

Yom Kippur?

OR

Finished?

Rosh Hashanah – sundown Friday 9/15  
(Tishri 1)

Yom Kippur – sundown Sunday 9/24 thru  
sundown Monday 9/25

Sukkot – sundown Friday 9/29 – 8 days

High Holy Days - 5784

The tenth day of this seventh month  
is the Day of Atonement. (Yom Kippur)  
Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves,  
and present an offering made to the LORD by fire.  
Do no work on that day,  
because it is the Day of Atonement,  
when atonement is made for you  
before the LORD your God.

Leviticus 23:26-32

...on this day atonement will be made for you,  
to cleanse you. Then, before the Lord,  
you will be clean from all your sins.  
It is a sabbath of rest,  
and you must deny yourselves; (afflict your souls)  
it is a lasting ordinance.

This is to be a lasting ordinance for you:  
Atonement is to be made once a year  
for all the sins of the Israelites.

Leviticus 16:29-34

Make an *atonement cover* of pure gold –  
two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide.

Exodus 25:17

(cover - kapporeth)

I appear in the cloud over the *atonement cover*

Leviticus 16:1-2

kaphar – atone, appease, mercy (mercy seat) purge, pardon

The name "Yom Kippur" means "Day of Atonement," and that pretty much explains what the holiday is. It is a day set aside to (heshbon nefesh – search the soul) "afflict the soul," (anah nefesh) (deny yourselves) to atone for the sins of the past year.

I mentioned the "books" in which G-d inscribes all of our names.

On Yom Kippur, the judgment entered in these books is sealed.

This day is, essentially, your last appeal,  
your last chance to change the judgment,  
to demonstrate your repentance and make amends.

As I noted, Yom Kippur atones only for sins between man and G-d, not for sins against another person. To atone for sins against another person, you must first seek reconciliation with that person, righting the wrongs you committed against them if possible.

That must all be done before Yom Kippur.

This is the day at the conclusion of which,  
according to tradition,  
God seals the Books of Life and Death for the coming year.  
The day is devoted to communal repentance for sins  
committed over the course of the previous year.  
The day revolves around the theme of communal repentance  
for sins committed during the past year, in order that both  
the community and the individual be inscribed  
in the Book of Life for the coming year.

Psalm 69: 27-28  
Psalm 139: 13-16

Daniel 7: 9-10 (Rev 20:11-15)  
Daniel 12: 1-2

On a table before God lies a large book with many pages,  
as many pages as there are people in the world.

Each of us has a page dedicated just to us.

Written on that page, by our own hand, in our own writing,  
are all the things we have done during the past year.

God considers those things, weighs the good against the bad,  
and then, as the prayers declare,  
decides “who shall live and who shall die.”

