

YOM KIPPUR

Celebrating our Eternal “Covering”

Man’s Need for God’s *Covering* {Biblical/Historical Overview}

God’s *Covering* in Eden

The LORD God commanded the man, saying,
“From **any tree** of the garden you **may eat freely**;
but from the **tree** of the **knowledge of good and evil** you shall **not eat**,
for in **the day** that you **eat** from it you shall **surely die**.”...

When the **woman** saw that the tree was **good for food**,
and that it was a **delight to the eyes**,
and that the **tree** was desirable to **make *one* wise**, she took
from its fruit and **ate**; and **she gave to her husband** with her, and **he ate**.

Then the **eyes of both** of them **were *opened***, and **they knew** they were **naked**,
and they **sewed fig leaves** together and **made themselves loin coverings**.

They heard the ***sound of the LORD God walking*** in the garden in the cool
of the day, and the man and his wife **hid themselves** from
the presence of the **LORD God** among the trees of the garden.

Then the **LORD God** called to **the man**, and said to him,
“***Where are you?***”

He said, “I heard the ***sound of You*** in the garden,
and **I was a afraid** because **I was naked**; so **I hid myself...**”

The **LORD God** made **garments of skin** for Adam
and **his wife**, and **clothed them**.
(Genesis 2:16-17, 3:6-10, 21)

God’s *Covering* of Noah

Then the **LORD** saw that the ***wickedness of man*** was **great** on the **earth**,
and that **every intent** of the thoughts of **his heart** was **only *evil continually***...

Then **God** said to **Noah**,
“The **end of all flesh** has come before **Me**; for the **earth is filled**
with ***violence*** because of **them**; and behold, I am about
to **destroy them** with the **earth**.

Make for yourself an ark of **gopher wood**;
and you shall make the **ark** with rooms,
and shall **cover it inside** and **out** with pitch..."*
*(va'kaphar'tah ba-kopher)
(literally, "and shall **cover it**.....with **a covering**")

So they went **into the ark** to Noah,..
Those that entered, **male** and **female** of **all flesh**, entered
as **God** had **commanded him**; and **the LORD** closed **it** behind him.

Then the **flood** came upon the earth for **forty days**,
and the **water** increased and **lifted up the ark**,
so that it **rose above the earth**.
(Genesis 6:5, 13-14, 7:15-17)

God's *Covering* of Israel in Egypt

Now **the LORD** said to **Moses** and **Aaron** in the land of **Egypt**,..

"Speak to all the **congregation of Israel**, saying,
'On the **tenth** of **this month** (Nisan-April) they are each one to take **a lamb**
for themselves, according to their fathers' households,
a lamb for each household...

Your lamb shall be an **unblemished male** a year old;
you may take it from the **sheep** or from the **goats**.
You shall **keep it** until the **fourteenth day** of the same month, then the
whole assembly of the congregation of **Israel** is to **kill it** at twilight.

Moreover, they shall take some of the **blood** and put it on the **two doorposts**
and on the **lintel** of **the houses** in which they **eat it** (the lamb)...

For I will go through the land of **Egypt** on that night,
and will **strike down** all the **firstborn** in the land of **Egypt**, both **man and beast**;
and **against all the gods** of Egypt I will **execute judgments—I am the LORD**.

The **blood** shall be **a sign for you** on the **houses** where you live;
and when **I see the blood** I will **pass over you**,
and **no plague** will befall you to **destroy you** when I **strike** the
land of **Egypt**. (Exodus 12:1, 3, 5-7, 12-13)

God's *Covering* in the Law

1. His *Institution* of an atonement through blood

"For the **life** of the **flesh** (for **sacrifices**) is in the **blood**,
and I have given it to you on the **altar**
to make atonement for your **souls**;

for it is **the blood** by reason of the **life** that makes atonement."
(Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22)

2. **His Institution** of the laws of sacrifice for a *continual covering* (atonement) of the people for sin

