

~ Prayer for Israel ~
Shabbat, September 5, 2009
Nebraska House of Prayer
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

~ The Jewish High Holy Days ~

Rosh HaShana (The Jewish New Year 5770)

Begins at sundown Friday September 18 and ends at nightfall Sunday September 20th

10 Days of Awe (the period between the two holy days)

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

Begins at sundown Sunday September 27th and lasts all day Monday September 28th until sundown

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."*

The fall festival season begins with a 40-day period called, in Hebrew, Teshuvah, which means **‘to repent or return’**. This 40-day period begins in the sixth month of the Jewish religious calendar, the month of Elul, and concludes on the tenth day of the seventh month, which is Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement. Each morning in the synagogue following the morning prayers, a shofar is blown (except on Sabbaths and the day preceding Rosh HaShanah). Psalm 27 is read every day. Rosh HaShanah is the thirtieth day into this 40-day period of Teshuvah or repentance. The biblical name for Rosh HaShanah is Yom Terurah, which means ‘the day of the awakening blast’, or the Feast of Trumpets. Rosh in Hebrew means ‘chief or head’ and shanah means ‘year’. It is observed for two days. It is the day when the people of Israel take stock of their spiritual condition and make the necessary changes to insure that the upcoming new year will be pleasing to God. In the *Tashlich* ceremony, the contents of pockets (also bread crumbs), symbolizing their sins, are tossed into a stream, for the fish to eat and carry away. Tashlich, which means casting off, involves walking to a body of flowing water and throwing pieces of bread into the water. The bread is a symbolic representation of one's sins, which are cast off in preparation for a more pure year to come.

Rosh HaShanah is celebrated by the Jewish people as their ‘New Year’s Day’ and marked by a time of introspection, repentance and new resolutions. It is solemn as well as festive, as Jewish people worldwide examine their past deeds and asks for forgiveness for their sins. The Jewish New Year’s Day is celebrated with its holiday greeting cards, special prayers, and festive sweet foods, i.e., apples dipped in honey, to ensure sweetness in the New Year. The New Year is celebrated in the Fall, the time of planting. Ancient Jewish people were very connected to the land; therefore, planting time to them was considered the beginning of the year. Jewish people offered prayers so that the harvest would be a good one, and that rain would fall. The most common form of Rosh Hashanah greeting is simply: L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu! ("May you be inscribed (in the Book of Life) for a good year!")

Note: The shofar is blasted at least 100 times during a typical Rosh Hashanah service, thus satisfying the commandment to make Teru'ah ("noise") on this day. The "blowing" is to call the people to repentance before the Holy One. One of the most important observances of this holiday is **hearing** the sounding of the shofar in the synagogue. There are four primary types of shofar blasts. The general custom is to first blow tekiah, followed by shevarim, followed by teruah, and to close with tekiah hagadol: 1. **Tekiah** - A long single blast (the sound of the King's coronation) 2. **Shevarim**- Three short wail-like blasts (signifying repentance). 3. **Teru'ah** - Nine staccato blasts of alarm (to awaken the soul). 4. **Tekiah ha-Gadol** - A great long blast (for as long as you can blow!) The piercing cry of the Tekiah... The broken groan of the Shevarim's three notes... The staccato sobbing of the Teruah... **THEY ARE A MIGHTY PRAYER!** If Rosh Hashanah happens to fall on a Shabbat, no shofar blasts will be heard (since carrying a shofar is work). All prayers do not need words. That is why we blow the shofar. Rabbi Shaul, the Apostle Paul said: *“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” Romans 8:26-27*

The Talmud states that on Rosh Hashanah the dead will be raised (Rosh Hashanah 16b). This corresponds to the "last trump" mentioned by the Apostle Paul. The sound of the shofar is meant to awaken our consciousness that the LORD is King of the Universe. *"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a*

moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet (shofar): for the trumpet (shofar) shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." **1 Corinthians 15:51**

"How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound (teruah), O LORD; they walk in the light of Your Presence" **Psalm 89:15.**

"In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you are to have a holy convocation; do not do any kind of ordinary work; it is a day of blowing the shofar for you." **Numbers 29:1**

"When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the **trumpets**. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies". **Numbers 10:9**

"When you hear them sound a long blast on the **trumpets**, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in." **Joshua 6:4-5**