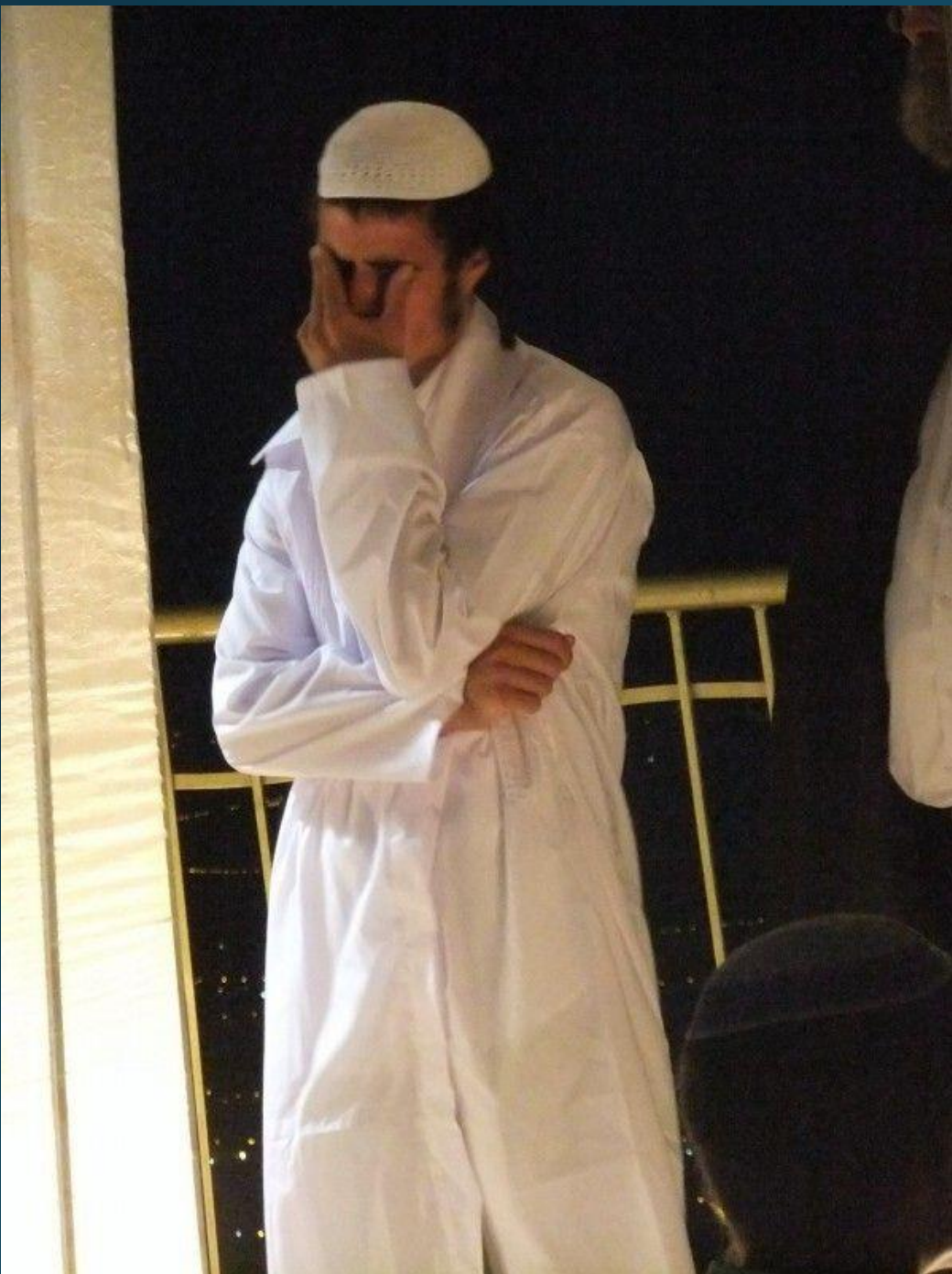


Throughout the day of Yom Kippur, there is the communal confession of sins in a prayer called the *Viddui* (or the deathbed confession).

The day in the synagogue closes with a service called *Neilah* (literally – locking), which imagines the doors of heaven being locked at the end of the Ten Days of Awe. The shofar, or ram's horn is blown at the end of the service, which also opened the Days of Awe.

The sound of the shofar signifies that God's decision has been made.

The books are closed until the next year.



It is customary to wear white on the holiday, which symbolizes purity and calls to mind the promise that our sins shall be made as white as snow (Isaiah 1:18). Some people wear a kittel, the white robe in which the dead are buried.

Indeed, although Yom Kippur is the most solemn day of the year, it is suffused with an undercurrent of joy; it is the joy of being immersed in the spirituality of the day and expresses confidence that G-d will accept our repentance, forgive our sins, and seal our verdict for a year of life, health and happiness.

*I think it is....*

*I'm in the Book of Life... probably*

Yom Kippur?

OR

Finished?

*I am fairly certain...*

*I'm pretty sure...*

*I'm probably forgiven...*

*I hope I do good this next year*