

Celebrate the Jewish Year



The Biblical holy days are not just for Jewish people. All believers can receive the blessing of these glorious days, the greatest object lessons in the Bible. Author Barney Kasdan offers historical background, traditional Jewish observance, relevance to the New Testament, prophetic significance, and a practical guide for believers, including recipes, songs and crafts.

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Often Jewish people are hindered from accepting Yeshua by the thought of what their families might think. After centuries of persecution and of choosing martyrdom rather than accepting 'That Man,' to change and accept Him is unthinkable! We know that all those who have already entered eternity would cry out to their descendants. They would say 'That Man' in whose Name we were cruelly persecuted truly is our Messiah, the Son of God. Others may have falsely used His Name and grieved Him by doing so, but Yeshua truly is our Messiah.

During the Day of Atonement, featured in this letter, Jewish people worldwide sense a living connection to Jews of all time, from the forefathers to now. That connection is the realization that in all times and places our sins need to be forgiven. For each person who finds that connection—faith in Yeshua—the experience is nothing less than 'life from the dead.'

As you read our article on the High Holy Days, please remember to pray for the Jewish people, who as much as any people in the world need to know 'That Man.' Thank you for your support that makes our ministry to the Jewish people possible.

Yours in Messiah Yeshua,

Daniel
Daniel Nessim



UK Director, Daniel Nessim

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Recently a young believer who had just returned from a ministry trip to Israel during the war related to me his experiences in sharing the Gospel with a Jewish man in Haifa. A few days later he phoned to tell me that he had just heard that his friend had accepted the Lord Yeshua (Jesus) as his Messiah! Not only that, but this man's wife had accepted the Lord as well.

This kind of report warms my heart, and I know it does yours as well. Just as the angels rejoice over one lost person entering the Kingdom, so do we. I have a strong suspicion that we are entering a new era in 'Jewish evangelism,' as we call our efforts to share the Gospel with Jewish people. As happened a century ago, more and more Jewish people are willing to consider the Person of Yeshua. This is happening with an individual here and there in the UK, and we know it is happening in other Jewish communities around the world where Chosen People Ministries is working.

There is a desperate need, of course, for workers who will enter this harvest. There is a need for supporters, who with their prayers and gifts will make it possible for these workers to do the work that they cannot do themselves. More than anything, there is the need for a fresh move of God's Spirit among the Jewish people. When the time is right, we know that God will move in this way as we beseech Him to do.

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The Chosen People

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Prayer & Praise from Around the World

☆ Staff Safe in Israel

Expressions of concern during the recent outbreak of hostilities against Israel have poured in from all over the world. During this time, the Messianic Jewish Center in Jerusalem became a haven for displaced workers from northern Israel. However, it was our short-term programs that were closest to the danger. Justin Kron, who leads Chosen People Ministries' eXperience Israel, reported, 'Even though the events forced us to rearrange our plans in the northern region, we were still able to demonstrate that terrorism was not going to stand in the way of our mission in Israel. In fact, it only enhanced it. Although on a grand scale we had a few close calls, at no point did we ever feel like our lives were at risk.'

☆ 'Coffeehouse Rabbi' Comes to Faith

The road to faith may take some time. About six years ago a young congregant from a Messianic congregation in Southern California approached a Jewish man in a local coffee shop where the man had earned the nickname 'rabbi.' But the 'rabbi' yelled at this young man and chased him away. A few years later, another man in the congregation asked if he would attend a local Bible study at his home. The man agreed and also began attending services. Finally, after a service, the 'Coffeehouse Rabbi' told staff member Larry Feldman that it was because of the congregation that he is now a believer in Messiah.



The Day of Atonement

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, falls on the tenth day of the Jewish month Tishrei. This year, that is Monday, October 2. There is no more solemn day on the Jewish calendar. This is when the people of Israel are commanded to 'afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord' (Leviticus 23:28). That is exactly what happens, except...

No sacrifice!

While the typical Jewish reader of this Scripture would rarely consider it, the first

thing that jumps out to many readers is the fact that there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. Many question, 'How do the Jewish people expect to be forgiven by God, when the Holy Temple in Jerusalem has been destroyed and the system with a High Priest and an altar is no more?' While for two millennia now the Jewish people have been mourning the loss of the Temple, and praying for the restoration of Jerusalem under the King Messiah, this is not the first question in the Jewish mind.

Those who observe the Day of Atonement have ideally been preparing their hearts for over a week. This has been a season of penitence and efforts to please God. They have made confession (as part of repentance, *teshuvah*) to the Almighty. They have set wrong relationships right. They have given charitable gifts (*tzedakah*) and performed good deeds. They have fervently uttered special prayers (*tefillot*). With no temple, no sacrifice, all that can be offered is the sacrifice of a heart and life true to God. The words of the prophet quoted in the Jewish prayerbook are a source of hope: '*For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings*' (Hosea 6:6).



What is the difference? We know and are assured that our sins have been covered. A sacrifice has been made and atonement has been granted. We know that our 'Redeemer lives' (Job 19:25). Should we pray, our prayers are prayers of dedication to the Lord. They are pleas for the salvation of all the people of Israel, and for the coming reign of our King who will reveal Himself to His people.

At the end of the day, the final synagogue service concludes with the blowing of the ram's horn, the *shofar*. The shofar has a piercing tone. Its use is reserved for special and momentous occasions, not for casual daily or weekly use. It is a symbol for many things, but at this point it signifies that the 'gates' are closed for another year. The shofar has been blown many times since the beginning of the month. It has turned hearts and thoughts towards God. Now it says the Day of Atonement, the day appointed, is over. The books have been closed and this special chance to get right with God is past.

We who realize that our Messiah is Yeshua (Jesus) know that He gave His life for us in a sacrifice to end all sacrifices. His resurrection seals and signifies God's acceptance of that sacrifice. It is the basis of our hope that we will be written in the Book of Life. We know that we have received atonement through Him. How much more should we all pray for those who do not know the source of atonement, who do not know that the Saviour lives. It is our goal to make Him known, so that people might find true salvation through Him.

There is a sacrifice!

Jews and Christians agree that God is a pardoning God. We desire to make it clear what the basis of that pardon is: Faith in the Messiah, the son of David, the Son of God.