In the last days, God will work wonders on the earth and restore his people Israel and the salvation of the world will be near, as it says, "On that day a great shofar will sound. Those lost in the land of Assyria will come, also those scattered through the land of Egypt; and they will worship ADONAI on the holy mountain in Jerusalem" (**Isa. 27:13**)

And our Messiah's coming will be preceded by the sounding of God's great shofar, as it says, "Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow go forth like lightning; the Lord GOD will sound the shofar, and march forth in the whirlwinds of the south" **Zech. 9:14**

"with trumpets and the blast of the **ram's horn**— shout for joy before the LORD, the King". **Psalm 98:6**

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with God's shofar; those who died united with the Messiah will be the first to rise then we who are left still alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord" (**1 Thess. 4:16-17**).

"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, all the tribes of the Land will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with tremendous power and glory. He will send out his angels with a great shofar; and they will gather together his chosen people from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" **Matthew 24:30-31.**

The Ten Days of Awe between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, are the days where a person's lot for the year is determined, hence the awesomeness of the time. Man has a chance to alter this verdict, if he sincerely repents, has prepared well during the month of Elul, and on Rosh HaShanah renews his efforts of repentance, prayer, and charity.

"When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will **return** to the LORD your God and obey him". **Deuteronomy 4:30**

"and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you". **Deuteronomy 30:2-3**

"If you **return** to the LORD, then your brothers and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will come back to this land, for the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you **return** to him." **2 Chronicles 30:9**

"Go, proclaim this message toward the north: " **Return**, faithless Israel,' declares the LORD, 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful,' declares the LORD, 'I will not be angry forever". **Jeremiah 3:12**

"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart". Jeremiah 24:7

"Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD". Lamentations 3:40 "Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may return; renew our days as of old". Lamentations 5:21 "Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall". Hosea 14:1

"Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity". Joel 2:13 "Repent and believe the gospel". Mark 1:15

"and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not take warning and the sword comes and takes his life, his blood will be on his own head. Since he heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning, his blood will be on his own head. If he had taken warning, he would have saved himself. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood." Ezekiel 33:3-6

YOM KIPPUR is the holiest day of the Jewish year. The biblical name for the day of Atonement is Yom Kippurim, meaning "the day of covering, canceling, pardon, reconciling." Yom Kippur was the only time when the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies and call upon the Name of YHVH to offer blood sacrifice for the sins of the people. This "life for a life" principle is the foundation of the sacrificial system and marked the great day of intercession made by the High Priest on behalf of Israel. **The "Day of Atonement"** is the English phrase for Yom Kippur. The shrosh [root] for the word "Kippur" is kafar, which probably derives from the word kofer, meaning "ransom." This word is parallel to the word "redeem" (**Psalm 49:7**) and means "to atone by offering a substitute." The great majority of usages in the Tanakh concern "making an atonement" by the priestly ritual of sprinkling of sacrificial blood to remove sin or defilement. The life blood of the sacrificial animal was required in exchange for the life blood of the worshipper (the symbolic expression of innocent life given for guilty life). This symbolism is further clarified by the action of the worshipper in placing his hands on the head of the sacrifice and confessing his sins over the animal (**Leviticus 16:21; 1:4; 4:4, etc.**) which was then killed or sent out as a scapegoat. The shrosh also appears in the term Kapporet [the so-called "Mercy Seat," but better rendered as simply the place of atonement]. The Kapporet is the golden cover of the sacred chest in the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle or temple where the sacrificial blood was presented.

Modern Day Yom Kippur: Though originally focused on the Kohen Gadol [High Priest], since the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, Rabbinic tradition states that each individual Jew is supposed to focus on his personal avodah, or service to the LORD. Most Yom Kippur prayers therefore revolve around the central theme of personal repentance and return. On Yom Kippur, observant Jewish people according to Halakhah, must abstain from five forms of pleasures: eating and drinking; washing and bathing; applying lotions or perfume; wearing leather shoes (a sign of luxury); marital relations. By fasting and praying all day, we are said to resemble angels. By giving up the sensual pleasures of life and refraining from melakha, we are said to live for 25 hours as if we are dead (many men wear kittels (white burial robes) and white raiment, to remind them of their fate as mortals before God).

