



Yom Kippur Kol Nidre

September 24, 2023

Talmidim Shel Yeshua 8

Shalom Mishpacha! For Jews, *Yom Kippur* is the most solemn day of the year. For those who approach it hoping that their sins will be forgiven for another year, it is a very, very frightening day. Will they be sealed for another year before the gates of salvation are closed until next *Yom Kippur*? We identify with their dilemma, those who hope that their *mitzvot* will be enough. In the traditional service, late in the afternoon of *Yom Kippur* and just before sundown, the *Neilah* service closes the day of *Yom Kippur*. *Neilah*, means “locked,” and refers to the locking of the gates of forgiveness for another year. There is a tone of desperation in the traditional *Neilah* prayers. In the traditional understanding in Judaism, this is the last chance to be atoned before ADONAI seals one’s judgment in the books. The *Neilah* service ends with a long blast of the *shofar*. Tomorrow afternoon on the day of *Yom Kippur*, we will end our service with a portion of the prayers from the *Neilah* Service as an identification with greater Judaism and signifying that we are also a part of the worldwide body of Jews. But the traditional understanding of *Neilah* is not a tradition of *Beit Shalom* nor world-wide Messianic Judaism. As followers of Yeshua, we understand and believe that forgiveness is possible at any time in the year when we sincerely repent. Why? Because, as those who have trusted in Yeshua’s sacrifice, we know that He has accepted our repentance and has forgiven us for sins which we sincerely brought to him. And, if we have believed on him as Messiah, ADONAI’s anointed One, our names have been written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

We continue now with our topic, *Talmidim Shel Yeshua*, Disciples of Yeshua. Yesterday, we saw how Yeshua was not only the Lamb of G-d who takes away the sin of the world, the Passover Lamb, but also the *Yom Kippur* goat for ADONAI and the *Yom Kippur* Scapegoat. How was it possible for ADONAI’s system of atonement, a system which had been in place at that time for 1,300 years, to be changed? It was possible because ADONAI Himself, planned it.

Some 600 years before Yeshua, ADONAI spoke to the Prophet *Yirmeyahu*, Jeremiah. Through him, ADONAI prophesied a coming new covenant which He would make with Israel. ADONAI said: 30 “Behold, days are coming”—it is a declaration of Adonai— “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah”— (Jeremiah 31:30 TLV). The covenant would be made with both houses of Israel, Israel, the northern kingdom, and Judah, the southern kingdom. At the time that Jeremiah prophesied the coming of a new covenant, the kings of Israel in the north were continuing to promote the pagan religion system of their predecessors and they would continue their worship of calf idols for another 100 years before they were defeated and swept away by the Assyrians. As a nation, they never returned to ADONAI. But, nevertheless, ADONAI’s coming covenant was to be with the whole house of Israel, Israel and Judah together.

How could that happen? In the year 721 BCE, just 100 years after Jeremiah had given his prophecy, Israel was taken into captivity by Assyria. How, now, could a new covenant be made with the whole house of Israel when Israel was no longer a kingdom? The answer is that it could happen because ADONAI had a plan and He knew that the people of the northern tribes would reunite with the people of Judah, the southern kingdom. A remnant had come from the north and settled in Judah, years before the year 597 BCE when Judah was judged for her idolatry and taken to captivity in Babylon. And, it was the whole house of Israel that went into captivity. ADONAI revealed that truth through Ezekiel while he was captive in Babylon. He showed him a picture of dry bones and their being assembled and growing tendons and flesh and then becoming alive: *11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel."* (Ezekiel 37:11a TLV). Ezekiel 37 is a two level prophecy. Its initial fulfillment was with the whole house of Israel in Babylonian captivity which ADONAI returned to *Eretz Isra'el* as the Kingdom of Judah. But, in the second level, in the *acharit hayamim*, the days to come, Israel will be gathered from the Nations and ruled over by Messiah, Son of David. The Kingdom of Judah, from which we get the term Jew, the kingdom which was returned from captivity to the Land of Israel, was ADONAI's fulfillment of the whole house of Israel. Ezekiel prophesied: *22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will be king to them all. They will no longer be two nations and never again be divided into two kingdoms.* (Ezekiel 37:22 TLV). This was first fulfilled when Judah, the Jews, returned from Babylonian captivity. There was one kingdom consisting of people from all the tribes, people whom ADONAI had previously brought from the Kingdom of Israel in the north. In the Kingdom of Judah, later called Judea, all were called Jews because they were citizens of that kingdom, but the nation was composed of people from all the tribes of Israel. The Book of Second Chronicles shows that many from Israel had left the idolatrous system of the Kingdom of Israel and moved south to become a part of the Kingdom of Judah.

