

## Shabbat Shuvah

Tonight at sunset we entered into the Shabbat Sabbath known as Shabbat Shuvah. Shabbat Shuvah is a special Shabbat that falls during the Ten Days of Repentance, a period of reflection and atonement in the Jewish calendar. The name "Shabbat Shuvah" comes from the Hebrew word "shuv," meaning "to return," which is a central theme of this observance. It is often associated with the concept of teshuvah, or repentance, which is crucial during the High Holidays. It is taken from:

**Hosea 14:2.** Return **(Shuvah: to return, repent, turn back to God)** Isra'el, to ADONAI your God, for your guilt has made you stumble.

**Shuv** the root of T'shuva, to turn away from evil and turn back to God, to refresh, restore, and repair, to be brought back. We are in the 10 days of Awe-Yamim Noraim-Awesome days or days of awe. These are days of anxiety, trepidation, humility, and soul searching and repentance. An intense period of self-examination where we become aware of how we have failed ourselves, failed other people, and failed God! It is a time of regret and remorse for the harm we have inflicted on others and within the Kingdom of God! It is not a time of selfishness and concern for self, rather is it a crying out to God, it's the awakening of your soul, a stirring in oneself for the greater Kingdom of God!

This is the preparation period for Yom Kippur (Next Wednesday October 1<sup>st</sup> at sunset), the Day of Purging! We approach these days slightly different as Messianic Believers. We have an atonement sacrifice, Yeshua gave His own blood to wash away our sins

**II Corinthians 5:21.** God made this sinless man be a sin offering on our behalf, so that in union with him we might fully share in God's righteousness."

**Receiving Yeshua does not remove the necessity for T'Shuvah, repentance. The Sefer HaChaim, the Books of Life are open, the divine court of heaven is in session.**

**II Corinthians 5:10.** for we must all appear **(phaneroo {fan-er-o'-o} to make manifest, visible or known what has been hidden or unknown, to manifest, whether by words, or deeds, to thoroughly know who and what one is)** before the Messiah's court of judgment, where everyone will receive the good or bad consequences of what he did while he was in the body.

**We all have a court date, we will all appear before Messiahs court of judgment! In Yom Teruah were rehearsing Yeshua's return then He judges during the Ten Days of Awe.**

**Matthew 25:31-33.** "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, accompanied by all the angels, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. <sup>33</sup> The 'sheep' he will place at his right hand and the 'goats' at his left.

**I've had fellow believers tell me that "believers won't be judged" yet Yeshua in this scripture speaks the exact opposite. The actions of the flesh have consequences, a critical aspect of the Kingdom that is being lost in the greater Body of Messiah! I read a disturbing statistic this week from a Lifeway Research Survey! One in five evangelicals (22%) believes in "gender fluidity" which reveals that many Christians are following contemporary culture instead of God's Word! Sexual immorality is out of control in our culture today. Temptations to depart from Adonai's ancient path of blessing in the realm of sexuality are epidemic. The anonymity of the Internet and wireless technology has allowed people to pursue sexual immorality more than ever before. Today, pornographic images and movies can be viewed with ease, sexually explicit music is common, and extramarital sexual activity is seen by many as normal. Perhaps more than at any other time, promiscuity both in thought and deed is accepted and condoned in the general body of Messiah.**

**However, in sharp contrast to the trend of the world, God calls His people to be pure and holy. Anything else is rebellion against God's sovereign authority! Adonai didn't make a mistake when he created you as a male or female! Don't believe that lie! It's a mental disease! The last numerous mass shooters were trans or gender fluid. Every believer must adhere to the unadulterated word of God in every venue of our life and cultures. Believers MUST NOT listen and conform to the voice of culture!**

**One of the main reasons I'm so passionate, why I press this issue so hard and so often is the extremely dangerous false teaching that once one says the prayer of salvation they are done, they're going to heaven! The false theology that through grace one can behave however they want and go to heaven. A lie! Yeshua gave us a profound warning in His "Sermon on the Mount":**

**Matthew 7:13-14.** "Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and many travel it; <sup>14</sup> but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

**The path of life, righteousness, holiness, and purity is one of difficulty, trouble, stress, affliction, and tribulation. The flesh will rebel and fight against righteousness at every turn. It's only through repentance and supplication to**

**Adonai through Yeshua that we make it through the narrow gate yet in Yeshua's own words few find it!! This weighs heavily on me! Repentance is like a block wall in the body of Messiah! A spirit of repentance is almost impossible to attain! Here's part of the problem! People come to Shabbat passively and say Rabbi, do something to me, I'm dry! They say to the worship team: Make me feel something, give me an emotional fix! Then they leave and say this didn't do anything for me! The Kingdom of God isn't about passive faith. It's about active participation, with expectation and anticipation!! So many don't feel close to Adonai!!**

**Those who feel this way aren't making every effort to be intimate with Him! A.W. Tozer wrote:** Every person is as close to God as they want to be! If you're not close to Him right now it's because you don't want to be! If one wants it bad enough, you'll make every effort to do so!

