

FAQ

FROM THE MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS ARCHIVES (2000-2018)

J.K. McKee

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
messianicapologetics.net

Frequently Asked Questions

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Abbreviations and Special Terms

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as TWOT for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

- ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
 AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*
 ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)
 Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament
 Ara: Aramaic
 ASV: American Standard Version (1901)
 ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)
 b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
 B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.
 BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)
 BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*
 C.E.: Common Era or A.D.
 CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)
 CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)
 CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)
 CJB: *Complete Jewish Bible* (1998)
 CJSB: *Complete Jewish Study Bible* (2016)
 DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition
 DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls
 EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*
 EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*
 ESV: *English Standard Version* (2001)
 Ger: German
 GNT: *Greek New Testament*
 Grk: Greek
 HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)
 HCSB: *Holman Christian Standard Bible* (2004)
 Heb: Hebrew
 HNV: *Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible*
 IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*
 IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*
 ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
 IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*
 Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)
 JBK: *New Jerusalem Bible-Koren* (2000)
 JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
 KJV: *King James Version*
 Lattimore: *The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore* (1996)
 LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)
 LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)
 LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)
 LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
 LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
 LXX: *Septuagint*
 m. Mishnah
 MT: *Masoretic Text*
 NASB: *New American Standard Bible* (1977)
 NASU: *New American Standard Update* (1995)
 NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
 NEB: *New English Bible* (1970)
 Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*
 NETS: *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (2007)
 NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*
 NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*
 NIV: *New International Version* (1984)
 NJB: *New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic* (1985)
 NJPS: *Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (1999)
 NKJV: *New King James Version* (1982)
 NRSV: *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)
 NLT: *New Living Translation* (1996)
 NT: *New Testament*
 OT: *Old Testament*
 REB: *Revised English Bible* (1989)
 RSV: *Revised Standard Version* (1952)
 t. Tosefta
 Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament
 Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*
 TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
 TLV: *Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version* (2014)
 TNIV: *Today's New International Version* (2005)
 TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*
 UBSHNT: *United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition*
 v(s). *verse(s)*
 Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
 Vul: *Latin Vulgate*
 YLT: *Young's Literal Translation* (1862/1898)
 WMB: *World Messianic Bible* (2020)

Yom Kippur, Fasting

Where is the command in Torah to fast on *Yom Kippur*? I thought it only said that we are to afflict our souls.

The command to commemorate *Yom Kippur* or the Day of Atonement appears several times in the Torah (Exodus 30:10; Leviticus 16:30; 23:27-28; Numbers 29:7-11), with each section of commandments giving specific details. One of those specific details—and arguably the most important—is listed in Leviticus 23:27: “it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls” (NASU). What does the clause *v’innitem et-nafshoteikhem* mean, exactly? The verb *anah*, appearing the Piel stem (intensive action, active voice), is defined as “**humble oneself., mortify oneself.** (by fasting)” (*CHALOT*).¹ So from a lexical standpoint, “afflict your souls” (KJV) or “self-denial” (NJPS) can definitely mean that one is to fast on *Yom Kippur*.

Surveying Jewish history, it is very easy to see that fasting—abstaining from food—was most definitely the traditional interpretation and application of what it meant for a person to afflict himself or herself on *Yom Kippur* by the time of Yeshua. A direct reference to *Yom Kippur* appears in Acts 27:9, which records that on Paul’s way to Rome “considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even **the fast** was already over, Paul *began* to admonish them” (NASU). Here “the fast” (Grk. *tēn nēsteian*) is undoubtedly *Yom Kippur*. Commentators are almost unanimously agreed that this is *Yom Kippur*. F.F. Bruce explains in his commentary on Acts, “By the ‘Fast’ [Luke] means, of course, the Great Day of Atonement, which falls on Tishri 10.”²

In the Jewish tradition, there are exemptions from fasting on *Yom Kippur*. Via the Rabbinic principle of *Piku’ach Nefesh* or Regard for Human Life, infants, the infirm, and the elderly are permitted to eat on the Day of Atonement, but preferably with basic staples and water. However, if one can adequately fulfill the requirement to fast, one is expected to do so. The fast of *Yom Kippur* is to focus oneself entirely on God and in confessing any sin—individual or corporate—and to intercede for His mercy upon Israel and the world.

While many Messianic people find it difficult to fast on this one day throughout the year, it is notable that many of the greats who have served the Lord over the centuries made it a regular practice. John Wesley often fasted between Thursday afternoon and the late afternoon or evening meal on Friday, every week. Many people who feel the need to focus themselves on the Lord in intense periods of prayer, fast for weeks or a month at a time, although they will normally drink water. Yeshua Himself fasted for forty days in the wilderness after being immersed by John the Baptist (Mark 1:13; Matthew 4:2; Luke 4:2). So certainly, fasting for a single day on *Yom Kippur* should not be construed as any kind of burden, but a healthy faith practice which we all probably do not do enough.

¹ William L. Holladay, ed., *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Leiden, the Netherlands: E.J. Brill, 1988), 278.

² F.F. Bruce, *New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Book of the Acts* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983), 506.