Even before the destruction of the Kingdom of Israel as a nation and the judgement and captivity of the Kingdom of Judah, Jeremiah had prophesied the cutting of a new covenant with Israel. It would take place at a specific time, a time which ADONAI had predetermined. We spoke yesterday about Daniel's prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. In that timeline, ADONAI established when He would cut a new covenant with all Israel. Daniel's timeline revealed that it was to be in the 1st century, CE. In accordance with His plans, ADONAI had overshadowed *Miryam*, the virgin from the tribe of Judah and planted His seed to become a human being. ADONAI's own Son, Yeshua was born into the Tribe of Judah and grew up, fitting perfectly into the timeline. He did perfectly everything required of Him by *Torah* and the Judaism of the day. In 27 CE He was immersed in the Jordan River by His Cousin John, the Elijah figure of that age, thereby fulfilling all righteousness. Yeshua had His *B'rit Milah* at 8 days old, *Pidyon HaBen* at 30 days old, probably a *Bar Mitzvah* at 13 years old, began His work with His adopted father Joseph as a *tecton*, a builder, at around 20 years old and at exactly the right time, He began the ministry to Israel for which ADONAI had sent Him. He began it at age 30 (Luke 3:23) at the Jordan River when He was immersed by His cousin John. Now, about 2 ½ years later, Yeshua has shepherded Israel, teaching them the ways of the new covenant which ADONAI would soon cut with Israel.

The cutting of the New Covenant was in the year 30 CE. Others have decided on different years, but I believe it was this year because of three things. First, it agrees with the timeline of the Seventy Weeks prophecy of Daniel as shown by Daniel Bruce in his book, *Daniel Unsealed*. Second, according to two ancient calendars which I have consulted, the

year 30 CE is the only year in that timeframe in which 14 *Nisan*, the day that lambs were to be slaughtered for Passover, occurs in the middle of the week. And, third, it agrees with the statement of the rabbis who said that: “40 years before the destruction of the Temple, the crimson strap stopped turning white.” (*Talmud, Yoma 39b*).

In the evening of 14 *Nisan* 3790 according to the Hebrew calendar, the Gregorian calendar date of April 3, 30 CE, Yeshua met with His disciples in an upper room to celebrate Passover. It was the night before His death on the stake. During the Passover *seder*, He explained to them how the New Covenant prophesied by Jeremiah would be placed in effect. *26 Now while they were eating, Yeshua took matzah ; and after He offered the bracha, He broke and gave to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” 27 And He took a cup; and after giving thanks, He gave to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the removal of sins”* (Matthew 26:26-28 TLV). Yeshua’s blood, holy blood, the blood of a sinless one, was the blood of the New Covenant, the blood which when shed, made the covenant effective.

In ancient days, it was common for two parties to make a covenant with each other, in effect, a binding contract regarding something they had agreed upon. In actuality, they would “cut a covenant” with each other, a blood covenant, a ceremony which could contain a number of different elements. The central act was the “cutting.” An animal was killed and cut in two and the two halves laid opposite each other. The two men would walk between the two halves while saying “may G-d do this and more to me if I break this covenant.” Then each would cut the palm of their hand and clasp hands allowing their blood to mingle. Sometimes they would exchange names, adding a part of the other’s name to their own name and they would state the terms of the covenant before a witness, pledging their assets to the other. If something happened to you, your covenant partner would see that your wife and children were taken care of. Sometimes, a memorial meal with bread and wine was eaten. We see that symbolism, the covenant meal, as Yeshua ate the Passover with His disciples.

Yeshua’s cutting of the covenant for us takes some of these ancient elements, as well as some from ADONAI’s cutting of His covenant with Abraham. (Genesis 15). Since the cutting of covenants was a custom of his time, Abraham was familiar with the ritual of cutting a covenant and ADONAI used something familiar to him to make His eternal promise. Through His covenant with Abraham, ADONAI promised the land of Israel to his descendants forever. The same principle was involved with Yeshua’s cutting of the New Covenant. The shedding of His blood was the act of cutting of the covenant. Some of these elements were there. But, there was one major difference between the cutting of a covenant between two men and ADONAI cutting a covenant. In a human covenant each person had covenant responsibilities, but in ADONAI’s covenant with Abraham, nothing depended on Abraham. Everything depended on ADONAI, who promised to be faithful to His covenant. The same is true for the New Covenant. It is guaranteed by ADONAI and sealed by His Son Yeshua’s blood. All we have to do is accept it and become covenant members. And the prophets Isaiah (Isaiah 59:20-21), Jeremiah (31:30-33) and Ezekiel (36:24-28) all testify that the New Covenant is an everlasting covenant.

