

# **Moedim**

## **The Jewish Holidays**

**Purim**

**Tish'a B'Av**

**Forty Days of Teshuva and Ten Days of Awe**

**Chanukah – The Festival of Lights**

## Overview of the Four Holidays

### The Purim Holiday

**Description:** Purim celebrates the victory of the Jews over those who would try to oppress or kill them.

**Date Of Holiday:** 13th and 14th day of Adar (Late February to late March).

**Key Scripture:** *Esther 9:27-28* – “The two days of Purim should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city. These two days should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.”

**Key Word:** Pur [פור H6332]

**Actions:** Lots are cast to determine proceedings.

**Fulfillment:** Death of the Amalekites.

### The Tish'a B'Av Holiday

**Description:** Tish'a B'Av commemorates the destruction of the first and second Temples, both of which were destroyed on the ninth of Av.

**Date Of Holiday:** 9th Day of 5th Month (Av – July / August)

**Key Scriptures:** *Numbers 13:25-14:12, Zechariah 7:3-5, 8:19* – “For this, they were punished and Yahweh decreed that their generation would not enter the land and for all future generations this date would become one of crying and misfortune for their descendants, the Jewish people.”

**Key Word:** Destruction, Day of Sadness

**Actions:** The Scroll of Lamentations is read. The Torah Scroll cabinet (Ark) is covered by black cloth. There is no eating, drinking, washing, bathing, wearing of (leather) shoes, application of creams or oils, and no marital relations.

**Fulfillment:** Destruction of the 1st & 2nd Temples.

### The Forty Days of Teshuva Holiday

**Description:** The forty days of Teshuva are days of repentance, reflection, and restitution.

**Date Of Holiday:** 1st Day of 6th Month (Elul – August / September)

**Key Scriptures:** *Joel 2:13, Ezekiel 14:6, 2 Peter 3:9* – “Tear your heart . . . and **turn** to Yahweh, your God; for he is gracious and merciful.”

**Key Word:** Repentance, Turn Away, Return

**Actions:** Admit wrong doings and past shortcomings, renounce them, and make a firm resolution to change in the future. Teshuva requires restitution to the wronged party and a promise not to repeat the offense. Make every effort to return to an un-fallen or sinless state.

**Fulfillment:** Fulfillment happens at Yom Teruah, when the names are written in the Books Of Judgments And Of Life.

### The Chanukah Holiday

**Description:** Chanukah celebrates the cleansing and re-dedication of the Temple during the period of the Maccabees and the miracle of the Menorah staying lit for eight days despite having only one day's supply of oil.

**Key Scripture:** *John 10:22-23* – “It was winter, and Yeshua was in Jerusalem at the time of the Festival of Dedication, and he was walking in the Portico of Solomon inside the Temple.”

**Date Of Holiday:** Kislev/Tevet (November/December) generally between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

**Key Words:** Lampstand, Light, Menorah

**Actions:** The Menorah candles are lit, starting with the center Shamash (servant) candle, and each subsequent candle is lit from the center candle.

**Fulfillment:** Yeshua's is the Servant Candle

**Holiday – 1**

**Purim**

**The Feast of Lots**

## Holiday -1 – Purim – The Feast of Lots

**Esther 9:27-28** – *“The two days of Purim should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city. These two days should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.”*

### The Purim Holiday

**Description:** Purim celebrates the victory of the Jews over those who would try to oppress or kill them.

**Date Of Holiday:** 13th and 14th day of Adar (Late February to late March).

**Key Scripture:** *Esther 9:27-28* – *“The two days of Purim should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city. These two days should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.”*

**Key Word:** Pur [פּוּר H6332]

**Actions:** Lots are cast to determine proceedings.

**Fulfillment:** Death of the Amalekites.

Purim celebrates the victory of the Jews over those who would try to oppress or kill them. The name of the feast, *The Feast Of Lots*, comes from the plural (Purim) of the Hebrew word: Pur [פּוּר H6332]. It is said that lots (Purim) were cast to determine on which day to destroy the Jews. Purim is to be remembered forever, and is to be celebrated with great joy. It was very likely celebrated by Yeshua and continues to be celebrated today (**John 5:1** – *“After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Yeshua went up to Jerusalem.”*).