One must remember that fasting was not the essential ingredient in Yom Kippur, but the sacrifice. Israel's sins were forgiven based on a sacrifice at the Temple. The Temple was destroyed in 70 CE. Without a temple, you cannot have a sacrifice. It is the rabbis, not the Hebrew Scriptures, who have said that fasting can replace the Yom Kippur sacrifice. While it is true that we are commanded to deny ourselves on Yom Kippur, the major emphasis is on the sacrifice. Both the Hebrew Scriptures and the Renewed Covenant (New Testament) demand the shedding of blood. Since the destruction of the Temple, it has been impossible to worship on Yom Kippur as the Torah commands. Without a temple there can be no sacrifice.

"For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for ourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" Leviticus 17:11. In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Hebrews 9:22.

“And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob”. **Romans 11:26**

“But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, “that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **Rom. 10:8-13**

“If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” **Rev 20:15**

*“For the **life** of a creature **is** in the **blood**, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it **is** the **blood** that makes atonement for one's **life**”.* **Leviticus 17:11**

*Then, when I make **atonement** for you for all you have done, you will remember and be ashamed and never again open your mouth because of your humiliation, declares the Sovereign **LORD**.’* **Ezekiel 16:63**

*“For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make **atonement** for the sins of the people”.* **Hebrews 2:17**

“Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.” **Rev 21:27**

Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. **Psalms 143:2** *As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;”* **Romans 3:10**

*“**The Redeemer will come** to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the Lord.* **Is 59:20**

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” **Is 53:5-6**

*“**And I will pour out** on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”* **Zech 12:10**

*“**No** longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”* **Jer 31:34** *“**All the prophets** testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”* **Acts 10:43**

“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus”. **Romans 3:21-26** *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”* **2 Corinthians 5:10** *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”* **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

PRAYER POINTS FOR ISRAEL:

1. Pray for all people everywhere to return to the God of the Bible and for all Israel to be Saved: *“This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,” Isaiah 44:24* *“Then the LORD said: “I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you.” Exodus 34:10* *“Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other”.* **Deuteronomy 4:39** *“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.”* **Isaiah 46:9** *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”* **Acts 4:12**

2. Pray for Prime Minister Netanyahu: President Barack Obama has offered Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to be his friend in return for a freeze on building for Jews in Judea, Samaria and eastern Jerusalem, according to *Politico.com* editor Ben Smith. The website is a multi-million dollar Washington-based operation that focuses on the White House and Congress. The relationship between the two leaders has been termed as chilly even before they met in Washington earlier this year. "Netanyahu's at a pivotal moment," a senior U.S. official told Smith. "Depending on what he decides, he could wind up with a very strong relationship with President Obama and potentially become a historic figure in Israel." Ron Dermer, spokesman for the Prime Minister, declined to comment on the report.

3. Pray for the Truth to Set Captives Free: The Palestinian Authority continues to ignore American demands that it halt anti-Israel propaganda and incitement, and instead it continues to teach children that all of Israel belongs to Arabs. Palestinian Media Watch translated a PA television children's program aired this past Saturday and Sunday, in which children "passed quizzes by answering questions, such as "what is the PA's largest port?" The Obama administration has repeatedly stated that the PA must halt incitement against Israel as it seeks to create a new Arab state in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, including eastern Jerusalem. The U.S., as well as the European Union stresses the principle of "two states for two peoples," but the PA educational system teaches a new generation of Arabs that all of Israel belongs to the PA.

4. Pray for the Judeo/Christian Roots of America to be restored by the People of God: A massive Islamic prayer service will be held on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. at the end of this month – and 50,000 Muslims are expected to take part. For a few hours on Sept. 25, the site where U.S. presidents are traditionally inaugurated, will essentially be turned into a giant outdoor mosque. The Jumma service – weekly Friday prayers – will “echo off of the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument and other great edifices that surround Capitol Hill,” according to the organizers. They explain that the objective of the gathering is to “invite the Muslim Communities and friends of Islam to express and illustrate the wonderful diversity of Islam. We intend to manifest Islam's majestic spiritual principals as revealed by Allah to our beloved prophet Mohammed of Arabia. Likewise, we intend to inspire a new generation of Muslims to work for the greater good of all people.” The event, organized by a mosque in Elizabeth, New Jersey, is billed as a “Day of Islamic Unity.” “Thousands of Muslims from all races, creeds, colors and ethnicities will gather for the sole purpose of prayer,” the organizers’ website states, and “the peace, beauty and solidarity of Islam will shine through America's capitol.” The website page concludes, “Our Time Has Come.”

