

“Day of Atonement”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Sept. 16, 2023.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled “Day of Atonement.” Following are some of the ideas and some of the scriptures from that Bible study.

Deuteronomy 16

Deuteronomy 16:1-16 mentioned three different seasons of observance.

- Deuteronomy 16:1-15 mentioned “Passover,” “Feast of Weeks” and “Feast of Tabernacles.”
- Deuteronomy 16:16 mentioned “Feast of Unleavened Bread,” “Feast of Weeks” and “Feast of Tabernacles.”

The Day of Atonement is one of the fall festivals—lumped between the Feast of Trumpets and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Mentioned in Leviticus

The Day of Atonement is mentioned in Leviticus 16 and Leviticus 23.

- Leviticus 23:26-32 mentions the Day of Atonement as one of the “feasts of the Lord.”
- Leviticus 16:1-34 mentions the Lord telling Moses to give Aaron specific instructions for that day (in that time).

For the purpose of this Bible study, I am going to mention three instructions given to people.

Solemn rest (no work)

The Lord instructed Moses to tell the people to have a solemn rest with no work on the Day of Atonement.

When a person is convicted to keep a seventh-day Sabbath, he would certainly be convicted to keep the Day of Atonement in a similar manner—and probably in a more fervent manner.

An offering was made for them

Bible students are aware of the connection between the earthly tabernacle and the earthly priesthood.

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- Exodus 25-27 gave information about the tabernacle.
- Exodus 28-30 gave information about the priesthood.
- Hebrews 2-8 gave information about the priesthood.
- Hebrews 9 gave information about the tabernacle.
- Hebrews 9:1-2—Here is information about the first area of the tabernacle.
- Hebrews 9:3-5—Here is information about behind the second veil.
- Hebrews 9:7-8—Once a year, the high priest went behind the veil to present an offering.

Afflict your souls

- Matthew 4:1-11—The Son of God fasted when anticipating the temptation from the devil.
- Matthew 6:16-18—The Son of God said: “When you fast . . .”
- Matthew 9:14-15—The Son of God said His disciples would fast after He was resurrected.
- Isaiah 58:3-5—The Lord wasn’t impressed with the typical fast of the people.
- Isaiah 58:6-7—The Lord enjoyed watching the benefits of a proper fast.