

Making the Most of Wednesday, September 23

"Shana Tovah u'Metukah!"



"Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement..." — Lev. 23:27

This week, Jews from around the globe are observing the Ten Days of Repentance. This special season between the new year's celebration, called Rosh ha-Shana (9/19) and the Day of Atonement, called Yom Kippur (9/28) is the holiest period of the Jewish calendar.

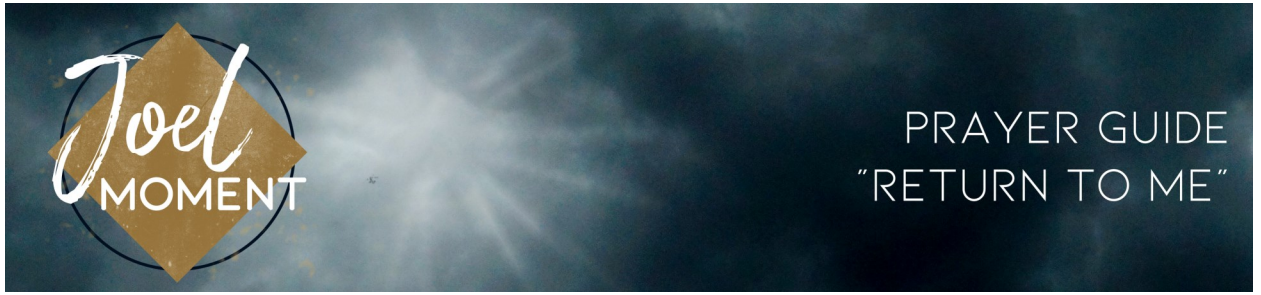
In ordinary times, you might overhear Jews greeting one another with "Shana Tovah u'Metukah," which means, "May it be a sweet, new year." During these ten days, Jews practice "Teshuvah," which literally means "returning" or "repentance." This is a time to look within and alter one's ways before the Yom Kippur with its prescribed fast and prayers.

We too are returning to God (that's the point of Joel Moment) from places of distraction and fleshliness (*"Return to me with all your heart..." — Joel 2:12*). But we're also remembering the singular atonement that Jesus accomplished for us — a forever open door to the smiling face of our Heavenly Father.

Although the book of Leviticus commanded the Israelites to honor Yom Kippur year after year (*"it shall be a statute to you forever"* — Lev. 16:29), we'll learn today that the Book of Hebrews happily teaches us that the Day of Atonement was actually a provision with a shelf life.

In today's Joel Moment, Jamie Allen will reflect on the New Testament and how it teaches that the sacrifices performed on the Day of Atonement are perfectly fulfilled through Christ's sacrifice on the cross of Calvary — a sacrifice that cleanses believers of their sins. We'll also hear a testimony from a Jewish woman (our dear friend Laura Aue) who came to know the World's True Messiah. (Laura will be on an airplane with her husband Tom today during Joel Moment so our sister Susan Pardini will read it for us.)

For our time with God today, let's get familiar with the passages that Jamie will share as we seek to understand the Day of Atonement and how it prefigured the life and death of Jesus the Messiah. On the next page, you'll see Jamie's passages broken into our three prayer blocks. Try to detect the flow of the passages. If you need help to understand how they fit together, don't worry! Jamie will help us at 3:00 PM as we gather to learn, pray and enjoy one another's company.



BETWEEN 6:00 AM-9:00 AM [Meditate on these passages and underline significant phrases.]

ESV **Hebrews 9:23-26** *Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

ESV **John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

ESV **John 2:19-21** *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body.*

BETWEEN 9:00 AM—12:00 PM [During these hours, picture the day when the True Lamb was slain.]

ESV **Matthew 27:28-30** *And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.*

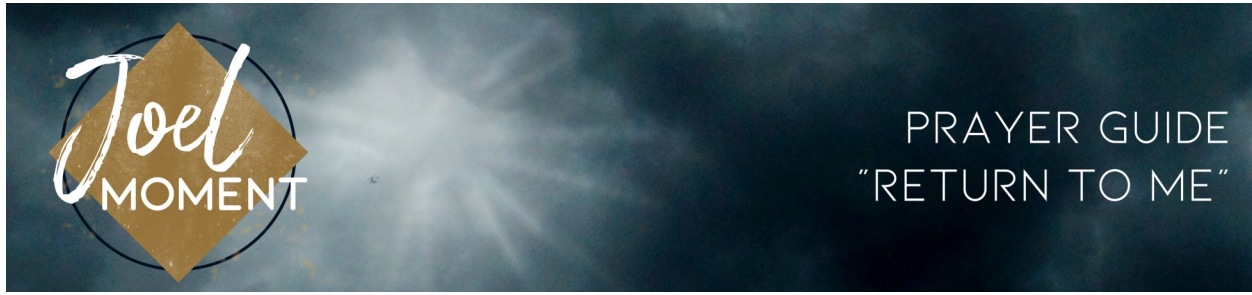
ESV **Matthew 27:35** *And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots.*

ESV **Matthew 27:39-40** *And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."*

ESV **Matthew 27:50-51** *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.*

BETWEEN 12:00 PM—3:00 PM [Reflect on the identify of the Lamb and our grateful obligation to him.]

ESV **Colossians 1:15-23** *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.*



BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the *Joel Moment Prayer Gathering*. Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and enter Meeting ID and Password.

BETWEEN 5:00 PM—10:00 PM: Like a Biblical tour guide, Jamie Allen led us along a path of Scriptures so we could see the significance of Yom Kippur and how it foreshadowed the merciful ministry of our High Priest and Holy Lamb, Jesus. Let's give our Lord a thank offering in the form of a hymn, "What Can Wash Away My Sin?" There are many excellent versions you can find on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com), or you can sing a quiet a capella version with lyrics below.

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Glory glory this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
All my praise for this I bring
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

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That makes me white as snow
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JAMIE ALLEN [A teaching called “Live. Die. ~~Repeat.~~ No Repeat.”]

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LAURA AUE [A testimony and prayer from a “rich, Russian, Jewish liberal.” Susan Pardini will read it because Laura will be flying on an airplane during Joel Moment today.]



GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (8 min.): Give praise to Jesus, the Perfect Priest and Perfect Lamb who made the perfect sacrifice to perfectly cleanse our inner beings.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (8 min.): Pray for our lost friends, particularly our Jewish friends.

^{ESV} **Romans 10:1-2** *Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them [the Jewish people] is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.*

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (8 min.): Believers can approach God without fear! Hebrews 4:16 says: *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Who needs mercy? Who needs grace? Who needs help? Who needs wisdom? Who needs correction?
Here are some ideas:

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| • Presidents | • Protesters | • Persecuted Christians | • Sun. School teachers |
| • Senators | • Media executives | • Technology leaders | • Hindus |
| • Congress members | • University professors | • Missionaries | • Muslims |
| • Judges | • Elders/Pastors | • Artists | • Buddhists |
| • Mayors | • Parents | • Writers | • Secular humanists |
| • City Council members | • Teenagers | • Stay-at-home moms | • Yoga instructors |
| • Teachers | • COVID-19 sufferers | • Emergency workers | • You |
| • Police officers | • Shut-in people | • Small group leaders | • Me |

Record what God shows you in Joel Moment, Part 2 — that is, the time after 4:00 PM — when we share Scripture, intercede and support each other as the Holy Spirit leads us.
