for food or the sincere desire to obey YAHUWAH.

The Binding of Satan

1. Will Satan be bound with a symbolic chain and locked up with a key to prevent him from escaping to deceive mankind? Rev. 20:1-2. Where is Satan cast? Verse 3. Compare Rev. 18:2, and Isaiah 13:19-21.
2. Does Rev. 18:2 also show where the rest of the demons will be, and that they will all be removed from the presence of mankind?
3. After YAHUWAH allows the terrible woes of Rev. 9, to be unleashed on men, will they repent and turn to YAHUWAH? Rev. 9:21. Even after the terrible SEVEN LAST PLAGUES -- the wrath of YAHUWAH poured out WITHOUT MIXTURE -- does the greater part of humanity still remain obdurate, stubbornly rebellious? Rev. 16:11, 21.
4. Why won't men repent? Is it because they are deceived? Rev. 12:9. Are the three unclean spirits of Rev. 16:13-14 demons? Is their purpose to deceive the world about Amanuwal's

Second Coming? Same verse. Is Satan himself behind this scheme? Note the word "dragon" in verse 13.

5. Did Shaul predict the end of world rule by fallen angels? Heb. 2:5-6.

COMMENT: YAHUWAH speaks in His Word, the Holy Bible, of three worlds – 1* "the world that then was" which perished in the Flood (II Peter 3:6) 2* "this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4), and 3*. "the world to come" -- the World Tomorrow (Rev. 20:3; Heb. 2:5). In the World Tomorrow, the Devil and his demons will no longer be in authority over earth's nations and religion.

6. Did Shaul also show who will replace the demons as rulers over the world? Rom. 16:20; I Cor. 6:2-3.

7. Does the Bible show that after Satan and his demons are put away, their deception and false way of life will still maintain its hold for a little while on depraved human hearts? Ezek. 38:1-14. Is this after the beginning of Amanuwal's kingdom on earth? Aren't these still-deceived folk a major portion of the human race?

COMMENT: Meshech and Tubal are the dominant people of Russia, Gog and Magog include the Mongols and China, Gomer and Togarmah are other Asiatic peoples.

8. Will YAHUWAH deal severely with them to show them He is Elohim? Ezek. 39:3-7.

COMMENT: Today YAHUWAH doesn't seem real to most people. Whether their present religion is Communism, Shamanism or falsely so-called "Christianity," YAHUWAH IS GOING TO BE REAL to everyone "in that day."

A Commanded Assembly

1. Does Leviticus 23 -- the only chapter in all the Bible where all of YAHUWAH's Festivals are mentioned in one place proclaim a Day of Atonement? Verse 27. Is this a day to be kept holy once each year? Same verse. At what time of the year?

2. Are all who are YAHUWAH's people COMMANDED TO ASSEMBLE on the Day of Atonement? Lev. 23:27. Does Numbers 29:7 verify this, and set the exact day on which we meet locally?

3. Does YAHUWAH say that we should afflict our souls? Lev. 23:27 and Num. 29:7. What does "afflict" mean?

COMMENT: "Afflict" is translated from the Hebrew word "anah" which means "to beat down, depress, abase, chasten, humble." YAHUWAH inspired the same original word in Exodus 10:3, saying to Pharaoh, "How long wilt thou refuse to HUMBLE thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me."

See also in Deut. 8:2-3 how YAHUWAH led Israel 40 years in the wilderness to HUMBLE them, allowing them to HUNGER at times.

How are we, then, to afflict our souls? Why, the same way that YAHUWAH humbled Israel in the wilderness, letting them get good and hungry! See also Psa. 35:13 and Isa. 58:3.

Remember, "soul" means physical life in a physical body that depends on constant refueling for its maintenance. Here, "soul" is equivalent to "stomach."

4. Does this day differ from all of the other Holy Days in that ABSOLUTELY NO WORK is to be done on it? Num. 29:7; Lev. 23:30 and 16:29. The Spring Holy Days permit "no servile work," that is, no ordinary work other than what is necessary for preparing "that which every man must eat" (Exodus 12:16).

COMMENT: Though it is a day of fasting, the Day of Atonement is also a day of rejoicing. It is a spiritual feast of drinking in of YAHUWAH's Word and looking forward to the time when Satan will be put away.