5. Pray for Jerusalem to remain the undivided capitol of Israel: There are rumors that President Obama will present his dangerous plan to divide Jerusalem in connection with the opening of the 64th Session of the General Assembly on September 15th, just days before the Feast of Trumpets begins. It also coincides with the end of Ramadan, when Muslim hatred of Israel always is at a peak every year. President Obama's peace plan will not only divide Jerusalem but will in essence also force half a million Jews from their homes making the expulsion from Gaza in 2005 pale in comparison. The peace plan is a literal fulfillment of **Joel 3:1-2.** *“In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.”* **The Battle Belongs to the Lord! 1 Samuel 17:47**

6. Pray that God will send confusion into the plans to attack Israel at the opening of the UN General Assembly in September! *“The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.”* (Ps 33:10-11) **IRAN: Ahmadinejad** is requesting a visa to the U.S. to speak to the world at the U.N. via U.S. television networks in New York City just days

after the anniversary of 9/11. His goal is to wipe Israel off the map. **Pray that President Obama doesn't allow Ahmadinejad to come to America; will not grant a visa to him.**

Pray daily: Zechariah 12:9-10, "*On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem. And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.*"

7. Pray for President Obama to have a personal encounter with Yeshua the Jewish Messiah of the whole world: President Obama failed to host an official event marking the National Day of Prayer last May but his White House officially observed Ramadan September 1st. "*They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him*". **Titus 1:16**

8. Pray that many Christians will wake up and turn away from replacement theology during the month of Elul! It is time to make the choice of Ruth and discover their true roots in Zion! "*Where you [Israel] go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.*" (Ruth 1:16) "*you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree.*" (Rom 11:24) "*As they make music they will sing, 'All my fountains are in you [Zion].'*" (Ps 87:7)

9. Pray for the Church to return to Biblical Roots: Pastor Brian McLaren (Emerging Church leader) believes it's possible to be both Christian and pray with Muslims during Ramadan. This year, the popular author and leader is participating in the fast with some of his Christian friends. "We are not doing so in order to become Muslims: we are deeply committed Christians," he wrote in a blog posting last month. "But as Christians, we want to come close to our Muslim neighbors and to share this important part of life with them. We seek to learn from our Muslim sisters and brothers today."

10. Pray with us that there will be a strong, growing opposition in Sweden against the anti Semitic attack in Aftonbladet and that God will turn it around for good! "*May all who hate Zion be turned back in shame. May they be like grass on the roof, which withers before it can grow.*" (Ps 129:5-6)

11. Pray for the outpouring of the spirit of grace and supplication over the Jewish people that they will see the one that has been pierced for them! "*And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.*" (Zech 12:10)

12. Pray all of psalm 83 which includes victory over Hezbollah (the people of Tyre), Hamas and Fatah (Philistia) and the whole Arab world! "*O God, do not keep silent; be not quiet, O God, be not still. See how your enemies are astir, how your foes rear their heads. With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish. "Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.*" (Ps 83:1-4)

13. Pray that many Muslims will convert and accept Yeshua as Lord and Savior! Palestinians are flocking to the Temple Mount for Ramadan (August 21-September 19) Israel's easing of travel restrictions on Palestinians at the start of Ramadan allowed some 90,000 Muslims to flock to the al-Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem on Friday for prayers to mark the start of Islam's holy month. "*pursue them with your tempest and terrify them with your storm. Cover their faces with shame so that men will seek your name, O LORD.*" (Ps 83:15-16)

14. Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem: "*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure*". **Psalm 122:6** "*and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.*" **Isaiah 62:7** "*For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.*" **Isaiah 62:1** "*Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me*" **Ezekiel 3:17** "*I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain.*" **Zechariah 8:3** *As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people....Ps. 125:2*

15. Pray for the Study Tour to Israel and Prayer Journey ~ May 12-24, 2010 ~ That God would draw together all the people that He wants on this study tour and prayer journey. **Psalms 48:11-13; 84:5; 133:1; 137:5; Acts 4:32**