

Numbers 29:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall have on the tenth day of this seventh month an holy convocation; and ye shall afflict your souls: ye shall not do any work therein:

Analysis

The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) required afflicting souls (Hebrew 'anah nephesh'), understood as fasting and repentance. This tenth day of the seventh month was Israel's most solemn day - the only fast commanded by Mosaic law. On this day alone, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies with atoning blood (Lev 16). This foreshadows Christ's once-for-all entrance into heaven's sanctuary with His own blood (Heb 9:12, 24-26). The 'afflicting' of souls represents the broken and contrite heart God desires (Ps 51:17), acknowledging sinfulness and desperate need for divine atonement.

Historical Context

Celebrated on the tenth of Tishri, this day climaxed Israel's religious calendar. The high priest's elaborate preparations and the scapegoat ceremony (Lev 16) made reconciliation between holy God and sinful people. Jewish tradition calls it 'the Day' - needing no other identifier. After 70 AD, without temple or sacrifice, Judaism emphasized repentance and good works, missing the essential blood atonement only Christ provides.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does genuine sorrow for sin (afflicting your soul) differ from mere regret over consequences?
2. Do you rest in Christ's perfect atonement, or are you still trying to earn God's acceptance through works?

Interlinear Text

וּבְעֶשְׂרִי	לַח דָּשׁ	הַשְּׁבִיעִי י	הַזֶּה	מִקְרָא
And ye shall have on the tenth	month	day of this seventh	H2088	convocation
H6218	H2320	H7637		H4744
אֱלֹהִים	וְעַנִּיתֶם	אֶת	בְּפִשְׁתֵּיכֶם	כָּל
an holy	and ye shall afflict	H853	your souls	H3605
H1961	H0		H5315	
H6944	H6031			
מְלָאכָה	לֹא	תַעֲשׂוּ:		
any work	ye shall not do			
H4399	H3808	H6213		

Additional Cross-References

Romans 6:6 (Parallel theme): Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Zechariah 12:10 (Parallel theme): And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Matthew 5:4 (Parallel theme): Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Isaiah 22:12 (Parallel theme): And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth:

Ezra 8:21 (Parallel theme): Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

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