

Surviving and Thriving in the Judgement Hour

Coming into the presence of God is the most precious experience imaginable. This is what God intended that the children of Israel would experience in the sanctuary service. Why did he want them to have the gift of his presence?

“in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
(Psalm 16:11 ESV)

God wanted to prepare his people to come into his presence so they could experience the fullness of joy that he had prepared for them! However there are some habits and practices that do not bring fullness of joy. They separate us from Christ’s presence. And those need to be removed from our lives before we can find fullness of joy with him.

As we are living in the judgement hour today, the preparation that Israel needed to experience God’s presence in the Day of Atonement, parallels our preparation to day in order to experience the presence of God in the Judgement Hour.

“For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people.”
(Leviticus 23:29 NKJV)

Garments

The priests had beautiful garments that were given them to wear at the command of God:

“These are the garments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a coat of checker work, a turban, and a sash. They shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to serve me as priests.” (Exodus 28:4 ESV)
“For Aaron’s sons you shall make coats and sashes and caps. You shall make them for glory and beauty.”
(Exodus 28:40 ESV)

Does God like beautiful things? Yes, but he likes them at the right time. It is of great importance to note that on the Day of Atonement, the priest didn’t wear those ornaments. He wore plain white linen:

“He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on.”
(Leviticus 16:4 NIV11-GK)

We are living in the day of judgement. The time period that the Day of Atonement prefigured. How does the act of the priest in removing his ornaments on the Day of Atonement relate to us today? The Bible teaches:

“...dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.” (1 Timothy 2:9–10 NIV11-GK)

“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.” (1 Peter 3:3–4 NIV11-GK)

This time of judgement should be a time of heart searching for us, just like it was for the Israelites before the day of atonement. The Bible tells us what Jacob did as he was preparing to meet God:

“So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments; and let us arise and go up to Bethel, and I will make an

altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem.” (Genesis 35:2–4 NAS95)

God will give you a crown in heaven! But the time to put it on is not during the Day of Judgement! There is no Biblical precedent for wearing jewelry during times of judgment, of deep heart searching, of most earnest revival, and special seeking of the Lord. It’s too easy for it to distract you, and others around you, from what is of utmost importance. During the day of judgement, our entire concentration should be on preparing to meet God, on humbling ourselves rather than thinking about how nicely ornamented we look on the outside. Maybe you wear very minimal jewelry. And you don’t believe it causes you any pride. Consider your brother or sister in this case. Is it possible that the little jewelry you wear could cause your brother or sister who is weaker than you to stumble? (See Romans 14:15)

Diet

The sanctuary service and day of atonement also present to us something special about how we should eat to prepare for the day of judgement.

God wants to dwell in you, to make you his judgement hour temple!

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” (1 Corinthians 3:16–17 NKJV)

in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
(Psalm 16:11 ESV)

In the sanctuary, outside the courtyard, were “unclean animals”. Mainly animals that eat other animals. Rats, Bear, Lion, etc. See Lev 11 and Deut 14. Gen 7:2 shows us that this distinction between what animals were clean and unclean existed long before there were ever Jews on earth, it existed before the flood!

In the courtyard, we have what are called “clean animals”. These were animals that were herbivores, associated with the sanctuary service. Animals like sheep, goats, cows, doves.

But in the holy place we have no animals at all - only grains in the bread, we have olive oil, we have pomegranates on the priest’s robe. And in the most holy place we have manna and almonds.

Here’s what I want you to note: **the closer we get to the place involved with the day of atonement, the fewer animal products we find!**

Unclean animals are an unacceptable diet for the day of atonement, because they are filled with disease and affect your ability to think most clearly and focus on the preparation necessary to be ready to meet God!

Clean animals are a little better solution, they are not as diseased, but as this world gets more and more degenerate, even eating those animals will increasingly tend to give you heart disease, stroke, cancer, dementia, and a host of other diseases that will make it more difficult to adequately prepare for the day of atonement!

The sanctuary shows us that a plant based diet is the best option in the judgement hour, and will make your body and mind healthy and clear to understand and prepare for Christ’s coming!

The most popular unclean animal?

“And the pig... is unclean for you. You shall not eat their meat, and you shall not touch their carcasses.”
(Deuteronomy 14:8 NRSV)

“Those who eat the flesh of pigs and other disgusting creatures, like mice — they will all be destroyed together,” says the LORD.” (Isaiah 66:17 NET)

Clams, crabs, shrimp, etc. swan

“And whatever does not have fins and scales you shall not eat; it is unclean for you.”
(Deuteronomy 14:10 NRSV)

The Navy said, “We need to be able to tell our military men who are shot down, what foods are okay to eat and what foods are not okay.” So, what they did is they hired a Marine Biologist by the name of Bruce Halstead and he was to go out and look at the sea creatures and talk about specifically which ones were safe to eat and which ones were unhealthy and you just want to avoid.

“If you lose the manual, remember one thing: if it has fins and scales, you can eat it. If it doesn’t have fins and scales- such as crab, lobster, shrimp, oysters, clams- don’t eat it, because they have a high level of toxicity.”

The priests were forbidden from drinking intoxicating drinks.

“Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations” (Leviticus 10:9 NKJV)

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”(1 Peter 2:9 NET)

The hour of judgement is not a time to be taking any substances that disturb the ability of your brain to think clearly! Alcohol does this, so does tobacco, so does caffeine, so do recreational drugs like marijuana.

Finances

The sanctuary service revolved around bringing sacrifices to the tabernacle. These were a symbol of the sacrifice Jesus would make for our sin, and lead worshipers to look to Jesus the Lamb of God! But sacrifices were expensive. Bringing lambs and sheep and goats and cows involved real money - these animals were a form of currency in those days. Mary and Joseph were so poor that they couldn’t afford an expensive Lamb, so they brought doves.

In fact one authority calculated that the Israelites gave away $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of their income every year! But what’s important to note: did this cause them to be a poor and unhappy and penniless people?

“He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.”
(Psalm 105:37 KJV)

“And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones” (1 Kings 10:27 KJV)

“The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.”
(Proverbs 10:22 NKJV)

What is the modern parallel for those living in the judgement hour? Tithe and offerings.

Tithe literally means “tenth” and one of the first places we read about it is God’s servant Jacob, when during a time of judgment in his life, he said:

“of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you.” (Genesis 28:22 NRSV)

“Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”
(Malachi 3:8–10 NRSV)

Offering is anytime you want to give a gift to God beyond the tithe. In the sanctuary service there were thank offerings, sin offerings, peace offerings, etc. God expects you to return a tenth. That is non negotiable. Beyond that, as God prospers you, you will be blessed to give even more.

“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.” (1 Corinthians 16:2 KJV)

Remember!

“The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.”
(Proverbs 10:22 NKJV)

God doesn't ask for a little of your money because he needs it! **“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”**
Matthew 6:20. It's because now in the judgment hour there's nothing more important than your spiritual well-being. Human beings are innately selfish with theirs money. And giving a small portion of your income to God will tremendously help you focus your life on what is important. Just as it helped the Israelites who came the sanctuary of old to bring their offerings to the tabernacle.

Would you be willing to “prove Him” by giving making a trial of giving your tithes and offerings? By making a trial and refraining from every harmful substance and eating a more plant based diet? And by removing jewels and instead concentrating on the inward jewel of a meek and quiet spirit?