**"There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses; only results."**

**— Kenneth H. Blanchard**

**This is the very reason we do not experience wide scale repentance. Many right now as I started down this path thought: "I know who needs to repent" while forgoing their own humble repentance. If you think; "I know someone who needs to hear this", lay it down and say Me, I do! Far too many believers are lulled into a false sense of salvation! We must take heed of Yeshua's warning regarding the narrow gates, Yeshua went on to say:**

**Matthew 7:21-23.** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, only those who do what my Father in heaven wants. <sup>22</sup> On that Day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! Didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we expel demons in your name? Didn't we perform many miracles in your name?' <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them to their faces, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!'

**I shudder every time I read this passage! Intimacy with Adonai must be developed, we must strive for it through His word!! Religion and rituals do not develop relationship, in fact it hinders it! Many will go through the motions, prophesying, expelling demons, even performing miracles in Yeshua's name and His reply is "I Never Knew You"!! The person who refuses to believe what Adonai wants has not repented. Judgment is much more comprehensive than just your words, it's your behaviors, actions, thoughts, your motives, attitudes, and the reasoning behind why you do what you do! The metric for this judgement is**

**Torah “you workers of lawlessness” is Anomi in the Greek, without Torah! Heaven has a court and God is the Judge. Daniel saw heavens court convened:**

**Daniel 7:9-10.** "As I watched, thrones were set in place; and the Ancient One took his seat. His clothing was white as snow, the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was fiery flames, with wheels of burning fire. <sup>10</sup> A stream of fire flowed from his presence; thousands and thousands ministered to him, millions and millions stood before him. Then the court was convened, and the books were opened.

**God Judges by a standard of Divine Righteousness as established by His word which specifically states (one of my favorite scriptures):**

**Leviticus 17:11.** For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for yourselves; for it is the blood that makes atonement because of the life.'

**Shabbat Shuvah, the Shabbat of Return, is all about repentance and returning to Adonai. To place all things not of Adonai and His kingdom under the blood, the lifesaving blood! For the Children of God, it is a dedicated time to contemplate our own spiritual walk and relationship with Adonai. People spend so much time on agendas, maneuvering, posturing to get their own way, to do what they want and ask God to bless it. Are there areas in your life where you are dry and have drifted away from God? Now is the time to make amends.**

**Jeremiah 24:7.** I will give them a heart to know me that I am ADONAI. They will be my people, and I will be their God; for they will return to me with all their heart.'

**This only comes with intimacy through repentance! I will say this again, we are not saved by grace! We are only saved by the Blood, the Blood washes away our sins to be known no more! It was grace that Yeshua did it for us while we were yet still sinners:**

**Hebrews 9:22.** In fact, according to the Torah, almost everything is purified with blood; indeed, without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

**By receiving Yeshua, acknowledging our sins-repenting (T'Shuvah), then placing our sins under the blood of Yeshua they are washed away to be known no more! Psalm 51 confirms that only God can blot out our sins, wash us thoroughly. Psalm 51 is based upon David's murder of Uriah and his adultery with Uriah's wife Bathsheba as recorded in II Samuel, chapters 11-12. David's confession is regarded as a model for repentance in both Judaism and Christianity and is on**

**par with Daniels prayer of national repentance in Daniel Chapter 9. One who acknowledges their sins in trembling fear and prays to Adonai for forgiveness as David did, will be forgiven.**

**Psalm 51:1-13,19.** For the leader. A psalm of David, when <sup>2</sup> Natan the prophet came to him after his affair with Bat-Sheva: <sup>3</sup> God, in your grace, have mercy on me; in your great compassion, blot out my crimes. <sup>4</sup> Wash me completely from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>5</sup> For I know my crimes, my sin confronts me all the time. <sup>6</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil from your perspective; so that you are right in accusing me and justified in passing sentence. <sup>7</sup> True, I was born guilty, was a sinner from the moment my mother conceived me. <sup>8</sup> Still, you want truth in the inner person; so make me know wisdom in my inmost heart. <sup>9</sup> Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. <sup>10</sup> Let me hear the sound of joy and gladness, so that the bones you crushed can rejoice. <sup>11</sup> Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my crimes. <sup>12</sup> Create in me a clean heart, God; renew in me a resolute spirit. <sup>13</sup> Don't thrust me away from your presence, don't take your Ruach Kodesh away from me.

