

Atonement Event

(Go To Meeting)

Steven Greene—August 19, 2022

Greetings, everyone! This is the time of the years that we have a lot on our mind regarding the Feast of Tabernacles; the time of the year that we're focusing on the Holy Days in a large sense, because it happens to be when our lives are literally focused upon God. We travel, we move around the world, the country, wherever we may be.

This time of the year, the first thing we're going to be facing in terms of God's Holy Days is Trumpets. There has been a lot sermons and messages about the Day of Trumpets. It happens to have a lot of interest in terms of prophecy as well as the end-times that God's people are going to be facing.

After that is Atonement and then after that is the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of Tabernacles is something that is not a focus of our physical life now, because at that point we will be spirit beings and part of a incredible new world that Christ will establish on this earth.

But in between is the Day of Atonement. We focused at times on fasting, because that is a big part of the day, a day to afflict your souls. **It is a day that we talk about Satan. It is day that we think of in very, very simple terms. But none of those things—the fasting and Satan—really don't tell us what Atonement is about.**

God's Holy Days are pretty much in an order of occurrence. So, Atonement is in time sequence between Trumpets and Tabernacles. So, Atonement must have something to do in that time sequence between what happens after the Day of Trumpets but before we get to the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

That's what I want to talk about tonight, and I want to start in Joel 2, which is probably one of the clearest descriptions of this sequence of events. If we breakdown the events and we get through the Day of Trumpets, we've gone through the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord, which is the vengeance of God upon this earth.

There's a lot of Scripture that describes that day. This first section of Joel 2 is going to be talking about the Day of Trumpets. It's very plain and obvious!

Joel 2:1: "Blow the ram's horn in Zion, and sound an alarm in My Holy mountain!" Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the Day of the LORD comes... [the Day of Trumpets] ...for *it is* near at hand— A day of darkness and of gloominess,

a day of clouds and of thick darkness. As the morning *is* spread across the mountains, *so comes* a great people and a mighty people; there has never been the like, nor shall there ever be again, even to the years of many generations. A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land *is* as the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness—and nothing shall escape them. Their appearance... [of these people, this army] ...*is* as the appearance of horses; and as war horses, so they run. They shall leap with the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains, with the noise of a flame of fire that devours the stubble, like a mighty people set in battle array. In their presence the people shall *greatly* tremble; all faces shall grow pale. They shall run like mighty men. They shall climb the wall like men of war, and they shall march each one in his path, and they shall not break their ranks" (vs 1-7).

Verse 8: "And each one shall not crowd another; they go every one in his *own* path. And when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall; they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble. **The sun and the moon shall grow dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.** And the LORD shall utter His voice before His army; for His camp *is* exceedingly great; for powerful *is He* who executes His Word, **for the Day of the LORD... [the vengeance of God] ...*is great and very terrible; and who can endure it?***" (vs 8-11).

There is absolutely no question that that is a Trumpets reference. The Day of Trumpets pictured in v 21 we have whole different picture of the world that is being described:

Verse 21: "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD will magnify his deeds. Do not be afraid... [this is the opposite of what we saw on the Day of Trumpets] ... beasts of the field; for the pastures of the wilderness grow green; for the tree bears its fruit, and the fig tree and the vine yield their strength" (vs 21-22).

The previous section was talking about it was Eden in front and its desolation behind them; now it's the exact opposite again.

Verse 23: Be glad then, children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for He has given you the former rain in just measure, and He will cause the rain to come down for you, the former rain

and the latter rain as before.... [before the destruction] ...And the threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years which the swarming locust has eaten, the locust larvae, and the destroying locust, and the cutting locust, My great army which I sent among you. And you shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt with you wondrously; and My people shall never *again* be ashamed. And you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel, and that I *am* the LORD your God, and there is none else; **and My people shall never again be ashamed**" (vs 23-27).

