



We will be victorious, Yom Kippur Perspective 2022

The Yom Kippur Perspective is dedicated by Joey & Batya Dayan & their family. May their families be signed & sealed in books of Health, Happiness, & Prosperity.

The Yom Kippur perspective is in honor of the Refuah Shlema of HaRav Amitai Ben Shoshanna, Leah Mintche Bas Gittel, & Shaul Ben Berta. And in loving memory of Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward, & Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia.

We are about to begin the holiest time of the year, the day of forgiveness, Yom Kippur. A day we abstain from physical enjoyment to feel the immense holiness that is obvious during this time. A day that its loftiness alone atones for our sins against G-d. A day that our most authentic self is glowing, the essence of our soul.

We will forgo most material pleasures for nearly twenty-six hours for a spiritual awakening. We spend most of our time in Shul praying to attain angel-like status in the hopes of complete forgiveness and vindication.

The Torah reading on Yom Kippur is from Parshas Acharei Mos, where Moshe Rabbeinu details the unique service of Yom Kippur in the Beis Hamikdash. The holiest person, the Kohen Gadol, would enter the most sacred place in the world – the Kodosh HaKodashim, the Holy of Holies.

But before he began the Yom Kippur service, the Kohen Gadol would offer a personal sin offering and ask forgiveness so he could adequately represent the Jewish people. He would also give a sin offering on behalf of the Kohanim and Leviim so they could adequately represent the nation with their service in the Beis Hamikdash. Only after these personal sin offerings would he begin the intricate, complex, and unique service of Yom Kippur.

The Kohen Gadol would enter the Holy of Holies three times during this special day. When it came time to enter the Holy of Holies, he would immerse himself in a mikvah again. He would change from his usual priestly garments to plain white to remove any

remembrance of the sin of the Golden Calf. The first time he entered, he brought the Ketores, an incense offering to please G-d, as he prayed on behalf of the nation.

The next time he entered, he sprinkled the blood of the burnt offering as he asked G-d for atonement and the year of blessings for His nation. The final time he would enter the Holy of Holies, the Kohen Gadol would take out the burning Ketores - incense he brought in the first time he entered. But he would also pay attention to the two **Cherubim - two golden angels** with child-like faces on top of the Aaron Hakadosh.

According to the Talmud, the two Cherubim represent the pairing of G-d and the Jewish people. When G-d was pleased with us, **they faced each other**. But when He was not, **they miraculously turned away from each other**. The Kohen Gadol would look at where the Cherubim were facing to know if he successfully obtained forgiveness for the nation.

After he exited the Holy of Holies for the final time, he blessed the Jewish people with a prayer we joyously sing today. *"May this be a year of light, blessings, rejoicing, etc."* In the Mishkan or Beis Hamikdash, every person would struggle and try to catch a glimpse of the Kohen Gadol.

The Machzor describes the aura surrounding Kohen Gadol after completing the service. *"Like a groom's face after his wedding, like a rose in a beautiful garden, like a bright star on the eastern horizon."* The Kohen Gadol's euphoric spirit was because he knew that G-d had forgiven the Jewish people.

Hence, seeing the face of Kohen Gadol when he finished the service was the culmination of Yom Kippur. For it perfectly encapsulates and sums up the purpose of Yom Kippur. Seeing how our Father in Heaven **matches our commitment and dedication towards Him**. Realizing that G-d, with immense mercy and compassion, **counts our efforts as a whole and purifies us once again**. Understanding that **we are victorious in the fight to receive an unobstructed, open, and clear path to the One Above!**

The Lubavitcher Rebbe instituted a custom to sing a song at the end of Neilah called **Napoleon's March**. An electrifying and galvanizing tune that signals victory and triumph **because we have indeed won!**

May we be signed and sealed in the books of life, health, prosperity and experience the coming of Moshiach and the ultimate redemption!

Have an uplifting and meaningful Yom Kippur, G'mar Chasima Tova!

Rabbi Sholom Yemini