

Slipcovers

In North America, a slipcover is a removable fitted cloth cover for a chair or sofa. A slipcovered sofa comes with a removable, protective fitted cover made of cloth or fabric designed to protect its underlying upholstery. The number one benefit of a slipcovered sofa versus an upholstered sofa is that it is, by and large, easier to clean. Typically, those slipcovers are ornate and beautiful. They are there to protect what's underneath, but the problem is that no one ever sees what's underneath. There is no appreciation for the furniture as it's hidden from sight.

How similar is that to our own lives and the seat of honor that is God's alone? We all know that our body is *"the temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 6:19)*. *Adonai* desires to sit on the Mercy Seat of our heart. And while it should be covered, is it covered according to Scripture? Or is it covered in fear that something might hurt or damage it? On this *Yom Kippur* let us remove the slipcovers of fear and find the real slipcover of *Yeshua's* Atonement.

Adonai has commanded His people (and we are included) to observe *Yom Kippur*. It is an annual *mo'ed* (an appointed festival or rehearsal) and it is in effect in all our generations wherever we live: *"³¹You should do no kind of work. It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.³²It is to be a Shabbat of solemn rest for you, and you are to humble your souls. On the ninth day of the month in the evening, from evening until evening, you are to keep your Shabbat"* (Lev. 23:31-32). The readings for *Yom Kippur* are found in Leviticus 16 & 18, as well as the Book of Jonah. Although we no longer offer the annual sacrifices for atonement found in Leviticus 16 let's ask *Adonai* to show us the aspects that relate to *Yeshua* and His fulfillment as our perfect and perpetual sin offering.

After Aaron's two sons sinned by offering impure hands and impure hearts along with their offering, *Adonai* limits the priesthood to entering His presence once a year (See Lev. 16:2-3). The priest had to follow a very specific set of guidelines to ensure he would not die in the presence of God. However, *Adonai* notes very clearly that He will dwell in a cloud over the Mercy Seat. If that's where He chose to dwell then, is that not where He desires to dwell now? The priest was supposed to offer the bull on behalf of the priesthood (See Lev. 16:11-15), then taking a firepan and incense and offer it before *Adonai*. The incense would become a cloud to veil the priest from the presence of God. Then he was to take the blood of the bull and sprinkle it. Then he was to do the same with the blood of the goat offered on behalf of the people. The blood was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat as part of the atonement. Knowing that the earthly temple is a representation of the heavenly temple, then upon *Yeshua's* death He entered through the veil in heaven and offered His blood as a final atonement before the Mercy Seat of heaven.

Scripture in Hebrews 9-10 confirm that *Yeshua* fulfilled these things so we could have eternal atonement and so we could have access to the holy of holies. Similarly, to the *Azazel*, or *scapegoat* (See Lev. 16:20-22), *Yeshua* was driven from Jerusalem, out to *Golgotha* to be crucified. He was the ultimate *scapegoat* for our sins, and He was driven to the wilderness, once again fulfilling the requirements of *Yom Kippur*.

According to *1 Peter 2:9*, we are *Adonai's* royal priesthood. If we are His royal priesthood AND the temple of the Holy Spirit, then shouldn't we know how to come into the Holy of Holies? We have daily access to the Holy of Holies, but how should we come in? What is our Mercy Seat covered with? Is it hidden under some ornate covering so no one can see it, or is it covered with the required incense? (See Lev. 16:12-13) How often is our Mercy Seat used? How often does the cloud of God's presence dwell there? Do we leave it covered up so no one can see it or use it? How can we change that?

Scripture is clear that God is not interested in our *sacrifices* of bulls and goats. What He desires is a broken spirit and a contrite heart with sacrifices of praise and worship. We need to experience the cloud of *Adonai's* presence hovering on the Mercy Seat of our hearts more often. The key is found in praise and worship. Praise is the firepan. It lights the fire and burns hot. Worship is the sweet incense that rises from a heart of praise. We know He inhabits the praises of His people, so when we bring him a heart that is clean, and offer praise and worship, the Holy of Holies found in our hearts is ready to receive His presence. Let's take off the old slipcovers. He knows what's going on inside us anyway. Instead, let's purpose to give him the hottest praise and the purest worship, and watch His presence hover in a cloud of Glory on the Mercy seat of your heart!