

# Acharei Mot

“After the death”



Redemption גְּאוּלָּה

Atonement כַּפָּרָה

This week's Parasha teaching is a unique chapter in our study of Leviticus and teaches us specifically about Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. This is to be observed on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the year. The people of Yisra'el (Israel) needed atonement for their sins, both the sins they had committed against each other and the sins they had committed against God. The Priests (Kohanim) also needed atonement because they were not perfect and sinned against God.

Because of sin, atonement also needed to be made for the Tabernacle (mishkan - מִשְׁכָּן) and later the Temple (beit ha'mikdash - בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ). This was God's earthly dwelling place and His presence cannot dwell where there is sin.

We will learn as we study Yom Kippur that redemption is better than atonement and the work of redemption only had to be done once. Yeshua did this work and is our eternal High Priest. This entire parasha is an important teaching that provides us with a better understanding of the redemptive work that Messiah Yeshua did for us. We like the people of Yisra'el (Israel) need forgiveness for our sins.

## Pray First

Father God,  
We thank You because You have provided redemption for our sins.  
Teach us to understand the principles of atonement so that so that we may understand the principles of redemption.  
May we worship and serve You in the ways that You have instructed us.

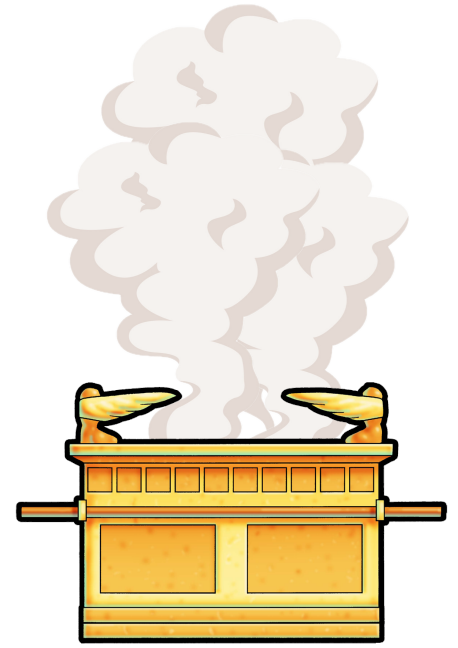
In Yeshua's name we pray,  
Amen

Read next  
Leviticus 16:1-18:30



Yom Kippur-Day of Atonement  
Leviticus 16:1-34

Acherei Mot, the name of this week's parasha, means, "after the death." This referred to the death of Aharon's (Aaron) sons that we read about in Leviticus 10. God told Moshe (Moses) to tell Aharon (Aaron) not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, for He would appear in the cloud above the Mercy seat. If Aharon entered when he wanted, he would die. Aharon needed to be clean before He entered, because God is Holy. God is reminding the reader of what Aharon's sons had done. They worshipped improperly, and that was a grievous sin. Improper worship leads to death. Do not think that this warning does not apply to us. This is a reminder to all that before we go to worship God, we should pause and make sure that we are worshipping God according to His commands. Our hearts should be pure as we stand before God to worship Him.



God proceeded to give Moshe (Moses) a set of instructions for the Day of Atonement. The High Priest could only come into the Holy of Holies once a year. It was reserved for God and His mediator. In Leviticus 16:4, God gave instructions on what Aharon, the High Priest, should wear. He was to put on holy linen trousers, be girded in a linen sash, and with a linen turban. These were holy garments, so the High Priest would immerse himself in water and then put them on. This brought a change in status from what is common to what is set apart. Next Aharon shall take from the congregation of the children of Yisra'el (Israel) two male goats as a sin offering and one ram as a burnt offering. Then Aharon would offer the bull as a sin offering for himself, to make atonement for himself and for his household. He would then take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting. Aharon then cast lots over the goats. The outcome of the lots would determine which of the two goats was to become the sacrifice for purification and atonement. The other would become the scapegoat and would be presented before the LORD to make atonement on it. Then it would be released into the wilderness. This process was commonly referred to as the Scapegoat Ritual. This entire process symbolized sin going away. There was a separation from sin and sin would be leaving the camp.



