

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE ATONEMENT CONCEPT
IN THE ABOAKYER FESTIVAL OF THE EFFUTU TRIBE IN
GHANA AND THE YOM KIPPUR FESTIVAL OF THE OLD
TESTAMENT: IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVENTIST
MISSION AMONG THE EFFUTU**

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Problem

Christian missions have operated in Winneba, Ghana, since 1865 with various approaches being used to share the gospel with the Effutu. Though there have been some successes, allegiance of the Effutu to their tribal gods, manifested especially during the Aboakyer (Deer Hunt) festival, raises the need for a missiological bridge or intervention for more effective contextualized ministry among the Effutu of Winneba.

Purpose of Study

This research aims to develop a missiological model based on a comparative study of the Old Testament Yom Kippur festival and the Effutu Aboakyer festival that will potentially facilitate more effective Adventist mission among the Effutu.

Method

To understand the concept of atonement, a literature review of the concept of atonement was done in two parts—the biblical view (comprising the Old Testament and New Testament views) and the African Traditional Religion perspective. Second, an ethnographic research on the Effutu Aboakyer was done to understand its context, particularly the origins, history, and the rituals of the Aboakyer festival. This involved individual and group interviews as well as participant observation. Using the comparative approach method, a comparison of the Aboakyer and Yom Kippur with its typological meaning was done to find (a) similarities between them that reveal points of contact and that will make Yom Kippur comprehensible to the Effutu and also (b) differences that reveal inadequacies in their understanding of atonement that can be remedied by accepting the biblical model of atonement through two phases of atonement provided by Christ's sacrifice. A missiological model that comprehensively and effectively addresses the Effutu situation was accordingly proposed.

Conclusion

Based upon the redemptive analogies (similarities) found in the analysis and the differences that posed as challenges, Yom Kippur expressing the biblical

model of atonement was proposed as the appropriate *modus operandi* that will potentially facilitate a more effective incarnational mission among the Effutu. This model, which elucidates the two phases of atonement provided by Christ's sacrifice, was found to have the remedy for the inadequacies (differences) of the Effutu understanding of atonement and also the theological insights to give the sanctuary message an eschatological emphasis needed at this time. The model will also put the Effutu history and cosmology into biblical perspective and help the Effutu direct their sacrifices and worship to God rather than the lesser gods.