

Days Of Awe

Tishri 2-9

After the second day of Rosh Hashanah begins a period of seven days of repentance that precedes Yom Kippur, which is the most holy day on the Jewish calendar. During these seven days Jews are suppose to make sure that they are reconciled with everyone that they may have had conflict or disagreement with during the past year.

According to the model of repentance in Judaism, one must first make your life right with others before you can be right with God. God forgives the sins against God, but the sins against other people can be forgiven only by the person harmed, so the act of repentance takes place not only in houses of worship, but in private homes, places of work, in letters, e-mail and telephone calls. It is a grave sin not to forgive someone who comes to you showing true penitence during this time, for if Yom Kippur closes passes without forgiveness; the Book of Life will be sealed with the wrongdoing still recorded. The following is required for repentance.

Acknowledge your sin of wronging some one else.

Ask for forgiveness from the person you have wronged. (Matthew 5:23-24)

If applicable, restitution must be made.

After the first three steps have been completed, you are then in right standing with the Lord.

Making restitution is one of the things that sometimes is not effectively taught about repentance. This is a principle that is clearly taught in Leviticus 6:1-7 "The LORD said to Moses: "If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the LORD by deceiving his neighbor about something entrusted to him or left in his care or stolen, or if he cheats him, or if he finds lost property and lies about it, or if he swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin that people may do--when he thus sins and becomes guilty, he must return what he has stolen or taken by extortion, or what was entrusted to him, or the lost property he found, or whatever it was he swore falsely about. He must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the owner on the day he presents his guilt offering. And as a penalty he must bring to the priest, that is, to the LORD, his guilt offering, a ram from the flock, one without defect and of the proper value. In this way the priest will make atonement for him before the LORD, and he will be forgiven for any of these things he did that made him guilty." NIV

Also in the Hebrew model of repentance is the concept of not only stop doing what is wrong but also start doing what is right. This means that repentance does not just mean stop sinning but also means start replacing the acts of sin with acts of righteousness.

It is important for each of us to make sure that we are in right relationship with others so we can stand before God with clean hands and a pure hearts on Yom Kippur.

A Christian View of Days of Awe

The seven-day period that follows the second day of Rosh Hashanah through the day before Yom Kippur is considered to be a very serious time. They are days of introspection, repentance and restitution that determine God's judgment on Yom Kippur. In prophesy these are the days between the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ. These days are probably a foreshadow of Daniel 9:27, the seven years of tribulation that will determine the judgment of God at the Coming of Christ on individuals and nations.

We are given the ministry of reconciliation through Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. NIV It is important that we not only seek to see others reconciled to God but also to each other. **It is important that each of us examines our lives to make sure that we are in right relationship with those in our lives, making restitution if necessary.**