

Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work and you shall present a food offering to the Lord. (Leviticus 23:23-25)

This feast is also called Rosh Hashanah as it is the Jewish spiritual new year. The Hebrew word rosh means “head” or “beginning” and hashanah means “the year”.

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the 10 Days of Awe. The Days of Awe call people to turn to God, which means turning away from sin. It is a time to look deep inside our hearts and pray as King David did: “See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way” (Psalm 139:24). This very serious 10-day period lasts until the end of Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement).

A shofar is a ram’s horn. There is a bend in a shofar that can represent a human heart in true repentance bowing before the Lord. The shofar is blown to bring to memory God’s provision of the ram that Abraham sacrificed in place of his only son, Isaac. (Genesis 22:1-18) The sound of the shofar reminds us that God is not far away, but very close to us, involved in our lives. He says through the sound of the shofar: “I love you. Pay attention!”

Ways to Celebrate:

Make a round challah. Use a recipe for a Shabbat challah, but form it into a round loaf. Or you can use any circular bread that you like. The circular shape of the bread for Rosh Hashanah represents a crown. It reminds us that God is a mighty Ruler, the King of our lives. It also reminds us that we need to make good choices to obey God in the coming year.

Eat apples dipped in honey. Apples + Honey = the hope that the upcoming year will be a sweet one, also a time to look back on God’s faithfulness in the past year

Eat carrots. The Hebrew word for carrots means “to increase” - eat carrots in abundance and hope that God will increase our blessings for the next year.

Have a Tashlich service.

Tashlich means “you will cast.”

What you do:

- Go with your family to a moving body of water.
- Read Micah 7:18-19
- Throw rocks or bread crumbs into the moving water and watch them float away.
- Understand that the rocks/bread crumbs represent our sins, the wrong things we have done. The moving water represents God’s forgiveness and mercy flowing toward us.
- Worship by singing your favorite songs about God’s love and forgiveness.

Have a good year in Jesus the Messiah!

Resources

Celebrating Biblical Feasts. Martha Zimmerman.

Walk with Y'shua Through the Jewish Year. Janie-sue Wertheim and Kathy Shapiro.

Feasts of the Bible. Dr. Sam Nadler.