This feast was first celebrated by Jews living in Persia, or modern Iran. And, just as in the past, once again we see threats of annihilation being sworn against the Jews by those who rule the same nation that was the source of this feast – Persia! Purim is celebrated each year in February or March. The entire story of Purim is told in the book of Esther.

### Historical Echoes

**Esther 9:6-10** – *“At the citadel in Susa the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men, and Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha, the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jews’ enemy; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.”*

One of the Persian King’s advisors, Haman, hated the Jews because they only bowed down to Yahweh, not to the Persian King, Ahasuerus, nor to Haman, himself. He convinced the King to give him authority to exterminate all of the Jews. Mordecai, however, was able to persuade his niece, Esther, to speak to the king on behalf of the Jewish people, and the King turned the tables on Haman and his cronies, giving the Jews authority over them. Haman and his ten sons (were hanged on the very gallows that he had planned to use to hang Mordecai and the Jews. The names form a paragraph which can read: *He [Mordecai] repeatedly broke the [King’s] decree. The weeper [Haman] gathered together [his wife and friends] in frustration. Then a new decree was made, upon the spoiling of the banquet [given by Esther]. The lion [of Judah] caused the blood of the sons of the man of rage and of the war wager to be sprinkled.*

In **Exodus 17:14** and **Deuteronomy 25:17-19**, Yahweh says that he will have war with the Amalekites from generation to generation until they are destroyed. Haman was a descendant of Agag, an Amalekite king that the Israeli King Saul should have killed years ago (**I Samuel 15**). However, because Saul did not kill Agag, Haman was able to be offended by Mordecai’s actions and to seek his destruction.

### Modern Echoes

Modern history gives us two significant figures who have threatened the Jewish people: Hermann Goring and Joseph Stalin. Their stories seem to have some parallels Haman’s story in the Book of Esther.

According to tradition, Haman’s daughter committed suicide before his execution on the gallows, but Haman and his tens sons were all hanged. In 1946, ten of Hitler’s top associates were put to death by hanging and

Goring, a rumored transvestite, committed suicide. That the Nazi hanging was known to be a parallel to the Haman hanging may be verified by the shout from the gallows by Julius Streicher, who yelled: "Purim Fest 1946!"

Joseph Stalin had plans to deport all of the Jews in 1953. Before he was able to accomplish this, he died of a stroke on the night after Purim that year, perhaps in response to the prayers of the Lubavitcher Rebbe and his followers!

## Today's Spirits

### Spirit of Haman

**Esther 3:9** – *"If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued for their destruction."*

The spirit of Haman is alive and well today. The founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hassan al-Banna, stated in 1948: *"If the Jewish state becomes a fact, and this is realized by the Arab peoples, they will drive the Jews who live in their midst into the sea."* Today, it is once again the Persians who are trying to remove the Jews from the face of the earth. Former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is well known for statements that Israel should be *"wiped off the map."* Hassan Rouhani, the current President of Iran, has also declared Israel to be a wound: *"that should be removed."* Both men reiterate the feelings and desires of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who have both yearned for and prepared for the day when Israel would be destroyed.

### Spirit of Esther

**Esther 3:14** – *"Who knows but that you have come to his position for such a time as this."*

On Tuesday, March 3, 2015, Prime Minister Netanyahu delivered his speech to the Congress of the United States detailing the nuclear threat from Iran. March 3rd, the 13th of Adar, in the twelfth month on the Biblical calendar is the very day the book of Esther tells us that all the Jews were to be killed. At that time, Esther came before the King to petition on behalf of the Jews. Once again, Yahweh has provided a messenger on behalf of the Jews in the person of Benjamin Netanyahu. And like Esther, Netanyahu also broke protocol to make his appeal before the government! Will the world listen as did King Ahasuerus, or will the world ignore his message?

## Purim Lessons

- Everyone has a purpose – one is not to fail to stand up for others who may be oppressed. If Esther had not stood up for her people, then another would have been appointed (Esther 4:14).
- Yahweh answers prayer – He is in control. Yahweh has covenanted with the Jewish people to prevent them from being totally annihilated. The final Purim will be fulfilled at the return of Yeshua.
- Circumstances are not to dictate our actions – Normally, it would have been wrong for a Jewish girl to have married a Persian King. However, circumstances dictated that Esther be in that place, just as Joseph was in Pharaoh's court, to guarantee the survival of the Jews.
- Be Faithful To Yahweh in all you do – Bowing only to Yahweh may land you in trouble, but Yahweh is more than able to overcome any obstacles you face, even martyrdom! Resurrection is a fact, not an option.
- Oppressing Yahweh's People is not good for one's health – Genesis 12:3 says very clearly that any who bless the Jews will be blessed and any who curse the Jews will be cursed. Haman chose to curse the Jews, and received exactly the punishment that he had sought to bring down upon their heads. Matthew 7:2 echoes this saying: *The measure you give will be the measure you get back.*
- Yahweh can turn mourning into joy – Jeremiah 31:13 says: *For I will turn their mourning into joy and will comfort them and give them joy for their sorrow.*