That was what Yeshua explained to His disciples at His last Passover *Seder* as He invited them to symbolically partake of His body and blood, something which would put the New Covenant into effect the next day. *19 And when He had taken matzah and offered the bracha, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, given for you. Do this in memory of Me.” 20 In the same way, He took the cup after the meal, saying, “This cup is the*

new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.” (Luke 22:19-20 TLV). The cup Yeshua took after the meal is the cup after the meal in our traditional *seder*, the 3rd cup, the one called “the cup of redemption.” Sharing this cup with His disciples, Yeshua spoke of the wine as His blood, a picture of how their redemption was to take place. And now, each year at Passover, when we drink the 3rd cup, we remember Yeshua’s death and His gift of life to us.

In Egypt, ADONAI gave these instructions: 5 *“Your lamb is to be without blemish, a year old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You must watch over it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to slaughter it at twilight.”* (Exodus 12:5-6). The next day in Jerusalem, 14 *Nisan*, at the very time that lambs were being slaughtered at the Temple for the Passover meal that night, Yeshua died on the cross becoming the “lamb that takes away the sin of the world.” The New Covenant was cut with His own blood. The Passover lambs that died and were eaten for Israel’s *seder* meal that year in 30 CE were symbols of the Passover lamb in Egypt whose blood on the doorposts of their homes caused the Death Angel to pass over them. In the year 30 CE, Yeshua became the fulfillment of the Passover lamb in Egypt by becoming, as His cousin John had said, “The Lamb that takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29). His blood when applied to our hearts as an acceptance of His sacrifice, will cause eternal death, eternal separation from ADONAI, to pass over us.

The Book of Matthew begins this way: 1 The book of the genealogy of *Yeshua ha-Mashiach, Ben-David, Ben-Avraham...* (Matthew 1:1 TLV). As Matthew clearly shows and other Scriptures attest, Yeshua is King David’s legal descendant and heir to his throne, the throne of the united Kingdom of Israel. Yeshua, as Son of David, is also the *Goel*, the Kinsman Redeemer of Israel. Redeem means “to gain or regain possession of something in exchange for payment.” By His death, Yeshua redeemed the people of Israel and everyone who calls upon His name. As the Lamb which takes away the sin of the world, Yeshua causes the Death Angel to pass over our houses, our earthly bodies, and provides us eternal life when we accept His sacrifice. As pictured in the Scapegoat of *Yom Kippur*, He takes our sins and carries them away into the wilderness. And, as the sacrificed goat for ADONAI of *Yom Kippur*, He obtained eternal atonement for us by taking His own blood into the Holy of Holies in the heavenly Tabernacle.

ADONAI’s plans for us, the people of His creation, are detailed and specific, plans which He made and executed through His chosen people Israel, the Jews. As disciples of Yeshua, it is our job to know these things, so that in addition to our own secure eternity, we may also be witnesses of this to others. As our Jewish Messiah, Yeshua perfectly fulfilled all that was required of Him, first as an individual Jew, second as the *Goel*, third as the Passover Lamb and fourth as the goats of *Yom Kippur*. And, He will soon return to earth to reclaim His kingdom in His role as *Melekh Mashiach*, King Messiah, Son of David. It was His love for us, G-d’s love (John 3:16), which caused Him to lay down His life for us. With open arms, He welcomes each of us to come to Him. He said: 28 *“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11:28 TLV). His rest is our eternal *Shabbat* rest. The rest of the seventh day, the Sabbath, is a weekly picture of our eternal rest. The author of Hebrews wrote: 9 *So there remains a Shabbat rest for the people of God. 10 For the one who has entered God’s rest has also ceased from his own work, just as God did from His. 11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through the same pattern of disobedience.* (Hebrews 4:9-11 TLV). Yeshua, the Son of David, *Goel* of Israel and Mediator and High Priest of the New Covenant of the whole house of Israel is the only door

to eternal rest. He has opened that door and He calls to us, Jew and Gentile, to come to Him and He will give us rest. *Shana Tovah!*