

ROSH HASHANAH / YOM TERUAH FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Jewish Calendar: Tishrei 1–2

Starts: Sunset, September 22, 2025

Ends: Sunset, September 24, 2025

Mentioned in Leviticus 23:24–25 and Numbers 29:1–6

Messianic Reflection: 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Matthew 24:31

Rosh Hashanah means “head of the year” and is the Jewish New Year celebration. It marks the creation of the world. It is a time of making amends for our sins against others and seeking forgiveness. Jewish tradition also teaches that it is the Day of Judgment. God is said to inscribe or not inscribe the fate of every person in the upcoming year in the Book of Life. *Yom Teruah* means the “Day of Blowing” the shofars.

TRADITIONS: We observe a day of rest and eat sweet foods like apples, honey, and a special round-shaped challah bread. We blow the shofar (trumpet) 100 times to signal the beginning of the new year.

GREETING: *Shana Tovah!* meaning “Happy New Year!”



YOM KIPPUR DAY OF ATONEMENT

Jewish Calendar: Tishrei 10

Starts: Sunset, October 1, 2025

Ends: Sunset, October 2, 2025

Mentioned in Leviticus 16:1–34 and Leviticus 23:27–28

Messianic Reflection: Hebrews 9:11–14, Ephesians 1:13

Yom Kippur is about making peace with God and others. It falls after the 10 Days of Awe, where Jewish tradition teaches that people have the opportunity to change God’s Rosh Hashanah judgment for their coming year, believing His verdict is not sealed until Yom Kippur. It is a time of affliction through fasting.

TRADITIONS: We observe a day of rest and a 25-hour fast where we abstain from food and some abstain from water. We wear white to symbolize spiritual purity and a fresh start to the new year. We also abstain from wearing leather to signify humility. Services are filled with many liturgical prayers of repentance and confession.

GREETING: *G’mar chatima tovah* or *G’mar tov* meaning “a good final sealing.” Also *Tzom Kal* wishing people an “easy fast.”

SUKKOT FEAST OF TABERNACLES (BOOTH)

Jewish Calendar: Tishrei 15-21

Starts: Sunset, October 6, 2025

Ends: Sunset, October 13, 2025

Mentioned in Leviticus 23:33–34, Numbers 29:12–40, and Deuteronomy 16:13–17

Messianic Reflection: John 7, John 1:14

Sukkot is a feast of celebration and rejoicing that happens after gathering in the produce of the land. Jewish people also spend the week in tents (booths) as a reminder of the time when the Israelites lived in tents after the Exodus from Egypt.

TRADITIONS: We build and decorate *sukkahs* (tents or booths) then eat, sleep and practice hospitality by inviting our neighbors to join us for meals in our sukkah. We also wave the *lulav* (a wand of palm, myrtle, and willow branches) and *etrog* (a citrus fruit in Israel similar to a lemon) in celebration. We observe a day of rest on the first and last day of Sukkot.

GREETING: *Chag Sameach!* meaning “Happy Holiday!”



SIMCHAT TORAH

Jewish Calendar: Tishrei 23

Starts: Sunset, October 14, 2025

Ends: Sunset, October 15, 2025

Messianic Reflection: Matthew 5:17, 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Simchat Torah means “Joy of the Torah” and is the traditional celebration of God’s Word. It is the grand finale of the High Holy Days season. Although the holiday is not mentioned in the Torah, it has become a day where Jewish people complete their yearly cycle of Torah public readings with the final portion from Deuteronomy. The following Shabbat Parasha reading is from Genesis to symbolize the never-ending cycle of blessing from the Torah.

TRADITIONS: Women light candles on the eve of Simchat Torah and recite the special blessing over festival candles. The main event in synagogues is the spirited Torah procession, often accompanied by dancing and singing.

GREETING: *L’Shana Tovah!* meaning “Happy New Year!”

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