

Yom Kippur

יום-כיפור

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32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d

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Prepare Your Heart

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Leviticus 23:27-36

הפטרה: -

הברית: -

החדשה

Searching the Bible for references on Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement) I come across these verses in *Vayikra / Leviticus 23:26-30* and something caught my attention while reading. The Lord spoke to Moshe saying that the Day of Atonement shall be on the seventh day of the month of Tishrei. In *23:29* God said that *"If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people."* The call to humble one's self before the Lord on this special day indicates the manner in which we are to approach the Lord, both for the priests that were performing the ritual making an offering of fire before the Lord and for the people of Yisrael.

ויקרא 23:26-30

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: אֲנִי בַעֲשׂוֹר לַחֹדֶשׁ 26
הַשְּׂבִיעִי הַזֶּה יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים הוּא מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ יְהוָה לָכֶם 27
וְעֲנִיתֶם אֶת-נַפְשֹׁתֵיכֶם וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם אִשָּׁה לַיהוָה: וְכָל- 28
מְלֵאכָה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ בַעֲצֵם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי יוֹם פְּפֻרִים
הוּא לְכַפֵּר עֲלֵיכֶם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם: כִּי כָל-הַנֶּפֶשׁ 29
אֲשֶׁר לֹא-תַעֲנֶה בַעֲצֵם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וְנִכְרְתָה מֵעַמּוּהָ:
וְכָל-הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה כָל-מְלֵאכָה בַעֲצֵם הַיּוֹם 30
הַזֶּה וְהִאֲבִדְתִּי אֶת-הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהוּא מִקִּרְבַּ עַמּוּהָ: כָּל- 31

We first find the mitzvah (command) to observe this day of atonement in *Vayikra / Leviticus 16:1-34* following the story of the death of Aharon's sons Nadav and Avihu in Parashat Shmini (see *Vayikra / Leviticus 10*) and the errant manner in which they performed their duties that led to their deaths. These scriptures emphasize that there is only one way in which God could be approached. Any deviation from the pattern that God is showing Moshe would not be acceptable. The emphasis here is on the manner in which one approaches God and specifically that one must have a humble heart when approaching the Lord in

Vayikra / Leviticus 23:26-36

23:26 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 23:27 'On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to the Lord. 23:28 'You shall not do any work on this same day, for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the Lord your God. 23:29 'If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people. (NASB)

worship and prayer. When you go before the Lord in worship and prayer, have you ever taken a moment to make your heart right prior to standing before the Him? The preparation of our hearts prior to approaching the Lord was the sin Nadav and Avihu committed and were put to death.

35 A passage in *2 Chronicles 12* speaks of Rehoboam, the king of Yisrael, who was the grandson of David. According to *2 Chronicles*, Rehoboam inherited the throne when he was 41 years old after the death of his father king Solomon. In the beginning of his reign his heart was sensitive to the Lord as indicated by *2 Chronicles 11:1-4*, he listened to the prophet of God.

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2 Chronicles 12:10-14

12:10 Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house. 12:11 And when the king entered into the house of the LORD, the guard came and fetched them, and brought them again into the guard chamber. 12:12 And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well. 12:13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess 12:14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD. (KJV)

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Rehoboam's seeking the Lord only lasted for three years of his 17 year reign (see *2 Chronicles 11:17*). According to the scriptures, the reason Rehoboam fell into sin was because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord as it says in *2 Chronicles 12:14*. The Hebrew word "hechiyn" means to prepare, fix, gear.

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דברי הימים ב 12:14

14 נְעַמָּה הָעִמְנִיתָ: וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע כִּי לֹא הִכִּין לְבָבוֹ לְדָרוֹשׁ
15 אֶת־יְהוָה: וַדְּבָרֵי רַחֲבָעַם הָרֵאשִׁנִּים וְהָאֲחֵרוֹנִים

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The word conveys the idea of making a deliberate effort to "prepare" over an extended period of time. The same Hebrew word that was translated here as "prepared" is also translated as "fixed" four times in the Tanach, each time spoken of David. *Psalms 57:7* speaks of the time when King Saul was attempting to kill David and David spared his life. David's men wanted him to kill Saul and seize the throne but David would not do it. Why was David reluctant to take the

throne by force? David says: *Psalms 57:7 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. (KJV)* It is interesting to note that the Hebrew word used here is "nachon" meaning "right, true, correct." David

75 was saying that his heart is “right, true, correct” and by having a correct heart he
will sing and give praise. The KJV translates this word as “fixed” signifying the
key method David is utilizing to prepare his heart, to fix his heart on what he
80 should do, to make his heart true before he encounters temptation so that he
would not fall into sin. Here David had determined in his heart what he was
going to do when temptation came. Have you determined in your heart what you
are going to do when temptation comes?