This is picturing the Feast of Tabernacles, the Millennial rule of Jesus Christ. There's no question that this is not the Day of the Lord.

We skipped a section and I want to go back to v 12, because in between the Day of Trumpets, and the Feast of Tabernacles should be the Day of Atonement. Let's see what these verses say about that period in between Trumpets—at the end of Trumpets—and the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles. Remember that this is right after He said that "...for the Day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; and who can endure it?" (v 11)

Verse 12: "'Therefore, even now,' says the LORD, **'turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting,** and with weeping, and with mourning. Yes, **rend your heart** and not your garments, and return to the LORD your God: for He *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and He repents of the evil. Who knows *if* He will return and repent and leave a blessing behind Him—a grain offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?" (vs 12-14).

This is different from both the Day of the Lord—Trumpets—and the Millennium. It is somber now. The tone is not one of devastation and destruction. It's not one of abundance and blessing. It's one of a somber, humble attitude.

"...**turn** to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning."

Remember that word *turn!* That is an extremely important term/word when we talk about the Day of Atonement. After the Day of the Lord we're seeing a description of the Day of Atonement. **It begins with God calling the remnant that survived this vengeance of God and the previous Tribulation that devastated the earth.**

God is calling that remnant who survived those times to **turn back to Him "...with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning"** (v 1).

This is an attitude that is not proud and

haughty! It's not joyful! It's an attitude of humility and repentance.

Lev. 16:29-31 ties in with this whole fasting idea, because this is the chapter on Atonement.

Leviticus 16:29: "And it shall be a statute forever to you: in the **seventh month** on **the tenth** [day] ...of the month... [Trumpets is on the 7th day of the 7th month; Tabernacles is the 15th day] ...you shall afflict your souls and do no work at all..."

Verse 31: "It *shall be* a Sabbath of rest to you, and you shall afflict your souls by a statute forever." *Afflicting your souls is just fasting* (you can find that in Isaiah).

Joel 2:12 *talking about fasting*: "...turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning." **This is talking about the Day of Atonement!**

This is a time for the people who have survived the Day of the Lord and the Tribulation, who have come out of utter devastation! Those who survived are devastated:

- mentally
- emotionally
- spiritually

God calls on them with this attitude!

We have some more indications that this is Atonement:

Verse 15: "Blow a ram's horn in Zion, sanctify a fast..."

The simultaneous blowing of that ram's horn and fasting **only occurs on Atonement!** The ram's horn is found in:

Leviticus 25:9: "Then you shall cause the trumpet... [shofar] ...of the jubilee to sound on the tenth *day* of the seventh month; in the Day of Atonement..."

The Jubilee started on Atonement, and that's the reason for the trumpet and fast occurring on Atonement.

Joel 2:15: "Blow a ram's horn in Zion, sanctify a fast..." *That's reflecting the Levitical command of how to keep the Day of Atonement!*

But this in Lev. 25 is talking about in reality! Remember Joel 2 is talking about this almost as it's happening in a fulfillment. **It's not talking about it in terms of how you keep this day.** It is talking about the actual *fulfillment* of this day!

"...call a solemn assembly" (v 15).

Atonement is one of two of the Holy Days

that is called *solemn assemblies*.

Verse 16: “Gather the people, **sanctify** the congregation...”—*cleanse!* The congregation is just a assemblage of people, a gathering of people.

“...assemble the elders, gather the children and those who suck the breasts. Let the bridegroom go forth out of his chamber, and the bride out of her room” (v 16).

When the Millennial rule of Christ begins, there’s a remnant of physical human beings upon this earth who survive everything. Those are the people who start the nations that are in the Millennium. Here it is talking about:

- a gathering of people
- sanctify the congregation
- assemble them

These are those people who survive. As we’re going to see, they’re going to be taken to a particular place. This day pictures them being liberated and rescued from that bondage. Remember the horn of the Jubilee, the trumpet of the Jubilee was sounded.