5. Why is this day to be kept so exact? Lev. 23:28. What does "atonement" mean?

COMMENT: Webster says to "atone" means to set "at one." To join in one to form by uniting. This day symbolizes YAHUWAH and man being set at one literally, if you please, the Day of AT-ONE-MENT. YAHUWAH and the human race can never be fully at one -- in full agreement -- until Satan is banished.

6. Will YAHUWAH allow anyone to remain among His people who refuses to keep the Day of Atonement? Lev. 23:29, 30. Was this day to be done away at Amanuwal's death? Verse 31. Does this command apply only to racial Jews and Israelites? Lev. 16:29. Notice that it is a statute for the stranger also -- any person of any race who comes among YAHUWAH's people.

COMMENT: If we are YAHUWAH's, then we all are spiritual Israelites. And that means we MUST keep this Day of Atonement today (Gal. 3:29; John 4:22; Rom. 2:28-29; 11:17-18).

7. At what time of day do we begin fasting for the Day of Atonement? Lev. 23:32.

COMMENT: Notice that the last meal we should eat is in the ninth day of the month. But if we were to purposely eat a HEAVY meal immediately before sunset on the ninth of the month, we could defeat the SPIRITUAL INTENT of the command to "afflict" our souls from "even unto even" -- because our "souls" would be full of food and busily digesting it as the Day of Atonement began.

In YAHUWAH's true calendar, every day begins at the previous day's sunset (Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31).

How Ancient Israel Observed Day of Atonement

It seems, has the world forgotten the symbolism of the Day of Atonement. And no wonder! For this day above all others is like a thorn in the flesh to that great Deceiver.

Let us examine the 16th chapter of Leviticus which details YAHUWAH's instructions to the Levitical priesthood concerning the Day of Atonement.

1. Was entrance to the Tabernacle which Israel built as a type of YAHUWAH's house, permitted to no one but the high priest when he went into the holy place on the Day of Atonement? Lev. 16:17. What was the significance of this very holy place? Verse 2. (Yahuwah dwelt there.)

Was it clearly the earthly representation of the very throne room of YAHUWAH? Exodus 25:17-20. Compare with Jer. 17:12, noting the word "sanctuary." Also see Heb. 4:16.

COMMENT: The "mercy seat" in the holy place was the earthly TYPE of the very throne of YAHUWAH in heaven!

2. Was the high priest permitted to enter this typical throne room of YAHUWAH as often as he liked? Lev. 16:2. Was this because YAHUWAH's very presence was there -- He whose face no man can look on and live? Ex. 33:20. Could YAHUWAH allow His very throne to be profaned?
3. WHEN was the high priest permitted to enter the room behind the veil? Notice the last verse of Leviticus 16, and also verses 29 and 30. See, too, Exodus 30:10.
4. Before entering the "Holy of Holies" or "most holy place," what types did the Aaronic high priest first act out at the door of the Tabernacle? Lev. 16:5-10. Why did he present the two goats before the Sovereign? Was one of the goats to represent Amanuwal? Was the other goat to be rejected? Verse 10. Whom did the rejected goat represent? Verse 8.

COMMENT: The English word "scapegoat" is NOT A CORRECT TRANSLATION of the Hebrew word YAHUWAH inspired. If you have a Bible with marginal renderings, notice that it gives "Azazel" in the margin, for "scapegoat."

Who is Azazel? Gesenius' and other Hebrew lexicons derive the word from AZAL which means "he removed or separated." This is exactly what Satan or Lucifer did when he turned against YAHUWAH and became YAHUWAH's adversary!

Azazel is none other than Satan the Devil!

Gesenius says that Azazel is "an evil demon." Ancient Jewish literature knew the Devil by this name. It is, for example, spelled Azalzal and Azael in apocryphal literature. The Comprehensive Commentary says, "... (According to) the oldest opinions of the Hebrews and Believers ... Azazel is the name of the Devil, ... the word signified the goat which went away."

The modern word "scapegoat" carries an ENTIRELY WRONG connotation. Originally it was "escape goat" -- the goat which was let escape which the translators took to be the meaning of Azazel. But today the English word "scapegoat" signifies "one who bears blame or guilt for others." This is definitely not the meaning that YAHUWAH inspired. Azazel -- Satan -- bears his own guilt. Satan is no scapegoat for another's sins. He is to be punished for his own guilt.