Leviticus 16:11 tells us that once the lots were drawn, and the fate of each goat decided, the sacrificial bull was to be slaughtered on behalf of the High Priest Aharon and his household. Aharon was then to take a fire pan full of coals and add a hand full of sweet incense beaten fine and bring it inside the veil. Aharon was then to enter the Holy of Holies. This is why the sin had to be dealt with first because if sin was not dealt with Aharon or whoever served as High Priest after him would die. This principle still applies to us. Our sin must be dealt with before we can enter God's presence and worship Him. Next Aharon took the smoking fire pan, pulled back the curtain that separated the holy place from the Holy of Holies and entered into the earthly dwelling place of God. Leviticus 16:13 says he would put the incense on the fire before the LORD, so the

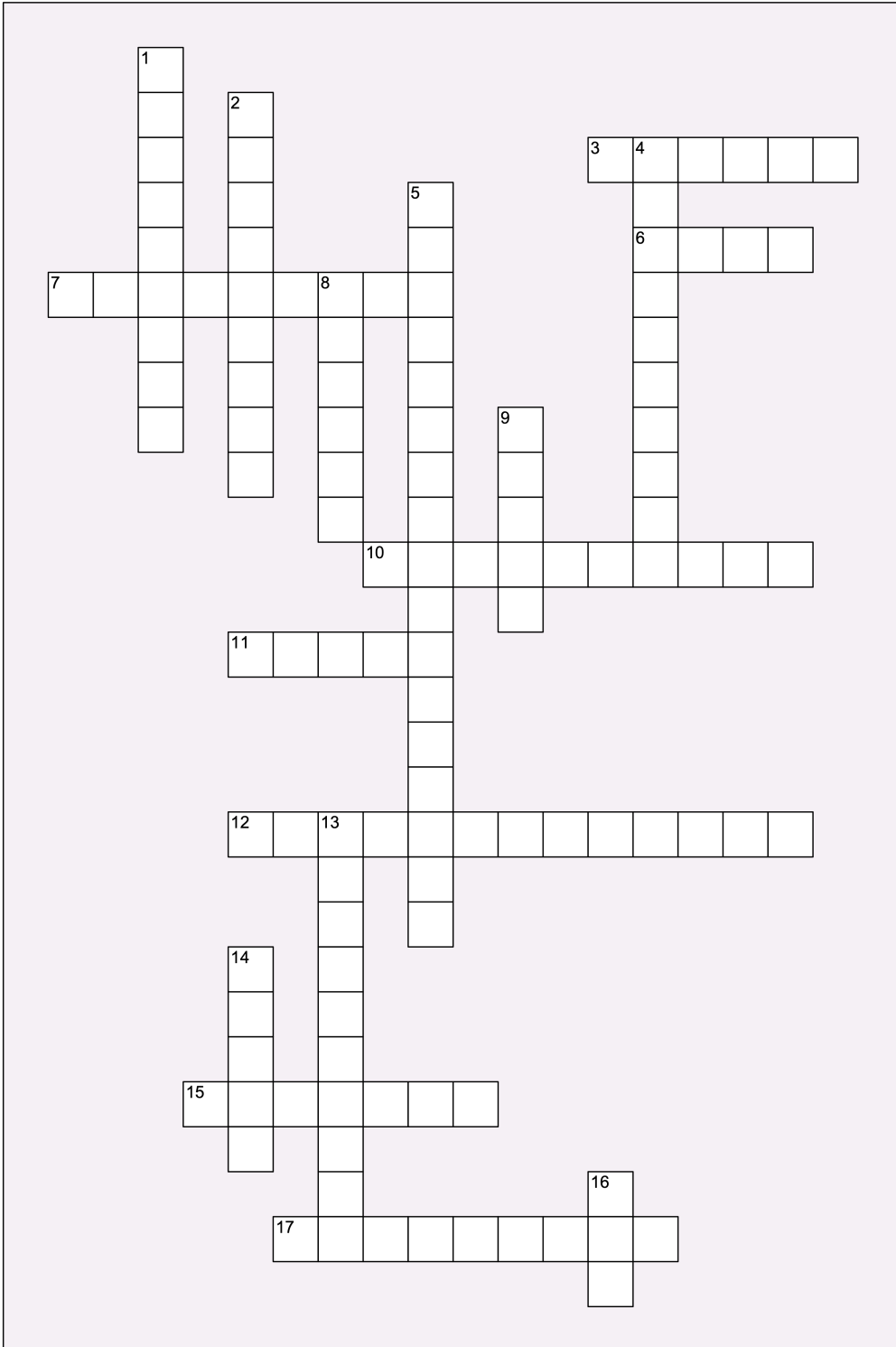
cloud of incense would cover the Mercy Seat that is on the Testimony lest he die. This cloud was a protection for the High Priest. Scripture tells us that no man can look upon the face of God and live, so this smoke acted as a veil and permitted Aharon to face the Ark of the Covenant. Aharon then took the blood of the bulls and sprinkled it with his finger on the Mercy Seat on the east side. Then before the Mercy Seat he sprinkled some of the blood with his finger seven times. Remember that 7 is related to holiness. Aharon did the exact same thing using exactly 7 sprinkles with the blood of the goat. The blood of both sacrifices was now presented, first the bull for Aharon and his household and second from the goat for the Yisra'elites and worldly impurities. Atonement was now made for Aharon and the entire congregation of Yisra'el.

