



Jewish High Holy Days

Elul

**Aug 8
2021**

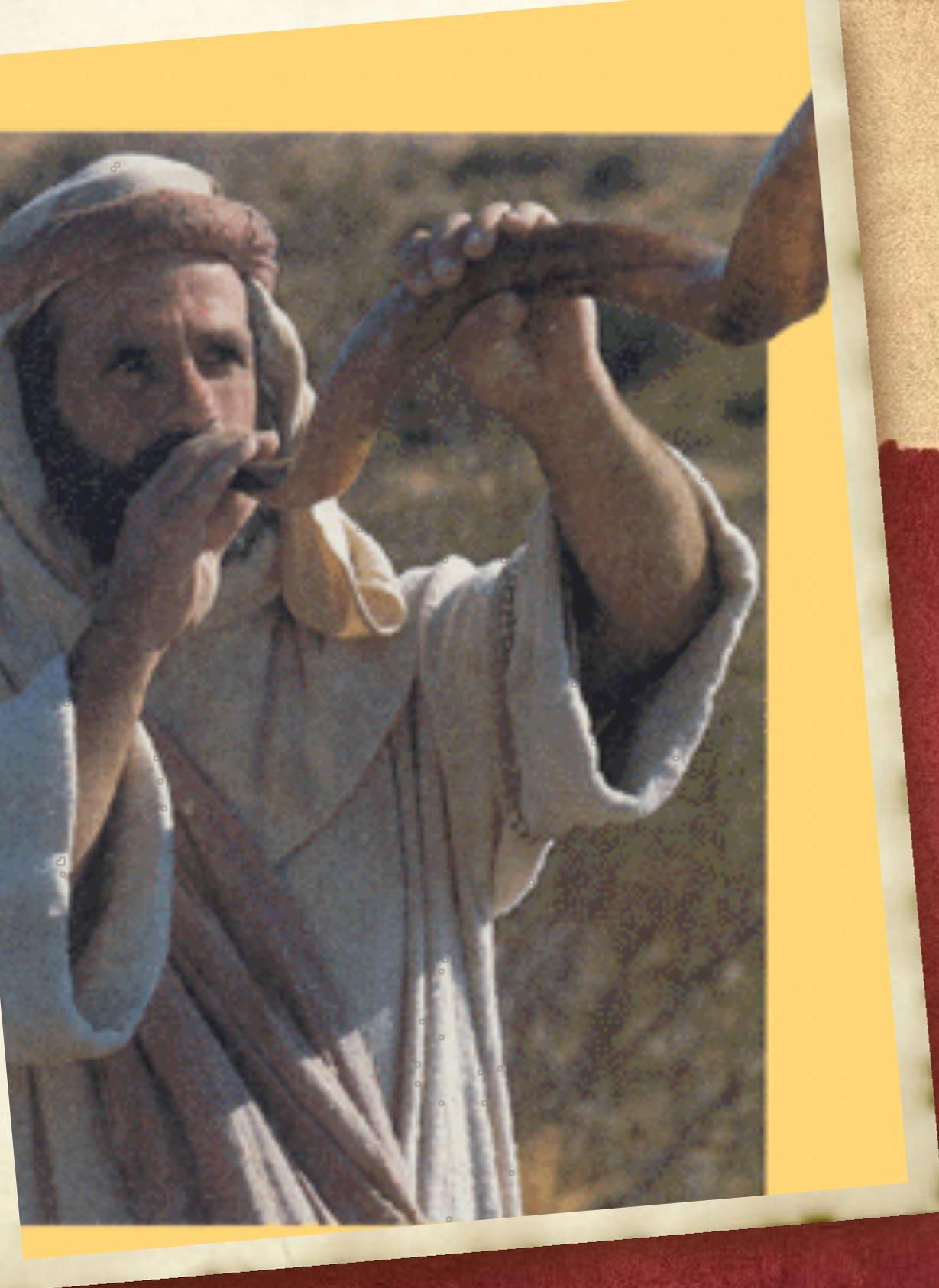


Time of Preparation

- Elul - is the **sixth** month of the Jewish Calendar year
- Elul - is a month of **preparation**
 - 30 days

Time of Preparation

- The faithful JEW is asked to search his heart and draw close to G-d.
 - A time of preparation for the Day of Judgment.