To be constantly seeking for a scapegoat -- a way to shift the blame for his own actions -- is man's natural inclination, which Satan incites. All the heathen religions are based on this principle. Satan's perversion is: "Always blame someone else, never clean up YOURSELF" -- where the source of the trouble resides.

Satan would like to deceive everyone into believing he is being unjustly used as a scapegoat. Satan claims YAHUWAH isn't fair.

This principle is NOT THE SAME as the placing of the sins of a truly converted Believer on Amanuwal to be washed away by His blood. A Believer does not try to shift the blame he FREELY ADMITS HIS OWN GUILT -- something Satan has never done! And Amanuwal freely pays the penalty for the sinner, provided the ex-sinner earnestly REPENTS and zealously seeks to avoid sinning in the future. AMANUWAL IS NO SCAPEGOAT!

5. How was it determined which goat was to be accepted and which was to be rejected? Lev. 16:8.

COMMENT: A LOT is a solemn appeal to YAHUWAH to decide a doubtful matter. It is a sacred religious ceremony. It includes a supernatural act of YAHUWAH. That is why lotteries and gambling are of the Devil -- an actual profaning of an ancient holy ceremony appealing to YAHUWAH. See Prov. 16:33.

6. Whom did the other goat typify -- the one which was accepted? Lev 16:8-9. Was this YHWH -- the Elohim -- of the Old Testament, the One who became Amanuwal (I Cor. 10:4)? Then this goat which was sacrificed for a sin offering and whose blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat for an atonement for all Israel represented Amanuwal, didn't it? We will see this more clearly in a moment.

COMMENT: Although these goats appeared to be exactly alike to men, one was to typify Amanuwal and the other Azazel-Satan. Men were utterly unqualified to determine which was suitable to represent which. Therefore it was necessary to make a solemn appeal to YAHUWAH to decide the matter. This means that in the antitype -- the REALITY which this symbolic acting out represented -- men today are unable to determine which is Amanuwal and which is Azazel (Satan). It is because Azazel-Satan has done his work of deception so thoroughly that mankind as a whole does not know who is YAHUWAH and who is the Devil! CHRISTIAN-PROFESSING PEOPLE, who think they worship YAHUWAH, ARE ACTUALLY WORSHIPING THE DEVIL! (II Cor. 11:13-15).

New Testament Explains High Priest's Function

1. Is Amanuwal our perfect, sinless High Priest? Heb. 6:20; 7:26.
2. Was the high priest of the Aaronic priesthood -- an impure mortal human being -- fit to stand in the very presence of the sinless spiritual Creator? Lev. 16:2, 3, 6.

COMMENT: The book of Leviticus includes the law of rituals -- animal sacrifices, meal and drink offerings, incense burnings and various washings -- which the priests in Old Testament times had to perform. The apostle Shaul called it the "law of works" (Greek "ergon", which means physical labor). That was the law which "was added because of transgressions till the seed (Amanuwal) should come" (Gal. 3:19).

The sacrifices were a substitute for Amanuwal, designed to lead Israel to Amanuwal (Gal. 3:24, 25) and therefore after the crucifixion ceased to be necessary.

Let us understand the meaning of the rituals in this chapter that we may know what had to do specifically with the Day of Atonement and what was merely ceremonial.

3. Was the high priest required to wear special holy garments (compare Rev. 19:8) and to bathe his whole body before being allowed in the presence of YAHUWAH? Lev. 16:4, 23. Was it necessary he be accompanied in the most holy place by a "cloud" of incense? Verses 12 and 13. What does incense symbolize? Rev. 5:8.

COMMENT: This incense pictured the kind of prayer YAHUWAH will hear. Sweet incense shows our attitude must not be bitter or vindictive. As the incense was beaten fine, so must we be specific in our prayer. Too many people pray first for their own personal desires, then end quickly with something like, "And, oh yes, YAHUWAH, bless everybody."

The cloud of incense was not physically to screen the high priest from the glory of YAHUWAH. It was only a temporary ceremonial type.

As incense arises from hot coals, so prayers are to ascend like a cloud from the righteous. Prayers bring YAHUWAH's people protection as the incense protected the high priest.