The preparation of our hearts before approaching God in prayer, worship,
and praise is of utmost importance, Nadav and Avihu have demonstrated that for
us very clearly. To prepare our hearts before the Lord, we need to ask for God’s
85 help in doing so. God must be involved in preparing our hearts according to
*Psalms 10:17 LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare
their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear: (KJV)* Only when we trust in our
Lord and Savior Yeshua the Messiah, and depend upon Him can we find the
strength to make our hearts subject to the will of God. Humbleness of heart is a
90 primary ingredient in the preparation
of our hearts. *Proverbs 16:18 Pride
goeth before destruction, and an
haughty spirit before a fall. (KJV)* A
95 prideful heart leads one to fall into sin according to *Proverbs 16:18* and a humble
heart is a sensitive heart towards the Lord. Also, one of the largest obstacles to
worship is what God has to deal within us if we do not prepare ourselves prior to
approaching Him. Yeshua said that the biggest problem in worship is our heart.

לְפָנֵי-שֶׁפֶר נָאוֹן
וְלְפָנֵי כְשָׁלוֹן נְבִיהַ רוּחַ׃

Matthew 15:1-14

100 *15:1 Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and
said, 15:2 ‘Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For
they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.’ 15:3 And He
answered and said to them, ‘Why do you yourselves transgress the
105 commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? 15:4 ‘For God said,
‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or
mother is to be put to death.’ 15:5 ‘But you say, ‘Whoever says to his
father or mother, ‘Whatever I have that would help you has been given to
God, 15:6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.’ And by this you
110 invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 15:7 ‘You
hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: 15:8 ‘This people honors
Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. 15:9 ‘But in vain
do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’ 15:10
After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, ‘Hear and
understand. 15:11 ‘It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the
115 man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man.’ 15:12
Then the disciples came and said to Him, ‘Do You know that the Pharisees
were offended when they heard this statement?’ 15:13 But He answered
and said, ‘Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be
uprooted. 15:14 ‘Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if
120 a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.’ (NASB)*

The words Yeshua uses here are very strong which demonstrate the importance of a heart that is prepared for the Lord verses a heart that is far away. As Nadav and Avihu did when they went before the Lord, based upon the context of *Vayikra / Leviticus 10* they may have been drinking wine prior to entering into offer fire before the Lord. Their hearts were not properly prepared which led to their not sanctifying the Lord (*Vayikra / Leviticus 10:3*) when they approached Him. Do you see how important this is for us today? If one does not properly prepare his/her heart before coming to the Lord in worship and prayer does that result in a failure to sanctify the Lord? *Vayikra / Leviticus 10:3 God says "Then Moses said to Aaron, 'It is what the Lord spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'" So Aaron, therefore, kept silent."* (NASB) The KJV says that "...and before all the people I will be glorified..." If we properly prepare our hearts we will glorify the Lord. It may be that others will not specifically see the honoring of the Lord in our hearts but God sees it. When you come before the Lord in prayer, in worship, and in praise, take the time to prepare your heart before making an offering with your lips so that your heart is right and God is glorified.

140 Heavenly Father,

There are so many ways that I have made worship and prayer into something other than what You desire because of my sin, my failures, and my not properly preparing my heart to come before You. Please have mercy on me and forgive me of my sins, create in me a new heart, a heart that honors You and glorifies Your Name. I ask that all of this might honor You, that this prayer be a part of my worship before You and that I might draw nearer to You through Yeshua my savior. Lord, prepare my heart daily so that the worship of my heart is holy and pleasing to You. As I come before you in prayer and in worship, help me to be alerted to the unpreparedness of my heart, help me to take the time to properly prepare my heart before I come near so that I can learn Your truths and grow in those truths. Please, Please help me Lord. I pray all of these things in Yeshua's Name.

155 Amen.

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Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!

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הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
"Yeshua" King Messiah forever and ever