What is the Jubilee? *The end of debts and bondage!* The people are released from their debts to go back to their families; released from servitude. This is that liberation that goes on and it happens on Atonement, prior to the Millennium.

This is the day that God gathers these people!

Leviticus 25:10—*in reference to the Jubilee:* “And you shall make the fiftieth year Holy, **and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants...**”—*the liberty, the Jubilee!*

Remember the word *turn!*

“...It shall be a jubilee to you, and **you shall return** each man to his possession, and **you shall return** each man to his family” (v 10).

One of the themes of the Jubilee is returning to your place with your family that you had in the past, before you were taken into captivity, before you were brought in into bondage.

The Jubilee is picturing this remnant that survives the Day of the Lord and is rescued and brought out after the Day of God’s vengeance.

Joel 2:17: “Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, ‘**Spare** Your people...’” —literally means **cover** your people! Atonement means *to cover!* When your sins are atoned for, they’re covered by the blood of Christ!

In this case God says, “...**Spare** [cover] Your people “...O LORD, and give not Your inheritance to shame, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the people, ‘Where *is* their God?’” (v 17).

So, we have a returning or turning of the people that is in direct connection with Atonement and the Jubilee! These Scriptures/verses are all about Atonement, right in between the Day of Trumpets and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Verse 18: “Then the LORD will be jealous for His land and pity His people”—*meaning to spare His people!* He will spare them the destruction!

Verse 19: “Yea, the LORD will answer and say to His people, ‘Behold, I will send you grain, and wine, and oil, and you shall be satisfied with them. And I will no more make you a curse among the nations.’”

Joel 2 is not the only place where you will find this description of Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles. It’s throughout several of the Prophets. In Isa. 49 it talks about **God sending the people** that are returned out of captivity—returned to God weeping, fasting and mourning. Food, He will provide for their needs as they are moving, as they are being gathered.

Isaiah 49:8: “Thus says the LORD, ‘In a favorable time I have answered You, and in **a day of salvation** I have helped You; and I will preserve You, and give You **for a covenant of the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the wasted inheritances**; that You may say to the prisoners, “Go out!”... [out of captivity] ...To those who *are* in darkness, “Show yourselves!” They shall feed in the ways...” (vs 8-9).

How do they feed in the way? *Joel 2 told us, God is going to provide them with food; with grain, wine and oil the travel!*

“...They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst...” (vs 9-10).

They will have need of nothing! They were prisoners, captives and came out of terrible conditions and they have nothing! But they’re not going to go hungry; **God is going to provide for them!**

“...nor shall the heat nor sun strike them; for He {Christ} who has compassion on them shall lead them; even by the springs of water He shall guide them” (v 10).

This is what happens with all those captives who cry out to God with all their heart; with weeping and fasting and mourning! God saved them

from death to bring them down to Jerusalem! Isaiah is even more specific about this:

Isaiah 27:12: “And it shall come to pass, in that day the LORD shall **thresh**... [to take out from the crops that are growing; separate from] ...from the stream of the River Euphrates to the river of Egypt...”

That’s a huge area all the way from the River Euphrates over in Iran over to Egypt.

“...and you shall be gathered one by one, **O children of Israel**” (v 12). *Isn’t that interesting?*

Verse 13: “And it shall come to pass, in that day a great ram’s horn shall be blown, and those perishing in the land of Assyria shall come, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt shall come and shall worship the LORD in the Holy mountain at Jerusalem.”

That is interesting! We’re going to see something very, very similar here in Joel 2. This is a continuation after we just talked about:

Joel 2:19: “...‘Behold, I will send you grain, and wine, and oil, and you shall be satisfied with them. And I will no more make you a curse among the nations. But **I will remove the northern army far off from you**...” (vs 19-20).