In Leviticus 16:16 we see that atonement needed to be made for the Holy Place, the Tabernacle and the Altar, because of the uncleanness of the Children of Yisra'el and their transgressions, for all their sins. Aharon would now need to cleanse the Tabernacle of Meeting which remained among them during their uncleanness. We have a merciful God despite the people's sinful nature. He chose to live in their midst because He loved them, however sin needed to be dealt with. Messiah chose to take on human form for all of humanity, and die on the cross for our sins so that He could redeem us. Next, Aharon made atonement for the altar with the blood of the bull and goat. This reminds us that redemption is better than atonement. The blood of bulls and goats was not sufficient. In Leviticus 16:20 -21 we learn that after atonement for the Holy Place, the Tabernacle of Meeting, and the Altar was done, Aharon would bring a live goat and lay his hands on the head of it. This indicated a transfer of sins. He would confess over the goat all the iniquities of Yisrael, and all their transgressions, concerning all of their sins. Putting them on the head of the goat, he sent the goat away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. The goat bore on itself all their iniquities and was sent to an uninhabited land, a land determined for judgment. Part of the work had been concluded and Aharon would come back to the Tent of Meeting, wash in living water (water not stagnant) and make atonement for himself and for the people. Leviticus 16:29 tells us that the Day of Atonement shall happen in the seventh month on the tenth day of the month. This shall be for Yisra'el a kingdom statute, to make atonement for their sins once a year, every year. It covered not only past sins but also future sins. This foreshadowed the work of Messiah. Messiah is our High Priest, and the work of Messiah Yeshua covers all sins, past, future, and present. His blood has purchased eternal redemption for all those who receive Him. Once we receive Him as our LORD, we have assurance that when we stand before God, God sees the righteousness of His Son not our sin. That assurance causes us to be humble and causes us to know that the only one who can change our hearts is Messiah Yeshua. We learn so much from the Day of Atonement concerning spiritual truths. Atonement was only a temporary solution to our sin problem. Messiah Yeshua provided for us the eternal solution to our sin problem. He provided Redemption and that is a solution that is eternal.

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

Leviticus 17:11

# Parasha Crossword Puzzle

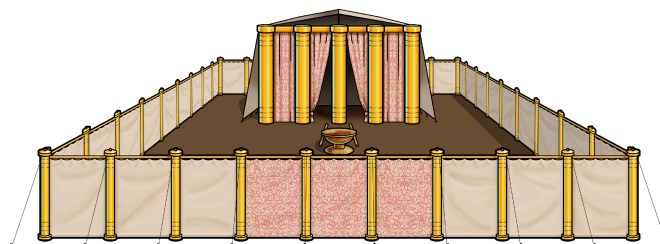


**Across:**

- 3. Israel's first High Priest
- 6. An animal, related to sheep, that usually has horns and a beard
- 7. The day once a year that atonement is made for the sins of Israel
- 10. What is better, Redemption or Atonement?
- 11. An adult male animal of the ox and cow family
- 12. Who is the High Priest for followers of Messiah?
- 15. Something we do to show honor to God.
- 17. a gold lid placed on the Ark of the Covenant

