

# The Chosen People



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## Reflecting on God's Forgiveness

*The Jewish High Holy Days*

*May you be inscribed for a good year*



*Atonement • Forgiveness • Prayer*

*Works of mercy • Repentance*

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# Reflecting on God's Forgiveness

L'shanah tovah  
tikatevu

לְשָׁנָה טוֹבָה תִּכְתְּבוּ

## The High Holy Days

### Reflecting on God's Forgiveness

Shalom from New York City!  
The autumn months have always  
seemed to me to be a little tinged  
with melancholy. Perhaps it started

because the end of summer signaled  
a return to the classroom after the  
glorious freedom of two whole  
months without homework.  
Or maybe because there is simply  
something indefinable in the air  
that, combined with the falling  
leaves, makes us aware of the passage  
of time.

Isn't it also true that the joy of the  
Lord can sometimes fill us with a  
burden for others to know that same  
joy? That is how I feel in the  
autumn, when the Jewish people  
celebrate the High Holy Days of  
*Rosh Hashanah* (the Jewish New  
Year) and *Yom Kippur* (the Day of  
Atonement). These Jewish  
observances, often almost the only  
hint of "religion" in so many Jewish

lives, fill me with a desire for the  
Jewish people to grasp the truth to  
which Israel's Holy Days point—  
their fulfillment in Jesus the Messiah.

#### The High Holy Days and Repentance

The High Holy Days begin with  
a sound that has echoed through the  
centuries—the blast of the *Shofar*  
(Ram's Horn). This ancient ritual  
has served as a call to repentance.  
*"Return to the LORD your God, for He  
is gracious and merciful..."* (Joel 2:13)  
is the watch cry of the New Year. In  
Jewish tradition, on Rosh Hashanah,  
God's Book of Life is opened and  
our lives are weighed in the balance.  
The traditional Jewish New Year  
greeting, "L'shanah tovah tikatevu"

“May you be inscribed for a good year”), expresses the hope that when that book is closed on Yom Kippur, our names will be written for good things.

Along with prayer and works of mercy, repentance is one of the “Three Pillars” of the Jewish faith. These three principles of action are meant to take the place of sacrifice in an age when the destruction of the Temple has made it impossible to offer the sacrifice. And yet, Scripture makes it clear that sacrifice is the only effective means through which sins can be forgiven.

### The High Holy Days and Forgiveness

The ten days that separate Rosh Hashanah from Yom Kippur are known as the “Days of Awe.” During this time, observant Jews examine their lives and diligently seek to correct any ways in which they have offended God and others. It is a time when amends are made, so far as it is possible, with those whom we have offended. And on Yom Kippur, which is a day of fasting, much of the day is spent in the synagogue in prayer for God’s forgiveness.

The ancient liturgy of Yom Kippur poses weighty questions. “Who will be born and who will die, who will be serene and who will be disturbed, who will be poor and who will be rich, who will be humbled and who will be exalted?”

Who will be inscribed in God’s favor and who will not? Many Jewish people of conscience cannot help but feel a sense of dread during this time. For deep down, we know that no amount of repentance, prayer or works of mercy can tip the balance in our favor. Our sin is too weighty. But who, if not the High Priest, can intercede for us? And what, if not the sinless offering of sacrifice, can suffice to bring us release from the just judgment of our righteous God?

Yom Kippur closes with another blast of the Shofar. But so often, even a glimpse of the forgiveness that the Jewish people long for seems as far off as God Himself.

### Messiah and the High Priesthood

Have you looked into the Book of Hebrews lately? It is a wonderful exploration of Messianic fulfillment. Its message is especially powerful during the High Holy Days because it speaks so beautifully to the relationship between our need for sacrifice and how completely Messiah has met this need. It also shows how the ministry of Messiah fulfills the earlier covenants God made with Israel, enabling us to grasp them more fully in light of what Messiah has done.

Much of the Book of Leviticus is devoted to the subject of sacrifice, for one of the most basic truths that the Scriptures convey to us is that our sinfulness creates a distance between us and God that can only be bridged from His side to ours. This is why the provision of sacrifice is so important, for only through sacrifice may our sin be blotted out and our peace with God be restored.