4. Did the high priest have to offer a sin offering for himself? Lev. 16:6 and 14. Why was the blood sprinkled on the mercy seat? Heb. 9: 13, 7, 20.

COMMENT: In the Ark of the Covenant beneath the mercy seat were the two tables of stone (Heb. 9:4) on which YAHUWAH had engraved the Ten Commandments with His own finger. Since these were the very laws whose breaking made the sin offering necessary, the sacrificial blood was sprinkled on and before the cover to the Ark, thus symbolically "covering" broken law.

The high priest has completely purified himself and is ready to go out and officiate. What follows next has to do specifically with the Day of Atonement. Its types foreshadow New Testament fulfillments.

5. What did this ritualistic blood (sin offering) picture?

6. Did the high priest next offer the goat chosen by lot "for YAHUWAH" as a sin offering for all the people? Lev. 16:15. Was it not "Amanuwal" Himself who was slain for the sins of all the people and who then assumed the office of High Priest? Heb. 2:17.

7. Does the New Testament plainly tell us that Amanuwal as High Priest and the heaven of YAHUWAH's throne are the REALITIES which the Old Testament high priest and Tabernacle only represented? Heb. 9:23-24; 8:2, 5. To get the complete picture, read the whole of chapter 9 and through the 13th verse of chapter 10 of Hebrews.

8. Did Amanuwal enter behind the veil to the very throne of YAHUWAH in heaven? Heb. 6:19, 20; 8:1. Was it His own blood which He presented as an offering for sin? Heb. 9:12.

9. Then did not Amanuwal BEGIN to do what the Aaronic high priest did in type on the Day of Atonement? Heb. 9:7; Lev. 16:15-19.

COMMENT: Note the need for the goat's blood which symbolized the blood of Amanuwal. Even the altar, the Tabernacle and the mercy seat were considered to be defiled by their presence among the carnal, sinning Israelites. This was because continually all through the year Israel's sins were symbolically transferred to the Tabernacle and its fixtures. Once a year on the Day of Atonement this mountainous load of guilt was purged from the nation in order that YAHUWAH might continue to dwell in Israel. For sin separates from YAHUWAH -- YAHUWAH is holy (Isa. 59:2).

Meaning of Azazel's Removal

1. The high priest carried the blood of the goat, which represented the slain Amanuwal, into the sanctuary. Heb. 9:7, 12.

COMMENT: If the world today understood only the significance of this goat and of the high priest's actions, they would not be in ignorance of the purpose of the coming of Amanuwal. They would understand His present intercessory work for us these 1900 years in heaven.

But this is not all!

Satan has almost succeeded in blinding this world to his very existence, and to its own need for help to escape him and draw near to YAHUWAH.

2. What has Amanuwal, our High Priest, been doing for over 1900 years? Heb. 7:25; 4:14-16.

3. Let us see what Amanuwal will do when He returns by following the typical acts of the Levitical high priest when he had completed his work in the Tabernacle.

Did he SEIZE the live Azazel goat? Lev. 16:20.

COMMENT: This did not take place until after the high priest had finished his work in the Tabernacle. This typified an act to take place after the Second Coming of Amanuwal.

4. Did he symbolically place the sins of Israel on the head of Azazel? Verse 21. Whose sins were they really?

COMMENT: The laying on of hands symbolizes setting apart and bestowing some characteristic attribute.

When Amanuwal died, He paid the penalty of our sins in our stead. Therefore, when we repent of our sins, our debt to the law of YAHUWAH ceases to exist. So these cannot be our sins again placed on Amanuwal, for Him to carry a second time -- nor are they our sins to be placed on someone else.

It is actually Satan who is principally responsible for the sins of mankind. Amanuwal paid for OUR part in every sin of which we repent. But He did not pay for Satan's part in these sins, or the sins of the other demons. Demons are not offered salvation through repentance! Though they are spirit and will live forever, they cannot be born into the family of YAHUWAH. And they refuse to repent! So here are SATAN'S SINS being put right back on his own head -- where they belong. YAHUWAH is an Elohim of justice.

This world is in total confusion on the sin question. It does not know who is to blame for sin and how sin is to be paid for. It only knows fragmentary parts of YAHUWAH's plan and it gets even these all mixed up. Practically the ONLY bit of truth concerning salvation that is generally known is that Amanuwal died to pay for our sins. But most assume that this means we are saved in our sins, not FROM sin. So Satan finds it easy to deceive people into assuming that the sin-carrying Azazel must be Amanuwal.