**Down:**

- 1. To do something good as a way to show you are sorry about doing something bad.
- 2. Willing to do what someone tells you to do, or to follow a law or rule
- 4. Who went into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement?
- 5. Free gift of God provided through Messiah
- 8. The quality or state of being pure
- 9. What number is related to Holiness?
- 13. Willing to obey someone else
- 14. The red liquid that flows through the bodies of living people and animals
- 16. Set of commands given to Moses by God



# Torah Quiz

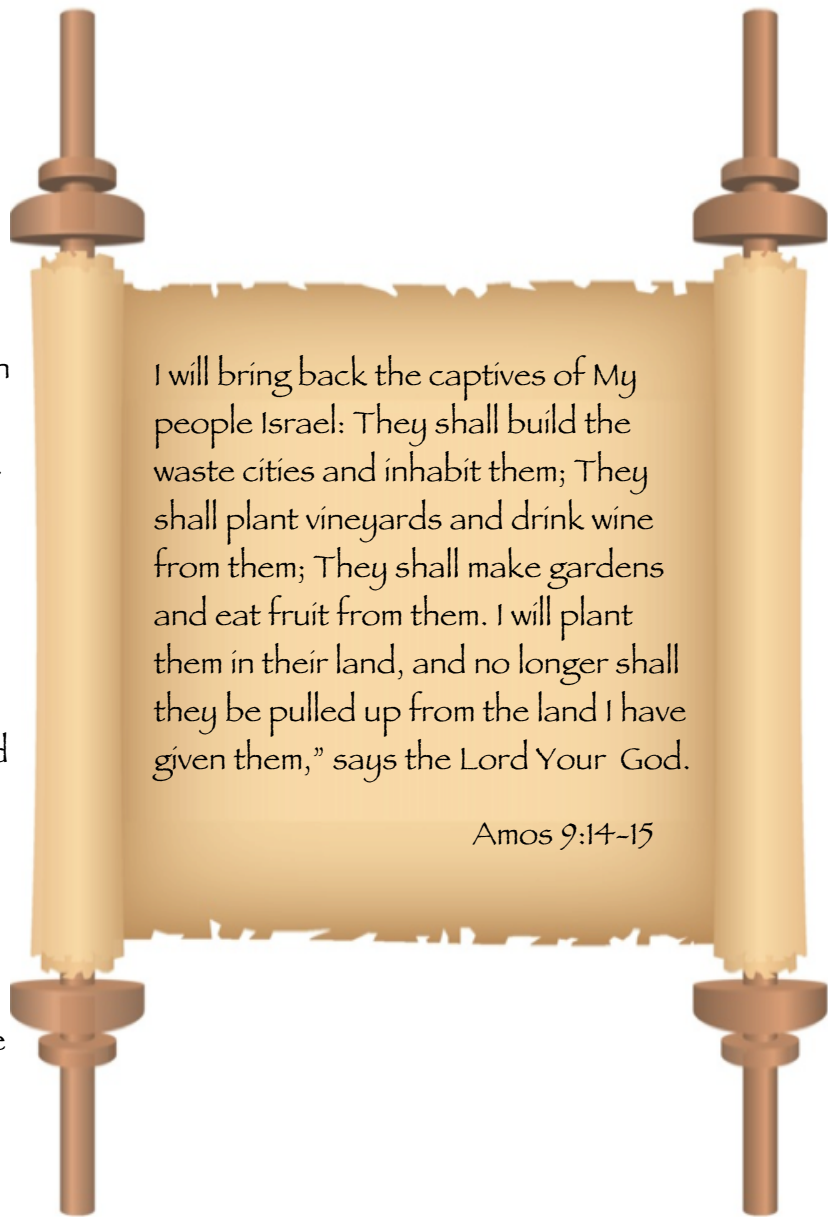
- 1 What is the Hebrew name for the Day of Atonement?
- 2 What happened in the scapegoat ceremony?
- 3 When did the Day of Atonement occur?
- 4 What is repeated at the beginning of Chapter 16?
- 5 What was the lid of the Ark of the Covenant made of?
- 6 What was the purpose for the Day of Atonement?
- 7 Whose blood can purchase eternal redemption?
- 8 Life is in the \_\_\_\_\_.

