

The Presidential Series

Feast of Trumpets

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Rosh Ha-Shanah marks the beginning of the Jewish new year. Its origin is Biblical (Lev. 23:23-25): "a sacred occasion commemorated with loud blasts [of the shofar, the ram's horn]." The term Rosh Hashanah, "beginning of the year," is rabbinical, as are the formidable themes of the festival: repentance, preparation for the day of Divine judgment and prayer for a fruitful year. The two-day festival falls on 1-2 Tishre in the Jewish calendar, usually September in the Gregorian, and starts at sundown of the preceding evening, as do all Jewish observances. Major customs of Rosh Hashanah include the sounding of the shofar in the middle of a lengthy service that focuses on the festival themes, and elaborate meals at home to inaugurate the new year. The prayer liturgy is augmented with prayers of repentance and the Hallel, a collection of blessings and psalms recited on Rosh Hashanah, at the beginning of each new month, on the three pilgrimage festivals, and on occasions of public deliverance.

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Introduction

There are four New Years:

1. *Nissan* - (The ascension of) Kings and for (the regular rotation of) festivals: This refers to the law concerning vows. If one made a vow it had to be fulfilled before the three festivals elapsed in the order of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles
2. *Elul* - The cattle-tithe: A date had to be appointed in order to keep the tithes of animals born and products of the earth, distinct from year to year
3. *Tishri* - For ordinary years, and for sabbatic years and jubilees; and also for the planting of trees and for herbs according to Leviticus 25 and Deuteronomy 15. During the Day of Atonement slaves, "ate and drank and rejoiced with the crown of freedom on their heads."
4. *Shebhat* - Trees: tithes due on fruit trees

Numbers 28:26-29:6 – The Feast of Trumpets

It is the end and the beginning of the agricultural year.

Shofar → theophany: visible manifestation of Christ

Exodus 19:1, 12-20; 20:1 – At Mount Sinai

This was when the Israeli's lived in tabernacles (i.e.: booths, *sukkot*).

Original Pentecost

Shavuot – Feast of Weeks – Pentecost

50 days after Passover

Commemorates a time when Firstfruits are harvested and brought to the temple

Celebrates the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai

Numbers 10:1-3, 10 – The Silver Trumpets

1. Those which Moses made, as described by JOSEPHUS and represented on the arch of Titus, were straight, a cubit or more in length, the tubes of the thickness of a flute.
2. Both extremities bore a close resemblance to those in use among us.
3. They were of solid silver--so as, from the purity of the metal, to give a shrill, distinct sound;
4. The cornet used on the New Year was a straight horn of a wild goat; the mouth-piece was covered with gold.
5. The two trumpets were stationed one on each side.
6. The sound of the cornet was prolonged, while that of the trumpet was short, because the special duty of the day was the sounding of the cornet.

Laws and Customs

Evening

"May you be inscribed (in the book of life) for a good year."

It is customary to dip the piece of bread, over which grace has been recited, into honey as a token of the sweet year it is hoped will come.

A piece of apple is dipped in honey and before eating it, the prayer is recited: **"May it be Thy will O Lord our God and God of our fathers, to renew unto us a good and sweet year."**

The loaves for the festival meal are baked in the form of ladders to symbolize the fortunes of men in the year ahead: some ascending, others descending life's ladder.

Day

Jews go to a place where there is running water, the sea, a river, or a well to recite **"And Thou wilt cast (ve-tashlikh) all their sins into the depths of the sea"** (Micah 7:19).

Synagogue

Old Testament Lesson

Psalter

"Now, therefore, O Lord our God, impose Thine awe upon all Thy works, and Thy dread upon all that Thou hast created, that all works may revere Thee and all creatures prostrate themselves before Thee, that they may all form a single band to do Thy will with a perfect heart."

Judgment or Feast

Revelations [4:1-6; 5:1-6; 7:1-3, 9, 10;] 8:1-6; [10:5-11]

7 Seals

Many argue that all six seals have been fulfilled, the sixth with the overthrow of paganism, while strong evidence argues for only partial fulfillment.

The seals likely represent "classes of events" preparing the way for the Precious Lamb.

- 4 is the number of the world
- 3 is the number of the heavens
- 6 is the number of judgment
- 7 is the completion or fulfillment
- 12 is the number of the church

Nehemiah 8:2-10[-12]

It is a day of judgment for the entire world.

G-d determine at the beginning of the year what is to be at the end of the year.

G-d is King.

It is custom to wear black when appearing before a court of justice to symbolize uncertainty, however, Israel wears white, shaves and feasts to symbolize miracles.

"Recite before Me on Rosh Ha-Shanah malkhuyyot, zikhronot and shofarot: Malkhuyyot so that you may proclaim Me King over you; zikhronot so that your remembrance may rise favorably before Me; and through what? Through the shofar"

Names

- Rosh Ha-Shanah
- Yom Teru'ah ("Day of Blowing the Horn")
- Yom ha-Din ("Judgment Day")
- Yom ha-Zikkaron ("Day of Remembrance")

Three Books

- Completely righteous
- Completely wicked
- Average person: The average persons are kept in suspension from Rosh Ha-Shanah to the Day of Atonement.