Leviticus 16 describes the High Priest’s duties on the Day of Atonement: “Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel...that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel” (Leviticus 16:15-17).

It is against this background that the ministry of Messiah, our High

Priest, comes to fruition: “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come...Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:11-14).

### May You Be Inscribed

How wonderful it is to see that Jesus, our High Priest, need not sacrifice every year,



but became our sacrifice once and for all time. The offering He makes is not the blood of goats and calves, but His own blood, shed once for the sake of our lasting reconciliation.

So, in good Jewish tradition, I say to you, “L’shanah tovah tikatevu.” May you be inscribed, not only for a good year, but also for eternity; not through your repentance, prayers or good works—worthy as those things are—but because of your faith in the Messiah who died for you so that you might live with Him forever.

Yours in Messiah,

*Mitch*  
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

# The High Holy Days in the Time of Messiah



The Jewish context of the life and ministry of Jesus the Messiah is the source of a constantly renewed sense of wonder.

We marvel at the mystery of the Incarnation as we contemplate the earthly life of the Lord and the Jewish trappings that accompany it. And we are struck by the part played by the Temple, its services and the other Jewish observances that are so carefully described in the Gospels. This is the world that Jesus entered, we remind ourselves. This is the world that His presence reshaped forever.

## Rosh Hashanah in the Time of Jesus

The Hebrew month of Tishrei is the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. In truth, there are several anniversaries in the Jewish cycle of months that might be thought of as “New Year” dates, and *Rosh Hashanah* (the Head of the Year) could be thought of as the anniversary of Israel’s civil year. Although not specifically named, Rosh Hashanah and the ten intervening “Days of Awe” leading up to and concluding with *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement) are described in Leviticus 23:23-28:

*Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.’” And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. And*

*you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.”*

Although Rosh Hashanah’s main emphasis has come to be repentance, other themes are also stressed during this time. As early as First Temple times, the Kingship of God was emphasized, perhaps with the chanting of the royal psalms. Covenant is also a prominent theme, as Israel prays that God will remember His promises to Israel. In the Book of Nehemiah, “all the people gathered together as one man” at the newly rebuilt Temple on Rosh Hashanah: “*So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month*” (Nehemiah 8:2).

Rosh Hashanah in the time of Jesus was an elaborate and moving affair. The sound of the Shofar reverberating from the Temple Mount would have been truly awe-inspiring. A priest trained from his youth would blow three blasts, which would be followed by the piercing notes of silver trumpets sounded by two other priests standing nearby. It was considered a religious duty to hear the notes of the Shofar and to respond to its call to repentance.



## Yom Kippur and the Ritual of Sacrifice

Life is in the blood (Genesis 9:4). This is one of the fundamental truths of Israelite faith. Even before Temple times, when Israel worshiped in the Tabernacle during the wilderness wandering, the Lord made provision for the covering of Israel’s sin through the offerings spelled out in the sacrificial system.

The sin offering for atonement was of utmost importance—otherwise the cloud of sin would prevent Israel from continuing in fellowship with the Lord.

*“And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD”* (Exodus 30:10).

By the first century, the services at Herod’s Temple had far surpassed the rituals described in the Hebrew Scriptures in terms of complexity. But the fundamental truth had not

changed. It still has not changed. Only through the sacrificial shedding of innocent blood may our forgiveness be procured. In Jesus’ day, the High Priest, after lengthy and painstaking ritual preparation undertaken for days before, performed the sacrifice and entered the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur just as his predecessors had done.

After the destruction of the Second Temple in the year 70, Judaism was faced with a crisis that would require it literally to remake itself. For if sacrifice was the cost of forgiveness, and that cost could no longer be paid, how could God’s forgiveness be obtained? Repentance, prayer and works of mercy became a substitute for sacrifice in Judaism. But it is a substitute that we know to be inadequate.

## Atonement and Fulfillment in Messiah

Scripture does not tell us if Jesus observed either Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur in the Temple. But the

Gospels show us that Jesus was no stranger to the Temple. He taught there and He worshiped there. Indeed, although his hearers misunderstood the meaning of His words, He proclaimed His own body to be the Temple when He said, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19).