## Conclusion

**Mark 8:36** – “*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?*”

Yahweh can turn the most horrific circumstances into days of celebration and joy. As Mark Biltz says: “*He can bring victory and deliverance from the least likely places, and he can use anyone who steps forward to take on the challenge of standing against evil and for the good of humanity. Purim is recognizing the triumph of good over evil and of the need for every person to be available to the call of God on their life ‘for such a time as this’.*” Give Him praise.

Haman, in trying to serve himself ended up losing his life, both in this life and for all eternity. Esther, by giving up herself, was blessed and honored.

Living for one’s self always leads to eternal disaster. Serve self now and end up losing all later as did Haman. Die to self now, like Esther and Mordecai, and receive blessing and honor now, and eternal blessings and life in the age to come.

## The Names Of Haman's Sons

**Esther 9:6-10** – “At the citadel in Susa the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men, and Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha, the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jews’ enemy; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.”

Esther	I will be hidden; queen who delivered	H635 אֶסְתֵּר Ester
Mordecai	bitterness of my oppressed	H4782 מֶרְדֵּכַי Mordekay
The Jews	descendants of Judah	H3064 יְהוּדִי yehûdîy
killed	smite with deadly intent	H2026 הָרַג hârâg
and destroyed	to perish:—annihilate	H6 אָבַד ’âbad
five	five	H2568 חָמֵשׁ chamesh or חַמִּישָׁה chamishshah
hundred	hundred	H3967 מֵאָה meah or מֵאֵיָה meyah
men	mortals	H376 אִישׁ ’îysh
and Parshandatha	he repeatedly broke the decree	H6577 פָּרַשְׁנַדְתָּא parshandâthâ’
Dalphon	the weeper: drop through, melt, pour out	H1813 דַּלְפוֹן dalphôn
Aspatha	the enticed gathered	H630 אֶסְפָּתָא ’aspâthâ’
Poratha	fruitfulness: frustration	H6334 פּוֹרָתָא pôrâthâ’
Adalia	I shall be drawn up	H118 אֲדַלְיָא ’ädalyâ’
Aridatha	a lion of the decree	H743a אַרִידְתָּא Aridatha
Parmashta	spoiled is the banquet	H6534 פָּרַמְשֶׁתָּא parmashtâ’
Arisai	lion of my banners: draw out, lengthen	H747b אַרִיסַי Arisay
Aridai	the lion is enough	H742 אַרִידַי ’ârîyday
and Vaizatha	and he sprinkled there	H2055 וַיִּזְתָּא vavezâthâ’
the ten	ten	H6235 עֶשֶׂר eser or עֲשָׂרָה asarah
sons of	sons/grandsons	H1121 בֶּן bën
Haman	the rager: their tumult	H2001b הָמָן Haman
the son of	son/grandson	H1121 בֶּן bën
Hammedatha	war wager; measurement	H1992b הַמֵּדְתָּא Hammedatha
the Jews’	descendants of Judah	H3064 יְהוּדִי yehûdîy
enemy	show hostility to	H6887c צָרָר tsarar

The names form a paragraph which can read:

*He [Mordecai] repeatedly broke the [King’s] decree. The weeper [Haman] gathered together [his wife and friends] in frustration. Then a new decree was made, upon the spoiling of the banquet [given by Esther]. The lion [of Judah] caused the blood of the sons of the man of rage and of the war wager to be sprinkled.*

**Holiday – 2**

**Tish'a B'Av**

**The Ninth of Av**



## Holiday - 2 – Tish'a B'Av – Ninth of Av

### The Tish'a B'Av Holiday

**Description:** Tish'a B'Av commemorates the destruction of the first and second Temples, both of which were destroyed on the ninth of Av.

