

The First Yom Kippur:

Hi all, this week we'll be looking at the people who are the origins of a holiday that began in the Sinai desert.

Chris Whately...

Generally I work with this list of the lenses when I am studying the Bible. The ones I am focusing on for this week's chat are highlighted in green. As a note, green has no particular significance for this lesson. I just like the color.

The other notes are to give you some background and understanding of the event.

1. The Bible is a conversation around the question, "Is God focused on love or not?"
2. We are Greek thinkers. Hebrew thinkers had a whole different process.
3. The most expensive gift of Eden is choice. We can choose to have the benefits and challenges of following God. We can choose otherwise. Different consequences apply to which choice we make.
4. It's important to differentiate between *Principles, Policies, Practices and Present Truth*.
5. *Sin is the willingness to cause harm to get what you want. Period.*
Michael Messervy
6. *Knowledge of God is progressive – we don't know everything. It would be odd if we did.*
7. All we like sheep have gone astray. Judge not.

8. Those with the gift of prophecy speak to people for their strengthening encouragement and comfort. I Corinthians 14:3
9. The meaning of self-sacrificing love.
10. Understanding the stages of moral development (a la Kohlberg) and asking questions like “what was the stage of spiritual development of the writer”, “what was the stage of spiritual development of the audience” can affect how we read the text.
11. Understand Hebrew Literary Devices: Irony, poetic couplets, chiasm, palistrophe.
12. Hebrew is a language and the Israelites were a people who thought from the concrete to the conceptual. We do not,
13. Understanding the meaning of words (Nahesh for example) is necessary.
14. Understand the culture of the people who were writing, listening and reading. For example, being aware of how Israelites felt about “legacy” drastically affects the reading of Leviticus 18. Knowing about 1st Century Jews and polygamy and Romans and marriage affects your reading of Paul.
15. I don’t believe in proof texts.
16. In every Biblical disaster, look for the escape hatches.
17. What we read as feelings are actions. In 1 Corinthians 13 *love* is not a feeling, it’s an action. Same with *wrath*, it’s an action, not a feeling.
18. God takes responsibility for what They allow. They gave us choice. Jesus took the ultimate responsibility.
19. We are called to be witnesses not exhorters.
20. Sometimes we ascribe to Yahweh the qualities of Olympus

21. We see and live through the lenses of our own experiences and brain chemistry.

Definitions and Descriptions

1. Kippur = cleansing or atonement. – in the ceremonies around Yom Kippur you will find both cleansing and the atonement below.

The meanings of the word “atonement” include:

- a. Making amends
 - b. Repairing a wrong
 - c. Bringing estranged parties back into harmony and reconciliation.
2. Yom = day
 3. Messiah= anointed – Everything connected to the sanctuary, including people was anointed and therefore, was Messiah
 4. Yom Teruah – the Feast of Trumpets marked the start of the civil new year and introduced the “days of awe” before Yom Kipper. that were a time of solemn reflection, preparation and repentance.

Metaphor : the concrete to the conceptual –

1. Gold – Zahav – from a root meaning to shimmer, shine or be brilliant. In the Hebrew language, it is symbolically associated with God’s glory and Divine presence. And, as we know glory and Jesus are intertwined with love.

Kohlber’s Stages Moral Development

1. Obedience and Punishment
2. What’s in it for Me
3. Focus on peer or community approval.

4. Rules are upheld to prevent societal breakdown
5. Rules and laws are seen as flexible tools for the greater good
6. Behavior is guided by justice, dignity and equality.

Tribes by Where they were placed around the Tabernacle and Jacob's Prophecies about Each of Them.

East Side (Camp of Judah)

Judah – Your brothers will praise you. Your hand will be on the neck of your enemies. Your father's sons will bow down before you. The scepter will not depart.

Issachar – when he sees a good resting place and the pleasant land he will bend his shoulder to the burden and become a slave laborer.

Zebulan – will live by the haven of the sea and will become a haven for ships.

South Side (Camp of Ruben)

Ruben - You are destructive like water. You will not excel.

Simeon and Levi – Cursed be their anger for it was fierce. And their fury for it was cruel.

Gad – Gad will be invaded by marauding bands but he will attack them at their heels.

West Side (Camp of Ephriam)

Ephriam & Manasseh – Joseph is a fruitful bough...the blessings of your father are greater than the eternal mountains.

Benjamin – is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring his prey; in the evening dividing the plunder.

North Side (Camp of Dan)

Dan – Dan will judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan will be a snake by the roadside, a viper along the path that bites the horses heels so that its rider tumbles back.

Asher – Asher's food will be rich. He will provide delicacies to royalty.

Naphtali – Naphtali is a free running doe. He speaks delightful words.

The Levites whose curse was turned into a blessing at the time of the golden calf, camped in a circle nearest the tabernacle as the last and fiercest line of defense from any invaders who might want to attack the tabernacle.

Journey

1. Israel and all who wanted to join leave Egypt. At this point, because of their years in Egypt, a large majority of the people were at Stage One of your moral development theory; obedience and punishment.
2. Red Sea
3. Manna
4. I am the Lord who brought you out of Egypt – the Ten Commandments
5. Golden Calf
6. Levite warriors defend Yahweh.

7. They become the defenders of Yahweh; their curse becomes a blessing and responsibility
8. The tabernacle and all the gifts and events and training and anointing are instituted.
9. The priests are anointed and commissioned.
10. Nadab and Abihu get drunk, go to the Holy and Holy place and die in the glory of the Shekinah.

It is at this point that Yom Teruah, the Days of Awe and Yom Kippur are instituted and, by definition are designed to make amends, repair a wrong and bring estranged parties back into reconciliation. It's a mix of announcement, preparation, event.

During the Days of Awe the priest left his home and moved to a separate part of the Tabernacle complex to review the laws, purify himself, and prepare his mind set.

On the day of "bringing estranged parties back into harmony and reconciliation" he walked into the temple in a plain linen garment with a border of pomegranates and bells.

Now...to the congregation – who as you know, I think are, generally in the first stage of moral development.

During the Days of Awe all those campers were given an opportunity for solemn reflection, preparation and repentance.

In class – I'll talk some about how these two illustrations are part of Yom Kippur