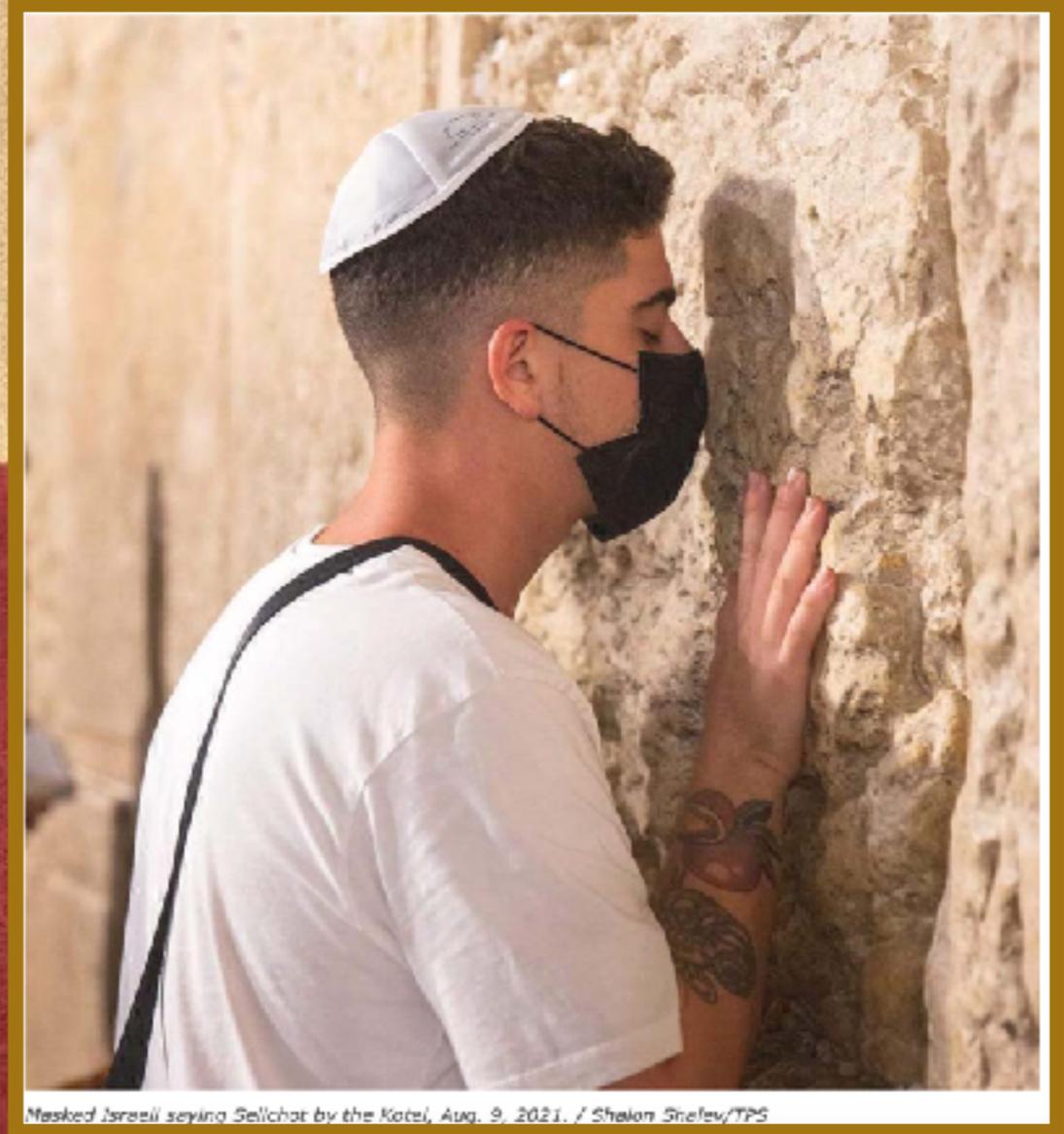
Shofar

- The Shofar (a trumpet) was blown every morning, except on Shabbat until Rosh Hashanah.
- *Awaken the spirit to begin soul searching.*

Three customs

- *Selichōt* - A special prayer every morning during the month

- A poetic penitential prayer - **not unlike the Act of Contrition** - repentance.