**Date Of Holiday:** 9th Day of 5th Month (Av – July / August)

**Key Scriptures:** Numbers 13:25-14:12, Zechariah 7:3-5, 8:19 – “*For this, they were punished and Yahweh decreed that their generation would not enter the land and for all future generations this date would become one of crying and misfortune for their descendants, the Jewish people.*”

**Key Word:** Destruction, Day of Sadness

**Actions:** The Scroll of Lamentations is read. The Torah Scroll cabinet (Ark) is covered by black cloth. There is no eating, drinking, washing, bathing, wearing of (leather) shoes, application of creams or oils, and no marital relations.

**Fulfillment:** Destruction of the 1st & 2nd Temples.

### The Meaning of the Holiday

Tish'a B'Av primarily commemorates the destruction of the first and second Temples, both of which were destroyed on the ninth of Av. the first Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. and the second Temple by the Romans in 70 A.D.

Tish'a B'Av is the culmination of a three-week period of increasing mourning that begins with the Fast of the 17th of Tammuz. According to history, many events considered disastrous by the Jews have occurred on Tish'a B'Av, also called the Ninth of Av, the saddest day in Jewish history.

### The Activities

During this three-week period, the Scroll of Lamentations is read and prayers are recited during the evening services, and the Torah Scroll cabinet (Ark) is covered by black cloth. In some synagogues the Scroll of Job is read on the morning of Tish'a B'Av.

Weddings, other celebrations, and cutting the hair are not permitted. From the first to the ninth of Av, most people also refrain from eating meat or drinking wine and from wearing new clothing. These restrictions are very similar to the restrictions observed during Yom Kippur. They are:

- No eating or drinking
- No washing or bathing
- No application of creams or oils
- No wearing of (leather) shoes
- No marital relations

### The First Occurrence

• **Av 9, 1312 BC** - Only two of the twelve spies sent by Moses to observe the land of Canaan, Joshua and Caleb, returned with a positive report. The ten spy report caused the Hebrews to cry, panic, and despair of ever entering their Promised Land. *For this, they were punished and Yahweh decreed that their generation would not enter the land and for all future generations this date would become one of crying and misfortune for their descendants, the Jewish people.* (Numbers 13:25-14:12, Zechariah 7:3-5, 8:19).

### First and Second Temple Destructions

- **Av 9, 586 BC** - The First Temple built by King Solomon was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Judeans were sent into the Babylonian exile.
- **Av 9, 70 AD** - The Second Temple built by Ezra and Nehemiah was destroyed by the Romans on August 4, 70 AD.

