

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption: The Jewish Holidays

The Heights Church September 10, 2017

The Big Picture

- We seek to **become** and then **make** disciples (believing learners) by:
- Knowing what we believe.
- Why we believe it.
- Being able to communicate what we believe and why in an effective, winsome manner to fulfill the commands for all Christians in Matthew 28:18-20 and 1 Peter 3:15-16.

Systematic Theology Syllabus

- **The Doctrines of the Bible** (Completed 2015/2016)
- **The Doctrines of God** (Completed 2015/2016)
- **The Doctrines of Creation** (Completed 2015/2016)
- **The Doctrines of Redemption**
- **The Doctrines of the Church**
- **The Doctrines of the Future**

Redemptive History/Doctrines of Redemption Syllabus

- **The Fall** (Completed 2016/2017)
- **The Covenants** (Completed 2016/2017)
- **The Law** (Completed 2016/2017)
- **The Old Testament Sacrificial System**

**The Old
Testament Era
(BC)**

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- **Jesus the God-Man**
 - **The Work of the Holy Spirit**

**The New
Testament Era
(~1st Century A.D.)**

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- **Pre-Reformation Roman Catholicism**
 - **Protestant Reformation Theology**
 - **Post Reformation Doctrinal Debates**

**The Church Era
(2nd Century A.D.
to present)**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (Leviticus 23)

- In the Jewish calendar a month begins with a new moon and days begin at sunset.
- A lunar month is 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes and 2.8 seconds.
- Twelve lunar months is about 10 days and 21 hours short of a solar year (365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds).
- Each month is 29 or 30 days long.
- The first month is Nisan (30 days)
- The twelfth month is Adar (29 days)
- There are seven leap years in every 19 solar years.
- In a leap year an extra month of 30 days (Adar I) is added prior to the regular 29 day month of Adar.

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (Leviticus 23)

Spring Feasts

- Passover (Nisan 14-15)
 - Unleavened Bread (Nisan 15-22)
 - Firstfruits (Nisan 16-17)
 - Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (Sivin 6-7)
- **Summer is a time of labor in the fields and preparation for the final harvest – the Church Age** Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. (John 4:35)

Fall Feasts

- Trumpets (*Rosh Hashanah*) (Tishi 1)
 - Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) (Tishri 10)
 - Tabernacles (Booths) (Tishri 15-22)
- **If possible Jews were supposed to travel to Jerusalem for Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Modern Jewish Holidays (2017-2018)

- [Purim*](#) - Wednesday, February 28, 2018
- [Passover](#) - Friday, March 30, 2018 (**Easter April 1, 2018**)
- [Pentecost](#) - Sunday, May 20, 2018
- [Rosh Hashanah](#) - Wednesday, September 20, 2017
- [Yom Kippur](#) - Friday, September 29, 2017 (year 5778)
- [Booths](#) - Wednesday, October 04 - 11, 2017
- [Hanukkah*](#) - Wednesday, December 13, 2017

* Purim and Hanukkah are not listed as holidays in the Torah

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Jewish Holidays (Fall)

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Tabernacles

- These three holidays respectively represent **repentance, redemption and rejoicing**.
- We will look at two questions for each Holiday.
 1. What does the Torah say about the holiday?
 2. How was the holiday celebrated at the time of Jesus?

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (Rosh Hashanah also known as Feast of Trumpets)

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. (Leviticus 23:23-24)

- **Rosh Hashanah means *The head of the Year*.**
- **There is no reference in the OT of Rosh Hashanah from the giving of the Law at MT. Sinai until the return from the Babylonian captivity.**
- **On Tishri 1 the shofar was blown. All other months were announced by blowing a silver trumpet.**
- **To this day Jews consider Nisan the start of the religious year and Tishri the start of the civil/fiscal year.**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (Rosh Hashanah also known as Feast of Trumpets)

- There were rules concerning the blowing of the shofar by the time of Christ.
 - A cow's horn was not allowed (golden calf).
 - Ram's horn was used (a ram was substituted for Isaac).
 - Shofar had to be in perfect condition including its sound.
 - It could not be carved or painted.
 - It was not blown at the regular time of the morning Temple service. (one time the Roman soldiers thought it was a call to rebellion and massacred hundreds of Jews)
- A specially trained priest blew the shofar (artist/virtuoso).
- The shofar was blown three times. Each time was followed by a blast of two silver trumpets blown by two other priests.
- It was a religious duty to hear (deaf?) the shofar. Only a concentrated effort would fulfill one's duty to God. (open ear to the piercing sound = piercing the soul thus bringing the hearer to his moral senses)

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (Rosh Hashanah also known as Feast of Trumpets)

- There were rules concerning the hearing of the shofar by the time of Christ.
 - The hearer must recite at least ten verses that do not refer to punishment for each of the following categories.
 - **Affirming God's sovereignty as King over Israel and over the world. Through repentance people become God's righteous subjects.**
 - **Appeal to God to remember his covenants with Israel and an appeal to humans to repent of sin and obey God.**
 - **Remembrance of scriptural references to the blowing of the shofar.**
- There is no reference to Jesus being in Jerusalem for Rosh Hashanah or the Day of Atonement. (required holidays were Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles)

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (Rosh Hashanah also known as Feast of Trumpets)

- **Rosh Hashanah is celebrated on two days. The second day was added to allow the High Priest time to evaluate the testimony of witnesses to establish the new moon. The rabbis believed several important historical events happened on Rosh Hashanah:**
 - 1. The sacrifice of Isaac**
 - 2. Joseph released from prison**
 - 3. Birth of Samuel**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (Rosh Hashanah also known as Feast of Trumpets)

- According to the Gemara three books are opened in heaven on Rosh Hashanah.
 1. For the completely righteous – they are immediately inscribed in the book of life.
 2. For the completely wicked – they are immediately inscribed in the book of death.
 3. For the average person – they are in suspension until the Day of Atonement.
- The judgment at Rosh Hashanah is for **everyone in world** – not just the nation of Israel.
- The average person (almost everyone) has ten days to repent!

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (In the NT the second coming is announced by a trumpet call)

- "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matthew 24:29-31)
- Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (In the NT the second coming is announced by a trumpet call)

- For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
- Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." (Revelation 11:15-18)

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (Day of Atonement also known as Yom Kippur)

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of **holy convocation**, and you shall **afflict yourselves*** and **present a food offering** to the LORD. And **you shall not do any work** on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. For whoever is not afflicted on that very day shall be cut off from his people. And whoever does any work on that very day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall not do any work. It is a **statute forever throughout your generations**** in all your dwelling places. It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. On the ninth day of the month beginning at evening, from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath." (Leviticus 23:26-32)

*fasting and contrition (humbling the soul) according to the Oral Law

**Jews understood this to mean every year until a new age began

The Old Testament Sacrificial System – Major Jewish Holidays (Day of Atonement also known as Yom Kippur)

- **This was the only day anyone could enter the Holy of Holies.**
- **All commerce stopped on this day as the destiny of every Jew was decided at the Temple alter. Herod appointed the High Priest usually aided by bribery and corruption.**
- **Following Herod and Archelaus the Roman governors made the appointment but just before A.D. 70 Agrippa II again appointed the High Priest.**
- **The priestly aristocracy tyrannized the people and in the Zealot rebellion of A.D. 70 many of these wealthy families were either expelled or killed.**
- **The last High Priest before the Temple was destroyed was Phineas ben Samuel, a stone mason by trade who was appointed by the Zealots.**