# Haftarah

## Amos 9:7-15

In this week's Haftarah the prophet Amos told the people that God said destruction would come upon Israel. Israel sinned against God and as we learned in our previous Torah section sin must be dealt with. Sin brings judgment. Israel was judged for their disobedience and unrepentant hearts. God divided Israel and scattered them. They were no longer a nation. However, God is a covenant-keeping God and He loves the people of Israel. Because of His covenant with Abraham and His love for Israel, God kept His promise, and He restored Israel. God promised to restore Israel physically and spiritually. Today, the people of Israel are back in their land and Israel is a nation again. However the complete fulfillment of the land promised to Abraham will happen when Messiah comes a second time and He has His Millennial reign on earth.

We see in Amos 9:11 that the Davidic covenant is alluded to and has kingdom implications. God will rebuild His Temple on earth for Yeshua to rule in during the Millennial Kingdom. God longs for His people to return to Him and worship Him. God is a covenant keeper and we can rest knowing He will keep His covenants. Israel did receive judgment for their sins, but God kept His covenant and restored Israel as a nation.



I will bring back the captives of My people Israel: They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them," says the Lord Your God.

Amos 9:14-15

We, like the children of Israel, will also face judgment for our sins. Messiah Yeshua is our High Priest and we can go to Him for the forgiveness of our sins. We no longer need to make atonement for our sins. We have Redemption. Our Torah lesson this week has shown us throughout every section that judgement will come for our sins and sin must be dealt with. Confession and repentance of our sin while trusting in Messiah is all that is needed for the forgiveness of sin. The work Messiah did as our High Priest was done once and it is eternal.

# Once for all...

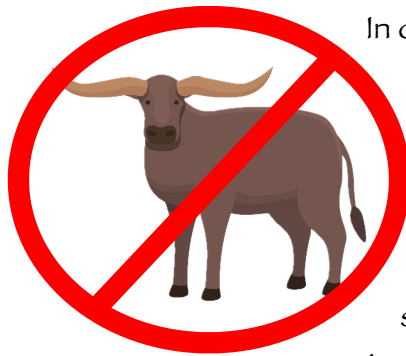
## Pray First

Father God,

We thank You for sending Your Son to Redeem us. Thank You Father for this free gift of eternal life. There is nothing we could do to earn this gift. Teach us to understand Your Word so that we may live in a way that demonstrates our love for You to others and gives testimony to the work You have done. In Yeshua's name we pray  
Amen

Read next: Hebrews 9:11-28

In today's New Testament portion of Scripture, we learn that Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) came as our High Priest (Kohen Gadol) to redeem us once and for all. Hebrews 9:11 tells us that Christ came as High Priest and ministered for us in the Temple in heaven upon His death to purchase for us eternal redemption.



In our Torah portion we studied Yom Kippur and we learned that the High Priest made atonement year after year with the blood of goats and bulls. This sacrifice could only atone for our sins. It was not sufficient. We also learned that atonement was temporary. It only lasted

a year. When Yeshua entered the heavens after His death He entered the Temple once and for all. He obtained for us eternal redemption. Nothing can change this. No longer do we need to make atonement year after year. Because Messiah's work was done, we have eternal life with Him. This work of Messiah Yeshua is a free gift, given so that we may serve a living God. When we were in sin, we could not serve God, but now that we are redeemed, we are free to serve Him. Let's take a moment and pause here, ask yourself, are you serving God? Do you live to please yourself or do you live to please Him?

“So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many, to those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

Hebrews 9:28

Remember that we do not serve God to earn our way to eternal life, but we serve Him to honor Him, to worship Him for what He did for us when He redeemed us.

Hebrew's 9:15 tells us that Yeshua is the mediator of the New Covenant. A covenant is a contract and a call to obedience. Yeshua has given us this gift of redemption through His death on the cross. These passages in Hebrews are teaching us that in order to correctly understand the work of Messiah Yeshua you need to remember what is taught in the Torah.

The law was never given as an instrument for salvation, but when we study the Torah we find the principles of truth so that we fully understand this great sacrifice and work that Messiah did for us. When we understand what was required for the forgiveness of sins, we know how to respond to it and give honor, glory, and praise to God! Hebrews 9:24 tells us that Yeshua has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true Temple in heaven, but He entered heaven itself now to appear in the presence of God for us. Messiah gave us the ability to worship God intimately. The Torah only gave us a pattern of worship. The work of Messiah was sufficient, and all that God required. Messiah's work only had to be offered up once.