### Subsequent Happenings On or Around Tish'a B'Av

- **Av 9, 71 AD** July 25, 71 AD – The Roman army plowed Jerusalem with salt on July 25th, 71 AD.
- **Av 9, 132 AD** July 8, 132 – The Romans crushed Bar Kokhba's revolt and destroyed the city of Betar, killing over 100,000 Jews, on July 8th, 132.
- **Av 9, 133 AD** July 29, 133 – Turnus Rufus ploughs the site of the Temple. The Romans build the pagan city of Aelia Capitolina on the site of Jerusalem.
- **Av 9, 135 AD** August 5, 135. The destruction of Simeon Bar Kokhba's army on August 5th, 135 AD.
- **Av 9, 1095 AD** July 20, 1095 – The First Crusade was declared by Pope Urban II on July 20th, 1095. The Crusades bring death and destruction to thousands of Jews, totally obliterating many communities in Rhineland and France.
- **Av 9, 1190 AD** July 14, 1190 – 500 Jews died as a result of the rich storming a castle in York England on July 14th, 1190.
- **Av 9, 1290 AD** July 25, 1290 – Jews forced out of England accompanied by pogroms and confiscation of books and property.
- **Av 9, 1306 AD** July 22, 1306 – The Jews were expelled from France, again accompanied by pogroms and confiscation of books and property.
- **Av 9, 1492 AD** August 11, 1492 – The Inquisition in Spain and Portugal culminates in the expulsion of the Jews from the Iberian Peninsula. Families are separated, many die by drowning, and there is massive loss of property by all.
- **Av 9, 1648 AD** July 18, 1648 – Bohdan Zenobi Chmielnicki, the leader of the The Cossacks, a military class of Ukranian-southern Russians, began the massacre of tens of thousands of Polish Jews. This massacre continued until 1651.
- **Av 9, 1914 AD** August 1, 1914 – World War I begins on August 1st, 1914. Russia also launches persecutions against the Jews in Eastern Russia on this same day. There were over 400 pogroms immediately following World War I in Hungary, Ukraine, Poland, and Russia.
- **Av 9, 1929 AD** August 15th – 1929. Mufti Hajj Amin Al Hussein stirs up riots against Jews at the Wailing Wall, Hebron Massacre ensues.
- **Av 9, 1941 AD** August 2, 1941 – SS commander Heinrich Himmler formally received approval from the Nazi Party for "The Final Solution" on August 2nd, 1941.
- **Av 9, 1942 AD** July 23, 1942 – The mass deportation began of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto, en route to the Treblinka Concentration Camp, began on the eve of July 23rd, 1942.
- **Av 9, 1989 AD** August 10, 1989 – The Iraqis walked out of the talks with Kuwait, then invaded Kuwait and set fires to the oil wells. This action finally lead to the Gulf War in 1992.
- **Av 9, 1994 AD** July 18, 1994 – The Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was bombed killing 86 and wounding 300 others on Monday July 18th, 1994. On that same day the twenty-one pieces of Shoemaker-Levi Comet began bombarding the Planet Jupiter!
- **Av 9, 2005 AD** August 14, 2005 – Starting at midnight on August 14th, 2005, the entry and presence of Israeli citizens in the Gaza Strip is prohibited.
- **Av 9, 2006 AD** August 3, 2006 – The Lebanon War breaks out. On August 3rd, 2006, the Vatican sponsored "Rome Peace Conference" put the finishing touches on the "Rome Peace Accord". This agreement halted the Israeli defensive thrust into Lebanon, and a Hezbollah commando force to abducted two Israeli soldiers.
- **Av 9, 2012 AD** July 27, 2012 – The 2012 Olympics were inaugurated in London, England on the evening of July 27th, 2012. This date marked the 40th anniversary of the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany, during which eight Palestinian terrorists infiltrated the Munich Olympic village and killed eleven members of the Israel Olympic team.
- **Av 9, 2014 AD** August 5, 2014 – Israel commemorated past and present tragedies, especially the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem and the subsequent exile of the Jews from the Land of Israel.
- **Av 9, 2015 AD** July 25, 2015 – On July 25th, 2015 the Statue to Satan (Baphomet) was unveiled by the Satanic Temple in Detroit. On July 26th, 2015 the US Supreme Court struck down Biblical marriage laws and upheld homosexual marriage.

- **Av 9, 2016 AD** August 14th, 2016 – The Islamic Movement in Israel called for a mass ascent of Muslims to the Al Aqsa mosque on the Temple Mount, and many Arabs violently rioted. The Olympics in Rio were rife with anti-Semitic incidents.
- **Av 9, 2017 AD** August 1st, 2017 – Muslims escalated a war for the Temple Mount following the capitulation by the Israeli government over security measures on the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, or Kotel.
- **Av 9, 2018AD** July 10th, 2018 – Marchers of the Faithful Movement on Tish'a B'Av 2018 were attacked with stones and other dangerous objects by Arab Islamic rioters. On the night of this year's Tu B'Av a completely red lunar eclipse appeared in the heavens above Israel.
- **Av 9, 2019 AD** August 11th, 2019 – Palestinian Muslims shout at Israeli security forces (unseen) in the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem. At least five vehicles were damaged in attacks by Jerusalem Arabs hurling stones between the start of Tish'a B'Av, which began with the fall of darkness on Saturday evening, and Sunday at 12 noon. An 18-year-old Jewish boy was seriously wounded Sunday morning when he was attacked by an Arab terrorist on Hagai Street in Jerusalem.
- **Av 9, 2020 AD** July 30th, 2020 – Protests against the Israeli government due to the Covid-19 lock-downs continue unabated. Hamas views Israel's intentions to extend its sovereignty over parts of the Jordan Valley, Judea and Samaria as a declaration of war.

### Conclusions

**Zechariah 7:13** – *“Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, said Yahweh, the Lord of Hosts . . .”*

Yahweh declared that Tish'a B'Av would be a day of mourning and misfortune (**Numbers 13:25-14:12, Zechariah 7:3-5, 8:19**). These occurrences continue unabated even unto today. To see these occurrences as simply coincidence would deny His word. Let us pray that Av 9th this year is not yet another day of disaster for our Jewish brothers.