The correspondence that the Messiah draws between the Temple and Himself is only one of many ways that Jesus indicates His ministry of atonement and reconciliation



among us. Another example is John 17, the “High Priestly Prayer,” when Jesus prays for Himself, His earthly family of disciples, and for all who believe in Him throughout time. As He prepared to go to

the Cross, He paralleled the prayer of the High Priest in Leviticus 16 as he ministered in the Holy of Holies.

From the Book of Genesis forward, God has always provided a means through which our sins could be forgiven and our fellowship with God restored. The sacrificial system had its part to play in preparation for the coming of Messiah. Now, it is God’s will that we be redeemed through faith in Him, for “*By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God...*” (Hebrews 10:10-12).

### Sources consulted:

Glaser, Mitch and Zhava, *The Fall Feasts of Israel* (Moody Press, Chicago), 1987.  
Hammer, Reuven, *Entering Jewish Prayer* (Schocken Books, New York), 1994.

# Rosh Hashanah: September 16

# Yom Kippur: September 25

# Sukkot: September 30

## Grandma Roz’s Jewish Brisket

My mother-in-law’s brisket was always a favorite when the family got together for the High Holidays. Rosh Hashanah and Grandma’s brisket were synonymous—well, almost. Grandma Roz was always generous in sharing her recipes, so I want to share her delicious Jewish brisket recipe with you. You won’t believe how easy it is to make!

- 1 3-5 lb. beef brisket
- 1 package onion soup mix
- 1 can of ginger ale
- 1/2 cup of ketchup
- 3 onions, cut up
- lots of garlic
- 1 oven bag

Just put all the ingredients into the oven bag, place it in a pan and bake! Is that easy or what? Two hours at 350° F should do it. But hold on, you’re not done quite yet! Now you need to take the brisket out of the bag, pour the juices into the pan, and discard the bag. Slice the brisket against the grain and put it back in the pan, cover with foil, and continue to bake for another hour or two, until fork tender. The secret is that the sliced brisket continues to cook in those delicious juices. I guarantee when you eat this, you’ll feel like you had a Jewish mother too!

— Zhava Glaser



# See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

by Daniel Goldberg, Th.D., D.D.

## THE ORIGIN AND OBJECTIVE OF ANTI-SEMITISM (Revelation 12)



The Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, California, keeps a watchful eye on the increasing rise of anti-Semitism today, reporting the global hatred of Jews and acts of atrocity against our people in contemporary society. What is the reason for these horrifying deeds? Revelation 12 gives a startling picture of the origin and objective of anti-Semitism, personified by three important persons who occupy the stage.

### A WOMAN IN TRAVAIL (ISRAEL)

The first figure is "...a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth" (Revelation 12:1, 2). The twelve stars of her crown are reminiscent of Joseph's dream

(Genesis 37:9) and of the twelve tribes of Israel. Every attempt has been made to exterminate the woman (Israel) in her history including enslavement (Exodus 2), cursing (Numbers 23), capturing (II Kings 17, 24) and hanging (Esther 3). Add to this the gas chambers of Hitler.

### HER VICTORIOUS SON (MESSIAH)

The second person is described in Revelation 12:5, "*She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.*" The woman's son is described as ascended (Acts 1:8-11), enthroned (Revelation 4:2) and ruling (Psalm 2:8, 9). To her Son, the Messiah, all worship will be directed (Revelation 5:11-14) and every knee will bow (Philippians 2:10).

### THE RED DRAGON— PERSECUTOR (THE DEVIL)

Finally, in Revelation 12:3 and 12:9, we meet the great red dragon, identified as the old serpent, the Devil, and Satan. He is great in power (Matthew 4:8,9), red in blood-letting (Revelation 17:6) and older than the serpent of Eden (Genesis 3), reminding us of the first body he utilized. The dragon is the "deceiver of the whole world" (Revelation 12:9) and also of angels, having caused as many as one-third of them to rebel. "*His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth...*" (Revelation 12:4).

### THE GREAT SATANIC SCHEME

Now, the agenda of the dragon unfolds: "*And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born*" (Revelation 12:4). Here is the major objective of the dragon: to "devour the Child." In this respect, the Devil succeeded in "bruising the heel" of the Messiah (Genesis 3:15), when He died for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:6).