Forgiveness has a purpose, and that purpose is so that we may have eternal Redemption. Judgment is coming for those who do not know Yeshua as their personal Savior. All men will die, and that has eternal consequences. We need to be telling others the truth of what we are studying in the Scriptures, that Messiah came to redeem us from our sins. Our lives should show others that we have accepted the free gift of salvation that Yeshua offers us. We should seek to tell others about the work of Messiah Yeshua so that they can also spend eternity worshipping and serving Him.

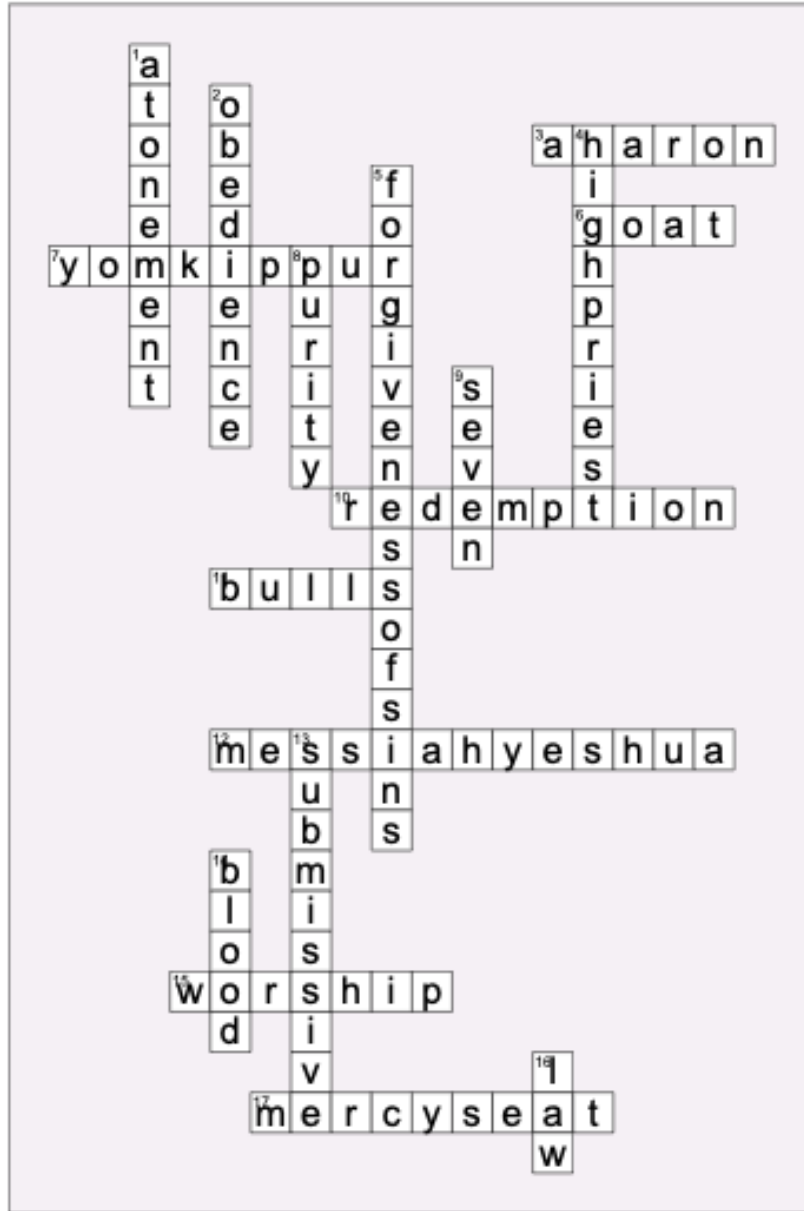
# Redemption



# Atonement



# Exercises Answer Key



## Torah Quiz Answers:

1. Yom Kippur

2. Two goats were chosen for the ceremony, they drew lots, and one goat was killed and the other released with the sins of people upon it

3. On the 10th day of the 7th month

4. the death of Aharon's sons,

5. gold

6. To make atonement for the tabernacle, the priests and the people of Yisra'el

7. Messiah Yeshua

8. blood