- a. **Sacrifices offered** through the Levitical Priesthood (Leviticus 8:1-10:20)
- b. **Sacrifices offered continuously** for atonement and cleansing (Leviticus 1:1-7:38) (Exodus 29:38-42) (Hebrews 10:11)
- c. **Sacrifices offered yearly** on “Yom Kippur” (Day of Atonement) for both national and individual sins (Leviticus 16)

God’s Eternal Covering— through His Messiah

But when **Messiah** appeared as a **high priest** of the **good things** to come,
He entered through the **greater** and more **perfect tabernacle**,
not made with hands, that is to say, **not** of **this creation**;
and **not** through the **blood** of **goats** and **calves**,

but through His own blood, **He** entered the **holy place** once for all,
having obtained eternal redemption.

For the **Law**, since it has *only* a **shadow** of the **good things to come** and
not the very **form** of things, can **never**, by the same **sacrifices**
which they offer continually year by year,
make perfect those who **draw near**...

But in **those sacrifices** there is a **reminder of sins** year by year.

For it is **impossible** for the blood of **bulls** and **goats** to take away sins...

And **every priest** stands daily **ministering and offering** time after time
the same **sacrifices**, which can **never take away sins**;
but He (**Jesus**), having offered one sacrifice for **sins for all time**,

SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,...

For by one offering **He** has **perfected** for all time those who are **sanctified**.
(Hebrews 9:11-12, 10:1, 3-4, 11-12, 14)

Discussion Question...

Without a **Temple, Priesthood, and Sacrifices**,
how do the **Jewish people** presently receive
an atonement/covering for sins?

Answer ↓

The **destruction** of the **second Temple** brought an end to **Yom Kippur** service
as **practiced** in the Temple,...

But **Yom Kippur** did **not** lose its **importance** in **Jewish life**...

...its importance grew **outside** the **Temple**...

There was **no longer** a special **Temple service** nor a **high priest** to act as **intermediary** between **man and God**.

But **Jews continued** to observe the day, **without** any **intermediary**, addressing themselves **directly to God** through **prayers and confessions**.

Characteristic of the **Jews** in Palestine to **Yom Kippur** after the **destruction** of the **Temple** is the following **tale** from the **Talmud**:

Rabbi Jochanan ben Zakkai, together with his pupil, **Rabbi Joshua**, once stood gazing at the **ruins** of the **Temple**. And **Rabbi Joshua** said, “**Woe to us**, that the **place** where the **Jews** were **forgiven for their sins** is **destroyed**.”

To which **Rabbi Jochanan** answered, “My son, regret it not.

We have **another medium**, just as **good**, for the **forgiveness of sin**. It is: **Do good to mankind**. For it is written: ‘I desire **mercy** and **not sacrifice**.’ ”

Guide to the Jewish Holy Days - Hayyim Schauss, pp. 141-142

How then does a man find **forgiveness** when he does **sin**?

After the **second Temple** was destroyed in **70 A.D.**, **Judaism** was **restructured** to be a religion **without** a **sacrifice**.

Jewish leaders and scholars put a premium upon the **Great Three** as the **atonement for sin**: **Repentance, Prayer, and Good Deeds**.

When one did wrong, he sought *repentance*, *prayed* for **forgiveness**, and then made a *practice* of following his *good inclinations* so as to do what is **helpful** and **commendable** in the **moral, political, social, and economic areas of life**.

(What is Man...By Louis Goldberg, November 1, 1982...)

Personal Application The ***Blessedness*** of being “**Covered**”

How **blessed** is he whose **transgression is forgiven**,
Whose **sin is covered**! How **blessed**
is the **man** to whom the **LORD** does **not impute iniquity**,... (Psalm 32:1-2)

I will **rejoice greatly** in the **LORD**,
My soul will **exult** in my **God**;
For He has **clothed me** with **garments of salvation**,
He has **wrapped me** with a **robe of righteousness**,
As a **bridegroom** decks himself with a **garland**,
And as a **bride** adorns herself with her **jewels**. (Isaiah 61:10)