



RISING ABOVE LIFE'S STORMS

THE SHADOW

1. **The Day of Atonement** (September 28) Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9:22 *And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*
 - A. The Old Testament High Priest was to sacrifice a bull for himself and for the sins of his family. Then two goats were used. The blood of the first goat was sprinkled on the Ark, showing God's forgiveness for one more year. The High Priest then took the second goat, called the Scape Goat, placed his hands on the head and confessed the sins of the people. It was then taken into the wilderness and released. The sins were forgotten and no longer clung to the people.
 - B. Jesus was the fulfillment of this Jewish Holiday! Our sins are forgiven AND taken out of the way! (Romans 5:9; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17; Psalm 103:12).
2. **The Feast of Tabernacles** (October 3-9) was a time that the Israelites remembered and celebrated God's provision and protection during the wilderness years.
 - A. **The Last Great Day** (October 10) was not an official holiday, but a closing of the most Holy Jewish Feasts. However, it was during this time that we see the cry of Jesus concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
 - John 7:37-39 *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

THE REALITY

Christ's finished work on the cross not only forgave us but it took our sin OUT OF THE WAY, no longer to be remembered. Then, on the last Great Day, Jesus cries out about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. **We are a victorious and blessed people!** Even in a "pandemic!"

1. **We are seated in the Heavens!** Ephesians 2:1-10 *...even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,...*
 - A. **Our sins**, the things that separated us from our Heavenly Father, are forgiven AND taken out of the way! Gone! (Psalm 103:12)
 - B. **Our rest, a ceasing from strife!** Sitting represents rest from our works to believe in the finished work of Christ.
 - Hebrews 4:9-11 *There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his...*
 - C. **Our victory, filled with the Holy Spirit!** "To sit together" is to be in a position of authority (a judge who is seated in a court room). Through Him we overcome all the power of the enemy!
 - Hebrews 10:12-14 *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified (set apart for service).*
2. **And we are a blessed people!** This blessed life from Deuteronomy 28:1-14 is the result of Christ's finished work and our obedience to His commands, to love God and to love our brother and sister.

Take time this week to take our eyes off the events of this season and read this passage... and celebrate!