5. Was this dreadful goat sent away from all mankind carrying all his sins with him? Lev 16:21-22. Doesn't this mean Azazel will no longer be allowed to deceive the people? Is this goat pictured as living on? Verses 10, 22.

COMMENT: Satan is a spirit being and therefore immortal and allowed to live for short while. To signify that, the goat was permitted to live. But notice that he was turned loose only when completely removed from the presence of man.

6. After coming in contact with Azazel, did Aaron have to wash himself again before coming in contact with the people? Lev. 16:24. And did the "fit" -- or "capable" -- man who led the goat away have to wash his clothes and bathe before coming into the camp? Verse 26. The symbolism is certainly that of having come in contact with the Devil!

7. Is the mission of this "fit" or "capable" man mentioned in the New Testament? Rev. 20:1-3. Does he represent a mighty angel?

What At-One-Ment Will Mean to This World!

1. How long, according to the archangel Gabriel, will it take Amanuwal to conquer the rebellious hearts of the children of Israel? Dan. 9:27. Who is the "Desolator"? Last part of verse 27.

COMMENT: Marginal reference Bibles show the word translated "desolate" in the King James Authorized Version should be "Desolator." The primary desolator of earth is Satan -- also called Abaddon and Apollyon -- "Destroyer" (Rev. 9:11).

2. Was Daniel also told it would take 3 1/2 years for the returned Amanuwal to complete the task of bringing the world into at-one-ment? Same verses. What does it mean to "confirm the covenant"? See Comment below.

COMMENT: All through this famous prophecy, which predicted the exact year of the coming of Amanuwal the Ha'Mashyach to the Jews in 27 A.D., the year for a day principle is employed. A week thus becomes 7 years in fulfillment. Amanuwal was to confirm the covenant for one week -- 7 years. But the prophecy also states He was to be cut off in the "midst of the week" (same verse), leaving yet another 3 1/2 years to be fulfilled after His Second Coming. He spent 3 1/2 years -- from the autumn of 27 A.D. to the Passover in 31 A.D. -- confirming the covenant by personally teaching and training a first group of true Believer who are to be given the ruler-ship of the world the Covenant promised. At His return, He will continue what He began by actually putting them in power over nations, bringing all into subjection to the government -- kingdom -- of YAHUWAH.

3. What was it the apostle Peter proclaimed was to occur when Amanuwal returns to earth? Acts 3:19-21. Note the words "refreshing" and "restitution." But what is it that is to be restored to earth? Why, the government of YAHUWAH!

COMMENT: A whole new way of life needs to be restored to mankind. It was once offered to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, but they quickly rejected it, being taken in by the serpent's subtle deception.

What the world needs is obedience to YAHUWAH's revealed will -- faith instead of skepticism -- relying on the superior wisdom and experience of the Creator instead of human wisdom. We must do away with reasoning, feelings, desires, and emotions based on the pulls of the flesh when it comes to obeying YAHUWAH!

The first step for restoration of Utopia is reinstitution of YAHUWAH-authority -- with absolute enforcement and immediate punishment for infraction of YAHUWAH's law. There will be a worldwide system of mayors, judges, lesser and greater kings, etc. Amanuwal referred to these offices in the parables. One will be given rule over ten cities, another rule over five, and so forth (Luke 19:17, 19; Rev. 5:10).

4. What does Peter call the time when YAHUWAH's government is to be restored -- the time when Satan's part in sins is to be transferred to his own head?

COMMENT: At-one-ment will not be complete with merely putting Satan away. The greatest task will be remaining. People will still be hating each other. Man's mind, man's very nature, must be refashioned -- his character reshaped and remolded until it becomes "at one" with YAHUWAH. Then the fully confirmed new covenant will be completed.

5. What will be the attitude of both Israel and Judah "in that time"? Jer. 31:9,34; 50:4,5-6. Who does YAHUWAH blame for their past sins and wrong attitudes? Isn't this Azazel's doing -- THROUGH his counterfeit ministers? II Cor. 11:13-15. But "in that time" will Israel and Judah have any more sin? Jer. 50:20; Zech. 3:9.