<sup>19</sup> My sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God, you won't spurn a broken, chastened heart.

**David, a man intimate with God, a man after Gods own heart poignantly cuts right to the heart of sin and repentance! Our own prayers of repentance should parallel David's to ensure that our prayers, our repentance, and trust in Yeshua will result in our going to heaven. Are you engaged in a relationship with the God of Israel through the Torah, or just practicing a religion of rituals and traditions? We have a sin sacrifice available by trusting in the sacrificial death and atoning blood of Yeshua HaMashiach. His sacrifice is the only one acceptable to Adonai. How do we know? Because he rose from the dead to prove it!**

**John 11:25.** Yeshua said to her, "I AM the Resurrection and the Life! Whoever puts his trust in me will live, even if he dies;

**And He proved it two thousand years ago when Yeshua himself defeated death:**

**Matthew 28:1-6.** After Shabbat, as the next day was dawning, Miryam of Magdala and the other Miryam went to see the grave. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of ADONAI came down from heaven, rolled away the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so terrified at him that they trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Yeshua, who was executed on the stake. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, because he has been raised -- just as he said! Come and look at the place where he lay.

**Yeshua HaTorah, Yeshua the living word ushered in the Brit Chadash, New Testament or will by the issuance of His own blood; This Brit Chadasha is an Addendum to the original Covenant, not a replacement. For a testament to go into effect, the Testator, the author of the will must die. When the testator dies, the will or testament goes into force. Yeshua, our testator died as our substitute sacrifice and left in force His will, his words and teachings to us thereby providing us a covenant with God.**

**Hebrew 9:15-17.** It is because of this death that he is mediator of a new covenant [or will]. Because a death has occurred which sets people free from the transgressions committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promised eternal inheritance. <sup>16</sup> For where there is a will, there must necessarily be produced evidence of its maker's death, <sup>17</sup> since a will goes into effect only upon death; it never has force while its maker is still alive.

**Yeshua did this as a mediator, one who was the sacrifice that allows us to remain recorded in the book of life, which is retained in God's court room. The book of life is an official, heavenly court document. Yeshua entered into God's court room on your behalf:**

**Hebrews 9:24.** For the Messiah has entered a Holiest Place which is not man-made and merely a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, in order to appear now on our behalf in the very presence of God.

**The author of Hebrews has profound insight! We must remember that this scripture is written to Jewish people while the Temple still stood with sacrifices being performed daily! A 40 year transition occurs between Yeshua's death and resurrection and the destruction of the Temple. People often ask me when the next temple is built will there be sacrifices and the answer is yes but not for us! It establishes the foundations for the Anti-Messiah! This is critical because we all have that court date as I mentioned at first. Yeshua appears in court on our behalf if one has received Him. God is the supreme ruler with a court system that He has imposed!**

**Romans 3:4.** Heaven forbid! God would be true even if everyone were a liar! - as the Tanakh says, "so that you, God, may be proved right in your words and win the verdict when you are put on trial."

**God desires that not one be lost. Yeshua is returning soon which means Judgment is coming, there will be a day in court which you will only win your**

case if you have Yeshua. It pains me that over the years so many broken, bruised, crush, damaged people have come through these doors yet refuse to humble themselves in order to repent and be healed! They are choosing the broad path to destruction!! Remember the gate to life is narrow and FEW FIND IT! The "King" is here, present where we are, beckoning to us, calling out to us in these days! The urgency of the moment overtakes us, we must reach for Him while He is here, when He is close!

Purge yourself today, now, repent and come into the Fathers presence! We are to be Holy, set apart unto God! The purpose of Yom Kippur in Leviticus 16 is Holiness! Holiness is effervescent, transforming everything it touches into God's personal property! We are to be the Kings Holy Cohanim, His Holy Priests! Holiness was not and is not confined to just the Tabernacle, Temple, or Holy of Holies! The scriptures concern is for us to follow the pattern as outlined by God and come into His presence. It is the expectation of the Most High God that we be willing to sacrifice our lives unto Him. We must have discernment and be able to separate between the mundane and Holy, the Pure and un-pure! To get the pattern right! We are in the preparation stage just days before Yom Kippur. Everything must be placed on the Altar before Him!

### **Repent:**

**Job 36:10.** He sounds a warning in their ears and orders them to repent of their evil.

**I John 1:8-10.** If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not been sinning, we are making him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us.