Masked Israeli saying Selichot by the Kotel, Aug. 9, 2021. / Shalom Shalev/TPS

Three customs

- *Visit Graves* -
Remember and
Honor the dead



Three customs

- *Greetings in Letters* -
K'TIVA HATIMA TOVA
 - - May you be *inscribed* and *sealed* for a good year - entered in the *Book of Life* - (cf. Ex 32: 31-33)



A good final sealing

Rosh Hashanah

**Sep 7
2021**



Rosh Hashanah

- First of the 10 High Holy Days - the Days of Awe. First of month of Tishri
- Head of the Year - *"Shana Tova"* similar to Happy New Year.
- Feast of Trumpets. 163 days after 1st day of Passover.

Rosh Hashanah

- Described in Lv 23: 24-25

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. You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the Lord.”



Tashlikh

- Modernly in the Afternoon of Rosh Hashanah - Tashlikh (casting off ceremony) - Bread is cast into a river.
- Bread symbolizes identified bad habits, a food offering to the Lord.

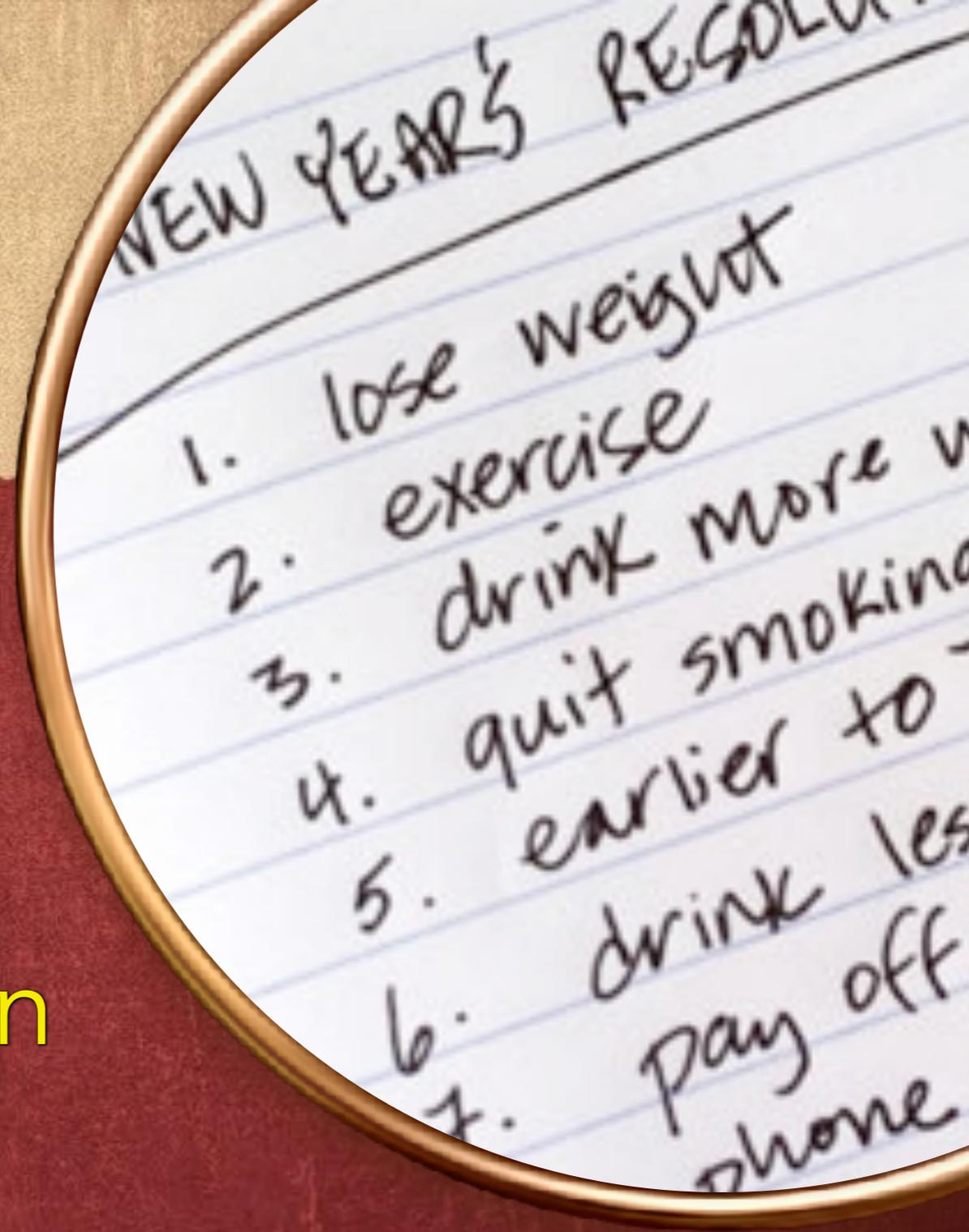
Rosh Hashanah



- Shana Tova
umetukah
- A serving of special Apples and Honey food - a symbol of the hope for a sweet new year.

Resolutions

- Did you know tradition of making a **New Year's Resolution** comes from **Rosh Hashanah?**



Nine days

- During the next 9 days - one seeks forgiveness of their friends for **unintentional sins**
- A preparation for seeking forgiveness from one's own sins from God.

(Sir 28:2*, Mt 6:12,14*)

Sept 15-16, 2021



Yom Kippur

- Day of Atonement - (Day of Cover)
 - 40th day, after preparations began with the month of Elul (30 days) and the days after Rosh Hashana (10 days)
- A day of forgiveness from God.
- Perhaps, the Holiest Day of the Jewish Calendar. (even secular Jews observe).

Yom Kippur

- Traditional date that Moses got 2nd set of the 10 Commandments (atonement for sin against God, due to the Golden Calf).
- Listed as a feast - Lev. 23: 26-32
 - But also in Lev 16: 1-34 - where its Ritual is particularly described.

Yom Kippur

- Lev. 23: 26-32 - Atonement (*old English*)
 - Hold a **sacred assembly** - A **sabbath** of complete rest.
 - **MORTIFY** (afflict) yourselves (*3 times stated*) - a day of **Penance** - abstinence from food, drink and marital relations.
 - offer an **oblation** to the Lord.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- (Lv 16 - modified for temple) The High Priest, washes himself with a purification bath, vests with the sacred linen tunic (khiton - a seamless garment), a linen sash and a linen miter - then identifies a bullock, as a sin offering to atone for himself *and household*. (v.4)