This doesn’t necessarily mean an armed force or military group. Remember the armies of the Israelites that came out of Egypt; it’s a term for a large group of people. Apparently, there’s this large group of people in the north, and God says:

Verse 20: “But I will remove the northern army far off from you, and will drive him into a barren and deserted land, with his face toward the eastern sea and his back toward the western sea. And his stench shall come up, and his rotten odor shall come up because he has magnified his deeds.”

Who is this northern army of people? *It’s a huge group of people!* I can tell you who some of them are in Ezek. 20. We can see how God describes some of these people. We’re still talking about the rescue of the captives being fed and taken care of and brought down to Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 20:33: “‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, I will reign over you. And I will bring you out from the people, and I will gather you out of the lands in which you are scattered among them, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there **I will enter into judgment with you** face to face. Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the

land of Egypt, so **I will enter into judgment with you**,’ says the Lord GOD” (vs 33-36).

This is talking about this entire group of people! Not just the captives, although they’re part of it. Up until now, it’s one large group of people.

Verse 37: “And I will cause you to **pass under the rod**, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. And I will purge out from among you the rebels and those who transgress against Me. I will bring them out from the land where they reside, **but they shall not enter into the land of Israel**. And you shall know that I *am* the LORD” (vs 37-38).

So, when they talk about passing “...**under the rod**...”; in the old days they would literally pass animals under the rod so that they could separate them for various reasons.

- Jacob did it when he was separating spotted from unspotted
- they did it when they were tithing; every tenth animal that went under the rod was pulled to the side as a tithe to God

Passing under the rod is used in the same context as the word *thresh*!

Isaiah 27:12: “...I will thresh [the land] from the stream of the River Euphrates to the river of Egypt...”

He’s passing them under the rod; God is separating those who are rebels and transgress God’s Law from among the people whom He is going to bring them to Jerusalem and enter into a covenant with them.

All of these people who are being gathered in this time between the end of Trumpets and the beginning of the Millennium, they’re traveling down to Jerusalem and begin to be purged from those who are rebellious. They’re being fed and cared for, and they’re going there to enter into a covenant.

Ezekiel 20:39: “‘As for you, O house of Israel,’ thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Go everyone and serve his idols... [before the Day of the Lord] ...but later... [after the Day of the Lord] ...you will surely hearken to Me, and no longer profane My Holy name with your gifts and idols. For in My Holy mountain, in the mountain height of Israel,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘there all the house of Israel, all of those in the land, shall serve Me. There will I receive them, and there will I ask for your offerings and the firstfruits of your offerings, with all your Holy things. I will receive you with your sweet savor **when I bring you out from the people**... [from the army; purging out those who are transgressors and rebels] ...and gather you out of the lands into which

you have been scattered among them. And I will be sanctified in you before the nations” (vs 39–41).

Those are the events of Atonement, which is the time after the vengeance of God, after the Tribulation that preceded the vengeance of God. The earth has seen so much destruction! There are Scriptures that imply that 90% of the earth’s population is going to be destroyed! *That’s a lot of people, a lot of death!*

Those who are left are a mixture of rebels and transgressors, but there are also a lot of captives, the victims of all these rebels and evil people. They’re going to be gathered, rescued, liberated on this day of Jubilee when the rams horn is blown, when a fast is called and brought to Jerusalem to enter into a covenant with the Word God Himself at the temple.

We have this picture of Atonement. I want to skip to Joel 2:30. At the end of Joel 2 we find a recap of events for Trumpets and also Atonement.

Joel 2:30: “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth—blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD” (vs 30-31).

Verse 32 is quite interesting because it ties in with v 12.

Verse 32: “And it shall be *that* whoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for salvation shall be in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, as the LORD has said, and among the remnant... [the survivors] ...**whom the LORD shall call.**”

I’m sure that many of you have heard topics discussing the Protestant view of ‘once saved, always saved’ and they use this Scripture to say that ‘whomever shall call upon the Lord shall be saved.’