But Satan's attempt to devour the Child (Matthew 2:13) failed. Now the Devil turns to vent his wrath against the woman (Israel). "*And when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child*" (Revelation 12:13). The reason for all anti-Semitism is the dragon's strike against the Messiah through the woman (Israel).

Anti-Semitism is on the rise and, in the future, when Satan will be cast out of heaven to the earth (12:13), the greatest persecution of the Jewish people will occur during the Tribulation. The survival of the Jewish people is totally dependent upon God's Divine intervention (12:6,14). ✧

**“IS IT POSSIBLE HE’S BEEN HERE?”**

Dennis and Tina K, who minister in the Washington D.C. area, were out shopping in the mall one day when a young man who was serving them looked at the Hebrew inscription on Dennis’ wedding ring. It turned out the young man was from Israel. He and Dennis began to talk and Dennis shared how the Hebrew Scriptures point to the Messiah. The young man wondered aloud, “Is it possible He’s been here?” Dennis has visited with him twice more and has given him Gospel material to read. Please pray for a fruitful relationship to develop.

**MESSIAH BRINGS SALVATION DECISIONS IN THE PROMISED LAND**

Henry M., who is serving in Israel, recently spoke at the Chosen People Ministries congregation in Tel Aviv. At the end of the service, a Russian Jewish lady came to the front in tears and surrendered her heart to Messiah Jesus. The whole congregation was full of joy and will follow up with fellowship and discipleship. Elsewhere in Israel, staff member Maxim L. was part of a group that ministered through a seminar for senior citizens. During this program, the Lord opened the heart of an 84-year-old Jewish man, who prayed to receive the Lord.

**NEW FAITH DECISIONS IN GERMANY**

Vladimir Pikman, the director of our work in Germany, recently returned there on a break from his seminary studies in the U.S. He lost no time getting back into the swing of things. At a recent baptismal service where he ministered, the husband of one of the women who was baptized came to faith during the service. Vladimir reports, “Even since we arrived in Berlin this summer, during each of our services, we have seen people coming to Jesus. Praise the Lord!”

**NESSIMS PREPARE TO RENEW MISSION’S WORK IN ENGLAND**

Daniel and Deborah Nessim, who have been ministering with the Mission in the Seattle, Washington area for the past five years, are now preparing to follow the Lord to London, England this fall to help renew Chosen People Ministries’ work there. Today, there are 300,000 Jewish people in the United Kingdom—with 200,000 in London alone.



Daniel is well fitted for this new role, for he is a second-generation Jewish believer who spent the first nine years of his life in London. His father, Elie, ministered there with a mission that aided the poorer members of the Jewish population.

**A HARD HEART SOFTENS THROUGH GOD’S LOVE**

Boris Goldin, who ministers in our Russian-speaking Messianic congregation in South Florida, tells of a visitor who started out very skeptical and unreceptive through most of the service. But, as Oleg\* confessed much later, he began to hear things that compelled him to stay. Although he was working, he was homeless, helpless and arrogant at the same time. After much fellowship, prayer and teaching, he finally put his trust in Jesus as his promised Messiah and Savior. As Boris says, “It was a long journey from the deep, hopeless hole back to a normal life.”

**AN OPEN HOUSE LEADS TO AN OPEN HEART**

The gift of hospitality can be a powerful tool for the Lord’s kingdom. Recently, Michael and Lisa Cohen, who are ministering in Southern California, invited their Jewish neighbor, Daniel,\* for dinner. They discovered that Daniel was far more open to the Gospel than they had imagined! They sat down and went through the Word, reading various passages in the Old Testament that demonstrate our need to be forgiven of sin and to accept Messiah’s atoning sacrifice. Daniel said he understood and then prayed to receive the Lord. Please pray for Daniel as he grows in his newfound faith.

\* Names changed

# See Israel through Jewish Eyes

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### Shofar

The piercing notes of the *Shofar* have echoed throughout centuries of Jewish High Holy Day observances. The shofar calls us to prayer and reminds us of the blessed hope of Messiah's arrival. Now you can treasure one of your own. They also make wonderful gifts. Because each Shofar is unique, yours may vary slightly in size and shape from the one shown here. Made in Israel.

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will. "I will bless those who bless you." (Genesis 12:3)