- Jn 19:23 - Jesus wore a khiton on Good Friday.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Later Jewish Tradition recorded in the Mishnah.
 - The High priest ascended platform
 - Sheet covered - removed his clothes, washed his feet - went into the bath - came out again and washed his feet.
- Jn 13: 1-20 - Jesus washes feet of Apostles.
Ordination of the Apostles to offer sacrifice.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Then the High Priest fills a censer, with a double handful of finely ground incense, to bring it inside the veil.
- The veil separates the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Inside the veil, the High Priest is in the Holy of Holies, where the **Ark of the Covenant** resides and **where the shekinah glory of God rests.**
- He covers the mercy seat completely with a cloud of incense, lest he should die.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Once the incense forms a cloud over the Ark, he sprinkles the blood of the bullock onto the Ark, with his finger 7 times.
- The High Priest is properly attired and has bells on the hem of his robe (pomegranate and gold Ex 39:25)

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- The High Priest then proceeds to the Eastern Gate of the City.
- There, two goats await selection by lot: one for the Lord and one for Azazel.
- Both goats are without blemish.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- The goat for the Lord is offered as a **sin offering** to God.
- Its **blood is also sprinkled 7 times** on the Ark of the Covenant

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Then the blood of the bullock and goat are mixed together in a bowl, and the High Priest repeats the ceremony in front of the altar of incense in the Holy Place.
- Thus atonement in the sanctuary is made by a pure offering to the Lord.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- The goat of Azazel at the time of Jesus, had a Scarlet thread woven into its horns and throat, by the High Priest.
- Laying both hands on the head of the goat, the High Priest "shall **confess** over it all the **sinful** faults and transgressions of the Israelites, and so put them on the goat's head." (Lev 16: 21).