That is *not* what this talking about! This is not talking about eternal salvation. This is talking about those people who have been so tormented, brutalized, tortured, beaten, starved and had everything taken from them; their families killed, their women raped!

Turning to God with weeping, fasting, mourning and calling upon the name of God to save them! Finally, in all their duress, they turn to God because they had no one else that they can call upon. They do this and God responds and liberates them, brings them out and calls them to Jerusalem. He purges the rebels from among them and passes the liberated people under the rod and separates them from the rebellious.

This is talking about the physical salvation

for the people after the Day of Vengeance of God!

Hopefully Atonement and the events of Atonement are become fairly clear. I’ve read some of Isaiah about it. But in Isa. 58 there some other little things that I think not only emphasize what we’ve discussed Joel 2, but it also adds to it a little bit.

We’re going to focus on the *fast!* Fasting is a very distinct importance of the Day of Atonement.

Sidebar: The commandments for Atonement is not fasting. In Lev. it does not talk about fasting when it talks about Atonement. What it commands is *afflicting your souls!* I want you to bear that in mind, because that is a very important description of the people that come out of the Day of the Lord.

Isaiah 58:6: “*Is not this, rather, the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bands... [bonds] ...of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed ones go free... [the captives] ...and that you break every yoke?*”

Every bondage, slaves, all those ties are broken! They’re done!

Verse 7: *Is it not to give of your bread to the hungry...*”

Remember, they come out with nothing! God feeds them along the way!

“...and that you should bring home the wandering poor?...” (v 7)—*the rescued captives!*

We’re talking about a fast on Atonement. I want you to read this with the understanding of what it’s talking about on Atonement. *This is a description of why we fast on Atonement!*

Verse 7: “*Is it not to give of your bread to the hungry, and that you should bring home the wandering poor? When will you see the naked and cover him; and not hide yourself from your own flesh?*”

Then when you do all these things to these people in need:

Verse 8: “Then shall your light break out as the dawn, and your health shall spring out quickly; and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.”

Christ is leading them and the glory of the Eternal is their protection!

Verse 9: “Then you shall call, and the LORD shall answer; you shall cry, and He shall say, “Here I *am.*” If you take the yoke away from among you, the pointing of the finger, and speaking malice;

and *if* you draw out your soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul... [the captives] ...then shall your light rise in darkness, and your gloom *shall be* as the noonday. And the LORD shall always guide you and satisfy your soul in dry places, and make your bones fat; and you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters fail not” (vs 9-11).

Verse 12: “And *those who* come of you... [the remnant] ...shall build the old ruins; you shall **raise up the foundations of many generations...** [during the Millennium] ...and you shall be called: The Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Paths to Dwell in.”

Today we afflict our souls on Atonement, because that is what the people whom God rescues out of the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord are. They are afflicted! ***We fast on Atonement for the remnant that is to be rescued out of this captivity and bondage and slavery that’s coming upon this earth!***

We fast because the remnant fulfills Atonement, because they’re saved from that bondage and slavery! They’re brought out again! Saved by the Lord! ***They turn to the Lord with weeping, fasting and mourning!***

They will be the ones who populate the beginning of the Millennium and begin a new life under the rule of Jesus Christ! They are the first generation of all those who will live throughout the thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ!

Isaiah 61:1: “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me because the LORD has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; **to preach the acceptable...** [Jubilee] **...year of the LORD and the Day of Vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;** to appoint to those who mourn in Zion, giving to them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the mantle of praise for the spirit of heaviness; so that they might be called trees of righteousness, **the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified**” (vs 1-3).

Sidebar: Zion is the name of the place where God dwells with His covenant people. Right now God is in Mt. Sion on His Throne in heaven! He’s dwelling there with His covenant people who have His Holy Spirit.

Where is our citizenship right now? *In heaven!* It’s not on this earth; it’s in heaven!