COMMENT: YAHUWAH says, "I will pardon them whom I reserve" -- those whom He brings back alive through the Great Tribulation. There will be at-one-ment between YAHUWAH and Israel. Israel will have been brought to her knees -- and to repentance by the terrible national punishments to be inflicted on her.

6. Is this the attitude pictured by fasting on the Day of Atonement?

COMMENT: The Day of Atonement is a vivid illustration of the state of mind necessary for salvation -- of the humility, the godly sorrow, the earnest seeking for the right way. It is also a warning of the state to which YAHUWAH will be forced to reduce Israel by war, captivity, deportation, slavery and persecution.

7. Will the nations of Israel have any more disagreements or jealousies of ONE ANOTHER? Isa. 11:13-14. Will they then cooperate to convert Gentile nations to the government of YAHUWAH? Verse 14. Also Rom. 11:12, 15.

8. And seeing Israel's right example, will Gentile nations willingly, of their own volition, seek to YAHUWAH's nation for the way of peace and at-one-ment? Deut. 4:6. See also Eph. 2:11-16.

9. What will the Gentiles say when they have learned the truth -- and realize at last how the father of lies (John 8:44) has deceived them? Will they forsake the ways of their ancestors? Jer. 16:19.

New Testament Assembly Kept Day of Atonement

1. Did the apostle Shaul tell us YAHUWAH's Holy Days FORESHADOW events to come -- illustrate the plan of YAHUWAH in advance? Col. 2:16-17. Note the proper translation of verse 17 is that YAHUWAH's days "foreshadow" good things to come.

COMMENT: Colossae was strictly a Gentile city, and Shaul was writing to an assembly composed of Gentiles by birth. They had previously known nothing of YAHUWAH or His Holy Days. Unless the ministers of the Assembly of YAHUWAH had taught them to observe these Holy Days, they would never have been "judged" by outsiders for doing so.

Verses 16 and 17 are ONE sentence. In this much misunderstood sentence Shaul instructs Believer not to listen to any outside man or body of men but to the Body of Amanuwal -- His Assembly -- concerning their weekly and annual Sabbaths. Note that the translators of the King James Version erroneously inserted the word "is" in verse 17 (in italics in most Bibles). It is not found in the original inspired Greek text. The proper translation means: "Let no Outsider judge you ... but let the Body of Amanuwal -- the Assembly -- do the judging.

2. Did the New Testament Assembly keep the Day of Atonement? Acts 27:9.

COMMENT: All Biblical scholars know that "the fast" refers to the Festival of Atonement in the fall of the year. Your marginal reference Bibles will have a note saying "Day of Atonement."

Here was the evangelist Luke -- over 30 years after the crucifixion and the cessation of all the Mosaic rituals which were fulfilled in Amanuwal -- writing that "the fast was now past" for that year. Luke would never have thought of mentioning "the fast" unless he and all the assembly had just been keeping it! And if the Day of Atonement were no longer in existence, the Ruwach Ha'Kadosh would never have inspired these words!

The early New Testament Assembly of YAHUWAH set the example for YAHUWAH's Assembly today. And the true Assembly of YAHUWAH today does keep all of YAHUWAH's Holy Days -- including the fast of the Day of Atonement!

Why We Must Keep "the Fast" Today

1. Was the Day of Atonement chosen as the beginning of a time of release? Lev. 25:9-10. Doesn't this make it obvious that the purpose of this Day is to symbolize release from bondage?

COMMENT: The Jubilee was given the Israelites that their poor might be released from debts they were unable to pay. Every fiftieth year those who had sold themselves into slavery for food to eat and clothes to wear were released. Inherited land lost through poverty was restored to the family rightly owning it. This is typical of man's future Atonement release from the bondage of the demon world -- the temptations and delusions of Satan and his demons -- and of the restoration to each nation of its own land.

2. Why is it necessary for there to be a Day of At-one-ment? Isa. 59:2 and Ps. 66:18.

COMMENT: We all, whether Israelite or Gentile, have sinned (Rom. 3:23). And so we have become SEPARATED from YAHUWAH. Our crying need for reunification -- atonement -- with YAHUWAH is emphasized by the fact the word "atonement" appears no less than 45 times in the book of Leviticus alone.

