



messianic jewish movement international



Jewish Believers and Christians working together for Israel's salvation since 1963



Kevin Geoffrey
President, MJMI

Shalom my friend! With the Fall season of appointed times upon us, I felt it was important to pause and reflect on the meaning of our atonement. My message this month will hopefully help you to appreciate an often misunderstood aspect of Yeshua's humanity, and the vital role it plays in securing atonement on our behalf. If you can receive

this word, I believe it will give you a hope and sense of worthiness like never before.

A Great Kohen Gadol

Having, then, a great כהן גדול, Kohen Gadol passed through the heavens—ישוע, Yeshua, the Son of God—let us hold fast to the profession of *faith*. For we have a כהן גדול, Kohen Gadol not unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but *ONE* tempted in all things likewise as we are, yet remaining apart from sin. Let us come near, then—unhindered—to the throne of *unmerited* favor, so that we may receive *loving-kindness* and find *unmerited* favor—for timely help. (עֲבָרִים *Iv'riym* 4:14-16, MJLT)

Each year on Yom Kipur—the Day of Atonement, the holiest day on Israel's annual calendar—it is the responsibility of the lone Kohen Gadol (high priest) to take the lives of innocent animals and, with their shed blood, make atonement for himself and all the people of Israel. And for that brief moment, he and the people for whom he stands as mediator before God, are clean—their sins covered by the blood.

But where that temporary, earthly sacrifice is limited by its reliance upon men in need of their own atonement, the Master Yeshua—who is both our humble Passover lamb, and our great Kohen Gadol—"passed through the heavens" to meet everyone's need *forever*... not just year after year, but once and for all. Therefore, with the Day of Atonement having been fulfilled in Him, "let us hold fast to the profes-

sion of *faith*" that not through the blood of animals nor the efforts of men, but only through Yeshua—the Son of God, the everlasting intercessor—can we stand eternally covered and clean before our Creator.

Tempted in All Things

Should we not, then, be in awe, and find overwhelming confidence and peace in the accomplishment of this impossible thing: that Yeshua, God in the flesh—who has done for the world what no other man could ever do—made a way for us not just through His godliness, but through His human-

ity as well? And it is not an imaginary humanity—a fabricated shell with the appearance of a man's, encasing the true, inner divine person. No, like every other Kohen before Him, His full, unmingled humanness was a necessary and key component for obtaining our atonement.

Indeed, we fragile beings, full of flesh and filth, require a mediator who has Himself experienced

our condition. He needs to be able to stand before God as a legitimate representative of the people, seeking atonement on our behalf. And that is why, in Yeshua, "we have a כהן גדול, Kohen Gadol not unable to sympathize with our weaknesses." Though fully God, He also knew birth, life, love, adversity, joy and death. Fully man, He has intimate knowledge of everything we go through... including *temptation*.

This reality, if we can grasp it, will set us free, indeed.

In order for Yeshua to "sympathize with our weaknesses," His *real* humanity (not a contrived one) had to include the *real* susceptibility to temptation (not a perceived one). As inconceivable as this may seem—as blasphemous as some may allege it appears—Yeshua nonetheless was "tempted in all things likewise as we are." *In. All. Things.* This means that there is not a temptation on earth that Yeshua was not tempted by. Every conceivable sin in the world at some time presented itself to Yeshua, enticing Him to follow.



Let Us Come Near

And this is where we find our victory, confidence and hope: that even though He was tempted in all things as we are, “yet [He remained] apart from sin.” The man Yeshua—fully human *just like us*—resisted temptation and overcame sin! Therefore, through Yeshua’s mediation of our atonement, and by following His lifelong example, we too have the authority to resist, and overcome, and remain apart from sin.

This is why we are now worthy to approach God without obstructions: because Yeshua gave His life to make the way for our cleansing, covering, and freedom from sin. Yeshua’s example, then, as a perfect, sinless human, ought to assure us that if we will walk in the reality of our atonement, we too can aspire to Yeshua’s achievable standard.

My friend, too many Jewish people do not know the hope and sense of worthiness they can have through the Messiah Yeshua, and therefore are afraid to approach God. They need to be told of the unmerited favor that awaits them if they will empty themselves for the sake of the Messiah. This is precisely why MJMI exists: to tirelessly proclaim the Good News of Yeshua to the Jewish people. We greatly need not only your prayers, but also your financial assistance, so that we can continue this critical work. Your donation of **\$10, \$25, \$100 or more** will help us accomplish our mission and vision to see all Israel come to know their Messiah. You can use the enclosed card and envelope, or visit www.mjmi.org to send your much-needed donation today. And if you aren’t already, please consider becoming a ministry partner, so that I will know we can count on your support each month.

This Yom Kipur, and indeed, every day of our lives, “let us come near, then—unhindered... that we may receive *loving-kindness* and find *unmerited favor*—for timely help.” Let us believe that since *He* is like *us*, we can be like *Him*.

For the sake of the Messiah,



Kevin Geoffrey, President, MJMI

Update from Israel

I recently heard from our friend, Aviel, whom MJMI supports, who has been proclaiming the Good News of Yeshua in Jerusalem. He shared the story of one woman, saying, “Anna was born in Moscow in 1931. After being evacuated from the country during World War II, she returned to Russia, where her father installed a love of the Land of Israel into her heart, telling that this was the Promised Land for Jewish people. She always dreamt of returning to the Land of her ancestors, and ten years after the Iron Curtain fell, her dream finally became a reality.

“I met Anna while delivering food parcels to those in need, and we became friends. I was able to share about my own life and my faith in Yeshua. I showed her from Ezekiel 36:24-32 that God has brought us as Jewish people to the Promised Land to lead us to a restored relationship with Him, and to cleanse us from our sins.

“She started firing questions at me, and one of the most central was, ‘If I were to believe in Yeshua, would I stop being Jewish?’ I told her that faith in Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah, doesn’t stop us being Jewish at all. Eventually, she said ‘Aviel, I want to show you something very dear to me!’ She opened a cupboard draw and pulled out a picture of Yeshua painted by the 16th century Italian artist Titian, telling me that this painting had almost caused her problems when a border guard saw it as she was immigrating. She said that the painting has always been a great source of comfort for her, but she didn’t really know why.

I asked her if she would like to know why, and to know Yeshua for herself in a personal redeeming way. She said that she needed to think some more about it,

so we said our good-byes and I walked to the door. Suddenly, she stopped me in my tracks, saying, ‘Wait! You know, I don’t know what will happen tomorrow. What if I don’t even remember this conversation? I want to receive Yeshua now!’ I was stunned and overjoyed that the picture of Yeshua that she carried with her all the way from Moscow would now be transformed into a living relationship with Yeshua, who would be carrying her in His everlasting arms. What a precious moment it was to lead her to the Throne of Grace as she accepted Yeshua as her Savior, Messiah and Lord. God is wonderful!”

