



As we kick off our Garden Series, we find it fitting to acknowledge the Jewish Holy Days and feasts that mark this time of year. These Holy Days and feasts invite us to connect with God in specific ways but one of the invitations they have in common is to enter into the rest of God.

Genesis 2:3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy (sanctified it), because on it God rested (sabbath) from all his work that he had done in creation.

(The first time the word holy or sanctified is used in the Bible it is used in relation to sabbath, to rest!)

Rosh Hashanah the Jewish New Year (September 6-8, 2021)

- **Rosh Hashanah** means The Head of the Year (Ezekiel 40:1)
- **Rosh Hashanah** is also referred to as the **Feast of Trumpets**.
 - Leviticus 23:23-25 “*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’*”, also see Numbers 29:1-6)
- **Rosh Hashanah** commemorates the creation of the world (Genesis 1-2).
- **Rosh Hashanah** kicks off 10 Days of Awe for repentance and renewal (refreshing). Throughout the 10 Days of Awe (Repentance) leading up to Yom Kippur, those practicing Judaism take this time to reflect on personal aspects of the past year, deciding how to improve, seeking forgiveness and showing compassion to others.
- **Rosh Hashanah** 2021-2022 is the year 5782 according to the Jewish Calendar
 - The significance of Year 5782 is that it is a Shemita year, “YEAR OF RELEASE”... Just as the Torah calls for Jews to work six days and rest on the seventh, it calls for them to work the land six days and let it rest in the seventh. https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/562077/jewish/What-Is-Shemita.htm
 - i. The Shemita (year of release) year included forgiving debts.
 - Deuteronomy 15:1-2 At the end of seven years you will make a release. And this is the manner of the release: to release the hand of every creditor from what he lent his friend; he shall not exact from his friend or his brother, because the time of the release for the Lord has arrived.
 - ii. The Shemita (year of release) year included giving your land rest.

Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement (September 15-16, 2021)

- **Yom Kippur** means the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:27)
 - Leviticus 23:27 “Also the tenth *day* of this seventh month *shall be* the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.
- **Yom Kippur** is the holiest day in Israel. It is the 10th day after Rosh Hashanah.
 - Leviticus 16:29 “*This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall [a]afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who [b]dwells among you*
- **Yom Kippur** commemorates the day Moses came down from Mount Sinai after seeking God’s divine forgiveness for the Israelites who sinned against him by worshipping a golden calf idol (Exodus 32).
- The 16th chapter of Leviticus offers a detailed description of the various rituals performed by the High Priest in the ancient Temple on Yom Kippur, the one day of the year he was permitted to enter the Temple’s innermost sanctum, the Holy of Holies. The priest would sprinkle the blood of sacrificial animals on the ark and symbolically cast off the nation’s sins by releasing a goat into the desert
(<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/is-yom-kippur-in-the-bible/>)
- **How should you pray?**
 - Take time and thank Jesus, worship and praise Jesus for being our perfect sacrifice, our perfect High Priest, who shed His perfect blood once and for all for sin (Hebrews 8-10). No more sacrifice is needed! The veil has been torn and because of Jesus we have access to the presence of God, confidence in our forgiveness and cleansing, hallelujah!
 - Repentance should always bring us into an even greater joy and gratitude for what Jesus has done! We turn away from sin and turn to our Savior! We want more of Him and His Kingdom in our lives. Make that your focus on this Holy Day!
 - Finally pray for the eyes and hearts of Israel to be opened to Jesus their Messiah. That they would see that eternal forgiveness and purity comes from Jesus’ sacrifice and blood on this Day of Atonement.

After Yom Kippur we have the **Feast of Tabernacles** (Sept. 20-27 2021)

- **Feast of Tabernacles** This is a time to commemorate/celebrate God's provision for Israel during their 40 years in the wilderness, living in tents/booths. It is also known as the Feast of Ingathering marking the end of the harvest time and thus of the agricultural year in the Land of Israel (Exodus 23:16).
 - Leviticus 23 explains the significance of all three of the major feasts, Feast of Passover, Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) and the Feast of Tabernacles (Ingathering) which verse 21 and 41 say are to be observed forever.
 - i. I believe as Gentiles who have been grafted into the covenant made with Israel and are now worshipping Jesus Christ (the Jewish Messiah), honoring these feasts is one of the ways we will provoke Israel to Jealousy and see their eyes opened to the truth that Jesus Christ is their long awaited King.
- **Feast of Tabernacles** is the Feast that we see Jesus standing up and making one of the greatest invitations recorded in the New Testament.
 - John 7:37-38 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
- **Feast of Tabernacles** is the Feast that Zechariah prophesies the nations will come to in order to worship King Jesus, in the age to come, year after year!
 - Zechariah 14:16 Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.
- **How should we pray?**
 - We humble ourselves before You, The Holy One of Israel. As we remember this Sukkot week, we worship and praise your Holy Name. We take special care to rest and reflect during this time of celebration and we recall how well you took care of your people in the wilderness. That reminds us that YOU are always providing for us and we are grateful that you love us and take care of us. We look forward to celebrating this feast with you in heaven every single year in our future. How we long to be with you
(<https://www.songforisrael.org/news/index.php/2015/10/a-sukkot-prayer-feast-of-tabernacles>).
 - The Feast of Tabernacles is a time to come and pour out love, adoration, worship and high praise to our King! This again is what the prophet Zechariah tells us we will be doing year after year in the age to come. Going up to worship the King!! Come join us at 7 Days of Praise this year to do just that
(www.7daysofpraise.com)