It’s an interesting study; look into where Zion/Sion is. What its name reflects, who lives there, who lives around there. It’s a very, very

interesting thing! **That’s why Jerusalem will again be called Zion/Sion, because the people of the captivity who come to Jerusalem will enter into covenant with God (Joel 2).**

This is talking about people who are mourning, so this is definitely Atonement. The whole context of vs 1-3 is different. It completely changes in:

Verse 4: “And they will build the old wastes, they will raise up the desolations of former times. And they shall repair the waste cities, **the desolations of many generations.** And strangers will stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the stranger *will be* your plowmen and your vinedressers” (vs 4-5).

These people had nothing when they came out of captivity. Now they have people working for them, plowing and harvesting their fields. Making their wine. That’s a change, and this is Millennial!

Verse 6: “But you shall be called the priests of the LORD; it will be said of you, ‘The ministers of our God’; you will eat the riches of the Gentiles, and you will boast in their glory.”

What were the ancient Israelites supposed to be in the very beginning, before the golden calf incident? ***They were to be a nation of priests!*** They were to be the ones to proclaim the wonderful Laws of God! They would look at the Israelites and say, ‘What a wise people who have the Laws of their God.’ The entire nation was to be the priests of God.

But now it’s going to come to reality.

Verse 6: ““But you shall be called the priests of the LORD; it will be said of you, ‘The ministers of our God’; you will eat the riches of the Gentiles, and you will boast in their glory. For your shame *you will have* double; instead of dishonor they will rejoice in their portion; therefore, in their own land... [now they possess land; this is Millennial] ...they will possess double; everlasting joy will be theirs” (vs 6-7).

Verse 8: “For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people; all who see them will acknowledge them, that they *are* the seed the LORD has blessed” (vs 8-9).

Verse 10: “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul will be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me *with* the robes of salvation, He covered me with the robe of righteousness like a bridegroom adorns *himself* with ornaments, and like a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels; for as the

earth brings forth its bud, and as the garden causes that which is sown to grow; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to grow before all the nations” (vs 10-11).

We’ve had this picture:

- Isa. 61 of Atonement followed by Tabernacles
- Joel 2 was Day of the Lord followed by Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles

Psa. 107 is one of the most incredible Psalms that you will find when it comes to the Holy Days. Just an amazing Psalm that was written long before Isaiah and Joel, before these visions were given to these prophets.

Psalm 107:1: “O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever. So, let the redeemed... [the rescued captives] ...of the LORD say, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, and gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. They wandered in the wilderness, in a desert by the way; they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them” (vs 1-5). *Tie in Joel 2:12!*

Verse 6: “Then they cried to the LORD in their distress, and He delivered them out of their troubles.”

The Jubilee trumpet sounded and they came weeping, fasting and mourning!

Verse 7: “And He led them by a straight way... [Jerusalem] ...so that they might go to a city to dwell.”

Verse 9: “For He satisfies the thirsty soul and fills the hungry soul with good things. Some sat in the darkness and in the shadow of death, being chained in affliction and iron... [captives] ...because they rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High” (vs 9-11).

Yes, before the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord there were a lot of people on this earth who were rebellious! But some *turned to God in the time of their distress with weeping, fasting and mourning!* And add to it *humility and tears!* “Save me, O God!”

Verse 12: “Therefore, He humbled their heart with labor; they stumbled, and there was none to help.”

They were humbled through their devastation in their times of:

- torment and torture
- slavery and bondage

Verse 13: “Then they cried to the LORD in their distress, and He saved them out of their troubles. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their bands asunder” (vs 13-14).

Verse 16: “For He has broken the gates of bronze and cut through the bars of iron. Fools are afflicted because of their rebellion and because of their iniquities. They themselves loathed all kinds of food, and they drew near the gates of death. **Then they cried unto the LORD in their distress...**” (vs 16-19).

That is the key to those who are passed under the rod and brought to Jerusalem! “...they cried unto the LORD in their distress...” They were weeping and fasting and mourning and their souls were afflicted! What does God do?