3. The Old Testament observances so far studied were ritualistic. Only the high priest and a few assistants were involved in performing them. But the WHOLE POPULATION or congregation of Israel has a part of its own to play. That part is TO FAST AND ABSTAIN from work on the Day of Atonement. Lev. 23:29-32. Does it say "forever" -- and "throughout your generations" -- and "in all your dwellings"?

How does the act of fasting indicate sorrow because of sin? Ezra 10:6; Deut. 9:8, 9, 18.

4. Isn't the Bible example of spiritual fasting always to go without water as well as food? Same verses, and also Exodus 34:28; Esther 4:16; Acts 9:9.

5. Is it through the minor affliction of fasting that we become one with the Amanuwal who suffered so TREMENDOUSLY FOR us that we might become at-one with YAHUWAH? Isa. 53:4, 7. The same Hebrew word "anah" is used here that is used for fasting, afflicting the soul.

COMMENT: The Day of Atonement serves to keep us in remembrance of the fact that we are still weak mortal flesh.

The Day of Atonement fast also shows us how much our lives, our actions, and our thoughts are taken up with self. When we get hungry, we suddenly find that we are still very carnal minded.

6. The vanity of carnal human nature can cause us to become exalted and puffed up with thoughts of self esteem. On what kind of man will YAHUWAH look with favor? Isa. 66:2.

COMMENT: Fasting on the Day of Atonement helps us to realize just how small and weak we really are, and how desperately we need to become more humble and obedient to YAHUWAH.

7. Did Amanuwal teach that he who humbles himself shall be exalted? Luke 14:11. And that no one can be accepted of YAHUWAH until he becomes humble? Luke 18:14.

COMMENT: Notice Luke 18:11 that this Pharisee fasted weekly from a wrong motive. His fasting was penance, thinking that YAHUWAH would be pleased if he made himself suffer, and would grant him HIS will. That is not the purpose of the Day of Atonement. True humbling is repentance, not penance. It leads to conversion -- admitting one's human ways are all wrong and turning to YAHUWAH's ways, receiving the power of the Ruwach Ha'Kadosh to completely overshadow one's own puny human strength.

8. What great event should we look forward to as we fast on the Day of Atonement?
I Corinthians 15:35-54.

COMMENT: The glorious spirit bodies we will have after the resurrection or instantaneous change of the just, will have no need of food to sustain life. Our physical bodies today gain their pittance of chemical energy from plant products or animal flesh. Without constant replenishment, we would run down quickly. But it is not so with spirit. Spirit contains life inherent within itself, not dependent upon any outside source.

When we fast on the Day of Atonement it pictures to us the time and condition when we will no longer need to eat. We will NO LONGER BE EARTHBOUND, tied to this mundane sphere with its supply of physical food and drinkable water. It pictures the time we shall have the power to go where we will (John 3:8), whenever and wherever necessary to carry out the government of YAHUWAH, while we teach others how to live joyfully and happily and how to inherit the same wonderful spirit bodies we will have.

We should not sorrow as we fast and "afflict" our souls on the Day of Atonement. Though we sorrow for sin, we rejoice. Though subdued physically, in spirit we thrill with life! The Day of Atonement, like all of YAHUWAH's Holy Days, is a time of hope and great rejoicing.

9. The commandment to observe the fast of the Day of Atonement is also a TEST of our sincere desire to really serve and OBEY YAHUWAH. How does James say we will receive the ability to withstand Satan during this LIFE? James 4:6, 7, 10. Surely humbling ourselves -- resisting Satan and submitting to YAHUWAH -- is symbolic of how we will be able to replace him as world ruler. Does Mark 9:29 also show how YAHUWAH's servants receive the necessary power to cast out the demons? Is it by prayer AND fasting?

COMMENT: Those who are truly converted -- surrendered to YAHUWAH's will -- will keep the Day of Atonement, fasting and meeting with others of YAHUWAH's true Assembly if at all possible.

Those who refuse to keep this day, or who carelessly keep it in some manner other than YAHUWAH commanded, are not fully converted and will be "cut off" from among the people of YAHUWAH. Their part is the lake of fire WITH Satan. Those ready when Amanuwal returns will enter the Kingdom -- the very Family -- of YAHUWAH. But outside will be darkness and weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 22:11-13) reserved for THOSE WHO KNOW their Master's will (Luke 12:46-48) AND DO IT NOT!