

Fall Feasts, 2025

# Yom Kippur & Messiah's Priesthood: Is It Reliable?

A Messianic Jewish Teaching by Rabbi Jeff ... to build, to encourage, to inspire

The word 'reliable' refers to something that works; someone or something that can be trusted or believed because they behave in the way promised and in the way you expect.

Reliability only really matters when you are depending on something or someone. It would be ludicrous to say a trophy is reliable. We don't use the word 'reliable' for relics, or medals etc. We use it when describing things that we use and rely on like weapons, vehicles, and machinery, or about people that we depend on.

**Here is Our Question:** Is Messiah's priesthood like a relic or a trophy, commemorating an achievement from long ago? Or, is it something vital to our spiritual walk with God?

Indeed, Messiah's priesthood is not a historical piece of memorabilia, or mere facts that we intellectually understand. The Scriptures teach that these living truths are at the center of our salvation, the center of our prayer lives, and the center of our life behind the veil. Messiah's priesthood is the very anchor of our hope in God.

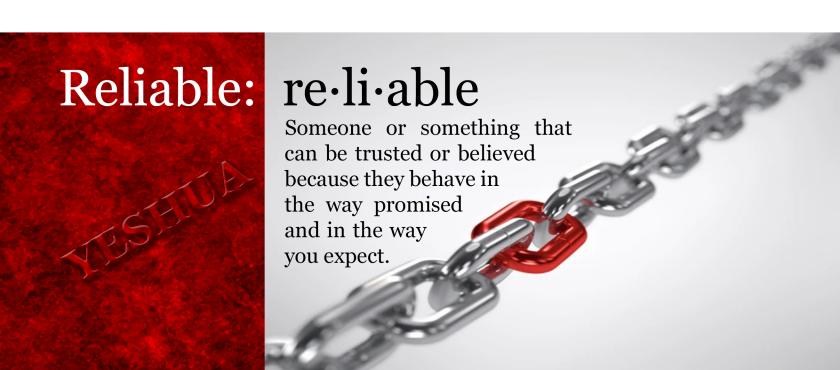
Does Messiah's priesthood pass the test for reliability? Let us consider three tests:

### The First Test of Reliability: Does it Work?

To answer this we must ask, "What is it designed to do?" The most important role of the priesthood is to provide atonement for sin. This atonement happened when the High Priest sprinkled the blood of the bull and the goat in the most holy place. "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) This key function took place for the entire nation on one day - Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement. As we read in Leviticus 16:34, it is an everlasting statute for the High Priest "…to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year."

When we consider the priesthood of Messiah, here is what we find...

"...Messiah came as High Priest of the good things to come... Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (Hebrews 9: 11-12) The sinless incarnate Son of the Living God redeemed us with His own blood! "... if the blood of bulls and goats.., sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Messiah..."? (Hebrews 9:12-14)



But how do we know that Yeshua's priesthood works? Our conscience bears witness. Hebrews 9:14 tells us that His sacrifice cleanses our conscience "from dead works". You know in the depths of your heart that you are redeemed. "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." (Romans 8: 16) There is a joy, a confidence and a living hope that abides within us that cannot be shaken - we therefore know His priesthood works.

# The Second Test of Reliability: Does it Produce the Intended Result?

The intended result of Messiah's priesthood is not only atonement. Atonement is the means to the intended result. The intended result is threefold:

- **1. Does it produce fellowship with the living God?** Does it bring us into relational nearness with the personal God of Israel? Of course, the answer is yes to an extraordinary and remarkable degree! We are now able to go through the veil with boldness into the Holy of Holies. Messiah's blood has purified us, allowing us to draw near, producing personal fellowship with the God of Israel. (Hebrews 10:19-23)
- **2. Does Messiah's priesthood produce personal transformation in our lives?** And again, the answer is a resounding yes! The great intent of God is that we would become more and more like Yeshua. (Romans 8: 29) We are transformed bit by bit, new creations bearing the fruit of the Spirit, changing from glory to glory.
- **3. Does it produce the means by which our prayers can be answered?** Yes! With confidence, we can "...come to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4: 16)

# The Third Test of Reliability: Does It Last?

Reliability includes the principle of longevity. If it only lasts a short time, then it is not reliable. What about Messiahs' priesthood? It is unchangeable and continues forever. "Therefore, He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)

# So then, is Yeshua's priesthood reliable?

**Does it work?** Yes! It produces atonement to cleanse our conscience and the Holy Spirit bears witness of this, along with the hope and joy we have in our heart.

**Does it produce the intended result?** Yes! It produces deep, intimate, and ongoing fellowship with God and a profound, distinctive transformation of our character. We become children of God and, in Messiah's name, God answers our prayers!

**Does it last?** Yes! It lasts forever and is unchangeable.

Yom Kippur & Messiah's priesthood are not relics; they are not just doctrines. Yom Kippur foreshadows a perfect and complete atonement of sin, through the blood sacrifice of Yeshua, our High Priest. Yom Kippur & Messiah's priesthood are the very center of our lives here on earth and the center of our lives behind the veil!



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