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- The goat of Azazel will bear all the iniquities of the people, and thus be led out of the assembly.
- The goat is led outside the walls of the city, by an attendant* where it is cast off and rejected from the community.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- In a later tradition, the attendant became a **gentile (non-Israelite)**. Goat killed by a gentile.
- Rabbi Ismael documents a thread tradition: **Miracle of the Scarlet thread** on the door of the temple. When goat died, **the thread** turned **white** as a sign the sins had been **covered** for another year.
- Scarlet to White, as eluded in **Isaiah 1:16-18***.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

INCREDIBLE FACT

- Alfred Edersheim, the Temple p. 249
- It is recorded that the Scarlet thread Temple door miracle ceased, and no longer took place 40 years prior to the destruction of the Temple.
- The Scarlet thread stopped turning white. Jewish tradition had no explanation for this.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Once the **goat to Azazel** had died, the High Priest again **returned to the Holy of Holies** to offer the **sacrifice of Azazel** along with a **prayer of thanksgiving** on behalf of the people.
- This prayer *in a sense* brought to **conclusion the sacrificial portion of Yom Kippur**.
 - People waited for this finish to know their sin offering had been accepted by God.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Certainly we have Jesus as the Paschal Lamb the victim sacrifice— **but** if He is our High Priest as well as victim
 - When did he enter the Holy of Holies to offer His sacrifice to the Father?
 - When does Jesus pour out his blood in the Temple?
 - Look to the **Ascension!**

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- **Hebrews 9: 1-12, 24-28***
 - Christ presents His sacrifice in the **tabernacle in heaven** - the true Temple of God.
 - What does he offer? **His own blood as the Lamb of the Lord, and Himself as the Lamb of Azazel.**
 - He is both **High Priest** and **Victim** (Rev 5:6)

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Glorious return of Jesus - Since Jesus is coming back, what happens after that? Yom Kippur imagery helps again.
- *We already noted that the High Priest after going to the Holy of Holies, would return to the people to complete the feast. So Jesus has to return to those waiting if He is truly the High Priest of our atonement.*

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Yom Kippur could be a long day, as the final thanksgiving prayer, could not take place until the goat for Azazel had died.
- All waited for the High Priest to reappear indicating the sacrifice of the second goat was complete and accepted!

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- (Lev 16: 23-24) After returning from the Holy of Holies, the High Priest would remove the **linen khiton**, and he would wash and **put on his golden vestments**.

Sirach 50:5-7,11*

- **Later tradition*** - He would then, that evening have a **banquet** in his home.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Before that banquet, all* the virgins in Jerusalem would don white garments, as bridesmaids who awaited a Bridegroom High Priest to pass. It was a time for Celebration.
- The High Priest's image was that of a bridegroom, whose mediation of the atonement had purified his bride. cf Eph 5:25-27

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- It was, therefore, also the case that men, came looking for future brides.
- In the Jewish tradition, a bridegroom on the day of his wedding wore a crown, remembering King Solomon (cf.: Song of Songs/Solomon 3:11*).
- All were kings for a day. John 19:2*

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- What does all this point to?
 - Jesus second coming!
 - He has gone into the Holy of Holies, but He will come back not just as our HIGH PRIEST, but also as CHRIST THE KING!
 - WE are to wait for Him like virgins adorned in white garments.

Yom Kippur - Sequence

- Perhaps now, we have a better insight into *Mt 25: 1-13 - Parable of the 10 virgins*
- Only, **we who are ready,** will meet him
- and **enter into the nuptial banquet.**
- The wedding feast of the Lamb
(Rev 19: 5-9*)

Yom Kippur today

- Eat an **afternoon feast** just prior to the vigil start.
- **Complete day of fast** for 25 hours - Not even water!
- **Intensive day of prayer.**



Yom Kippur today

- Strict day of rest:
 - no eating or drinking;
 - no bathing or washing;
 - no self-anointing (perfume or lotions);
and,
 - no marital relations.

Yom Kippur today

- Special Liturgy during the day:
 - *seek forgiveness* from God
 - *confession* of guilt
 - *purposeful amendment* of behavior

Yom Kippur today



- During the day:
 - Pray for forgiveness of all sins (including strangers in their midst).
 - Absolved by God!
 - (Men wear white - on Yom Kippur).
- At other times, wear Black.

● ... one more
thing ...





St Paul

- Lets look at
1 Thess 4: 16-17

1 Thess 4:6-17

- 16. For the Lord Himself with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thess 4:6-17

- 17. 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. Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Question

- What event do you think is possibly being described by St Paul?





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