Verse 20: “He sent His Word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”

Verse 23: “Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business in great waters, these see the works of the LORD and His wonders in the deep, for He commanded and raised the stormy wind which lifted up the waves of the sea. They mounted up to heaven, they went down again to the depths; their courage melted away because of the peril. They reeled to and fro, and staggered like a drunken man, and were at their wits’ end” (vs 23-27).

Verse 28: “And **they cried...** [weeping, fasting and mourning] **...to the LORD in their distress...**”

This is the description of all those who enter into the Millennium, who survive physically the destruction of the Day of Trumpets.

“...they cried to the LORD in their distress, **and He delivered them out of their troubles.** He made the storm calm, so that its waves were still. Then they were glad because they were quiet, and **He led them to their desired haven**” (vs 28-30)—*Jerusalem!*

The Jubilee shofar sounds on the Day of Trumpets! It is the liberty of the captives. They are afflicting their souls, not willingly, but because of all the terrible evil that has been afflicted upon them. They are starving and have nothing!

But they do the one thing that God is looking for in the people that enter into the Millennium; ***they were humbled!***

Verse 33: “He turns rivers into a wilderness and water springs into thirsty ground; a fruitful land is changed into a salty desert because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it” (vs 33-34).

These are the rebels; He gives them nothing and takes away what they have! They live in a wilderness of salty pools of water.

Verse 35: “He turns the wilderness into pools of water and dry ground into water springs. And He makes the hungry... [those who cry out to God] ...dwell there, so that they may prepare a city of habitation, and sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase. He also blesses them, so that they are multiplied greatly, and does not allow their livestock to decrease” (vs 35-38).

Verse 39: “Again, they have become few and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow.”

The Day of Atonement; the command is to afflict your souls!

Verse 40: “He pours contempt upon nobles and causes them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no path.”

These are the rebels of God’s Law, the transgressors!

Verse 41: “But He raises up the poor from affliction... [Atonement is the day to afflict our souls] ...and sets their families like a flock. The righteous shall see it and rejoice; and all iniquity shall stop its mouth” (vs 41-42).

I’m going to read you what the command is for keeping Atonement:

Leviticus 23:27: “Also, on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. *It shall be a Holy convocation to you. And you shall afflict your souls...*”

We know that that’s fasting from Isa. 58, but it doesn’t say to *fast*. It says to *afflict* your soul. Why doesn’t it say *fast*? Because Atonement is about the rescuing of a people who are afflicted in their souls from the devastation of the Tribulation in the Day of the Vengeance of God!

“...and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. And you shall do no work in that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, in order to make an atonement...” (vs 27-28)—*meaning literally to cover!*

Remember it said to spare Your people, cover Your people (Joel 2).

“...for you before the LORD your God, for whoever is not afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people” (vs 28-29).

Do you think any of the rebels and the transgressors are afflicted? *No! They’re not!*

- they’re cut off!
- they’re purged!
- they’re cast away!
- they’re put under the rod and turned away from Jerusalem

They’re not allowed to enter and do not enter into a covenant with Jesus Christ. ***They are cut off!***

Verse 30: “And whoever does any work in that same day, the same one will I destroy from among his people. You shall do no manner of work. *It shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. *It shall be* to you a Sabbath of rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. In the ninth day of the month at sunset, from sunset to sunset, you shall keep your Sabbath” (vs 30-32).

Atonement is a day of afflicting our souls through fasting, **because we’re not the captives**. But we are fasting, that God would save those people and bring them out of all this terrible destruction, pain, death and sorrow that is going to happen to these people. It’s because we see these people and we want them to be in God’s Kingdom.

We are fasting on Atonement:

- **before it happens**, before the Day of the Lord is in reality
- **before the people are rescued** from the terrible captivity and bondage/slavery.
- **for them of the future**
 - ✓ that they will cry out to God
 - ✓ who turn and return to God with weeping, fasting and mourning

So that God may save them!

