

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

WASHED IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS

Romans 3:25 "God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood. . ."

The Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur is the highest holy day of the Jewish calendar. Annually, on the Day of Atonement the High Priest made an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the people. This atoning sacrifice was in payment for the people's sins. It brought reconciliation (a restored relationship) between the people and God.

Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies by passing through the heavy veil that hung from ceiling to floor, creating a barrier between the people and the presence of God. Once a year on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would enter and offer the blood sacrifice to cover the sins of the people. (These first two paragraphs are from an article on the Day of Atonement, written by Mary Fairchild)

At the very moment when Jesus died on the cross, Matthew 27:51 says, "the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split." (NKJV) "God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood. . ." (Romans 3:25) With Jesus' sacrificial death on Calvary's cross the Day of Atonement was fulfilled. No additional sacrifices would ever be needed. ". . . the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

So, the writer of the Book of Hebrews explains, "(Jesus) entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason, Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant." (Hebrews 9:12-15)

Prayer: Cleanse me with Your blood dear Jesus and I shall be clean. Amen

There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he, Washed all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood Shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed Church of God Be saved to sin no more.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme And shall be till I die.

When this poor lispng, stammering tongue Lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song I'll sing Thy power to save.
(TLH, 157)