Leviticus 16:29: “And it shall be a statute forever to you: in the seventh month, on the tenth of the month, you shall afflict your souls...”

That’s what Atonement is all about, saving the people who were afflicted!

“...and do no work at all, *whether it be* one of your own country or a stranger who is living among you, for on that day an atonement shall be made for you, to cleanse you... [to sanctify you; Christ is going to sanctify the people and enter into a covenant with them] ...so that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. *It shall be* a Sabbath of rest to you, and you shall afflict your souls by a statute forever” (vs 29-31).

That is what Atonement is all about! It is a day of fasting because through fasting we afflict our souls. We have thoughts toward the people of this earth being a part of God’s Kingdom.

We know what they're going to go through and it's going to be terrible for them. So, we afflict our souls and fast so we are humble and contrite before God Himself.

Only those who are afflicted and crying out to God, turning back to God with weeping, fasting and mourning are going to be saved. Those who are not, the rebels and transgressors are cut off, purged and cast away.

The remnant are brought to Jerusalem. They're fed by God and the angels. There's a Scripture that talks about the angels feeding the people. They're brought down to Jerusalem and sanctified, cleansed of their sins. They're covered!

That's is what Atonement is about! Atonement literally means *covering*! It is what God will do for these people when they come to Jerusalem and enter into a covenant with Him.

When we talk about Atonement, we have to understand that cleansing is not same as forgiveness. They don't know enough to ask for forgiveness, yet. But just like the Israelites, they passed through the Red Sea! They were baptized, cleansed, sanctified, washed. Their sins weren't forgiven, yet, but they were cleansed.

Shortly after that God entered into a covenant with them. Same thing with the people who come down to Jerusalem. God enters into a covenant with them. This is what Atonement is about. It is about the time at the end of all this incredible destruction, destruction that the earth does to itself and destruction that God brings on in His vengeance.

Dealing with people who will endure unspeakable things!

- it is a time when they turn to God finally in their distress, weeping, fasting and mourning
- it is a time when they cry out to God
- it is a time when the shofar trumpet is blown
- it is a time when the Jubilee is announced, the liberation of the captives, freedom from bondage and slavery
- it is a time when they are gathered and brought by ships and land from all four corners of the earth down to Jerusalem
- it is a time when Christ sanctifies them and enters into a covenant
- it is the precursor to the incredible new Millennial rule of Jesus Christ when all the world will be changed

The desert will blossom like a rose and all those wondrous Scriptures that we know about. It is the beginning of the great harvest of physical mankind during the days of the Feast of Tabernacles. It is how that begins.

I hope this gives you a **new perspective**, not just Atonement in prophecy and the sequence of events, but also on:

- why you afflict your soul
- why you fast
- why you are doing these things
 - thinking about the people whom God is going to save
 - bringing in a new government
 - bringing in a new way of life

And bless them like they have never known before, **because finally they have turned back to God in weeping, fasting, mourning, and all humility!**

Scriptural References:

- 1) Joel 2:1-11, 21-27, 11-14, 1
- 2) Luke 16:29, 31
- 3) Joel 2:12, 15
- 4) Leviticus 25:9
- 5) Joel 2:15-16
- 6) Leviticus 25:10
- 7) Joel 2:17-19
- 8) Isaiah 49:8-10
- 9) Isaiah 27:12-13
- 10) Joel 2:19-20
- 11) Ezekiel 20:37-38
- 12) Isaiah 27:12
- 13) Ezekiel 20:39-41
- 14) Joel 2:30-32
- 15) Isaiah 58:6-12
- 16) Isaiah 61:1-11
- 17) Psalm 107:1-7, 9-14, 16-20, 23-30, 33-42
- 18) Leviticus 23:27-32
- 19) Leviticus 16:29-31

SG:bo
Transcribed: 8/26/22

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