## **Holiday – 3**

**The Forty Days  
of Teshuva**

**The Ten Days  
of Awe**

## Holiday – 3 – The Forty Days of Teshuva and Ten Days of Awe

**Description:** The forty days of Teshuva are days of repentance, reflection, and restitution.

**Date Of Holiday:** 1st Day of 6th Month (Elul – August / September)

**Key Scriptures:** Joel 2:13, Ezekiel 14:6, 2 Peter 3:9 – *“Tear your heart . . . and **turn** to Yahweh, your God; for he is gracious and merciful.”*

**Key Word:** Repentance, Turn Away, Return

**Actions:** Admit wrong doings and past shortcomings, renounce them, and make a firm resolution to change in the future. Teshuva requires restitution to the wronged party and a promise not to repeat the offense. Make every effort to return to an un-fallen or sinless state.

**Fulfillment:** Fulfillment happens at Yom Teruah, when the names are written in the Books Of Judgments And Of Life.

**Joel 2:13** – *“Tear your heart . . . and **turn** to Yahweh, your God; for he is gracious and merciful.”*

**Ezekiel 14:6** – *“Thus says Yahweh, ‘Repent, **turn away** from your idols and **turn away** from all your abominations’.”*

**2 Peter 3:9** – *“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”*

Elul 1 is the day to begin turning back! Admit wrong doings and past shortcomings, renounce them, and make a firm resolution to change in the future. Teshuva requires restitution to the wronged party and a promise not to repeat the offense. Make every effort to return to an un-fallen or sinless state.

The words translated “turn” and “turn away” are the Hebrew word, shüv [H7725 שׁוּב]. Teshuvah comes from the word shüvah, [H7729 שׁוּבָה], which in itself comes from the root word, shüv. It means: to turn back, to return. Teshuvah means going back to one’s roots in Yahweh/Yeshua, returning to the true Adam before sin came into the world.

### Teshuva Customs

Beginning on the second day of Rosh Chodesh Elul and continuing until (but not including) the day before Yom Teruah, it is customary to blow the Shofar every weekday morning. When Moses went up the second time to receive the tablets of the Ten Commandments, the Israelites blew the Shofar in the Camp. This was done to remind themselves of their sin of the Golden Calf, and to assure that they would not again succumb to the sin of idol worship.

To this day the Shofar is blown throughout Elul to remember that, just as the children of Israel sinned and were forgiven, we too have sinned and need to use this period to sincerely repent, so that we too can be forgiven. The sound of the Shofar during Elul symbolically declares, “Awake all you who are asleep; search your ways and mend them in repentance.”

During Elul, many Jews will recite Chapter 27 of Tehilim (Psalms) as part of the morning and afternoon prayers. It is also common at this time to visit the grave sites of loved ones. As the month of Elul draws to an end, our efforts towards repentance become more intense.

Beginning on the Sunday before Yom Teruah until Yom Kippur, special penitential prayers called Selichot are added to the daily cycle of worship. Selichot prayers are usually recited in the early morning, before the normal daily morning service. However, Selichot usually begins on Motzei Shabbat (after nightfall on Saturday) of the week before Yom Teruah. The first Selichot service of the season is usually held around midnight, the earliest possible time, to demonstrate our eagerness to seek forgiveness. The late night service is usually preceded by study on themes related to the High Holy Days.

## **The Books Of Judgments And Of Life**

**Daniel 7:9-10** – “I saw until thrones were placed, and one who was ancient of days sat: his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and the wheels of it burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousands of thousands ministered to him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated and the **Books** were opened.”

**Revelation 20:11-15** – “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and Books were opened. And another **Book** was opened, which is the **Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the **Books**. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the **Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire.”

According to Jewish tradition, on Yom Teruah the destiny of the righteous, the *tsaddikim*, are written in the *Book Of Life*, and the destiny of the wicked, the *resha'im*, are written in the *Book Of Death*. However, many people, perhaps most people, will not be inscribed in either Book, but will have ten days (until Yom Kippur) to repent before sealing their fate. Hence the term *Aseret Yemei Teshuvah* (the Ten Days of Repentance). It is traditional at this time to greet one another with *L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu!* which means “*May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for a good year!*” One responds with “*gam lekha*”, or “*Same to you*”.

## **Yahweh is Near**

**Isaiah 55:6** – “Seek Yahweh when he is at hand; call upon him when he is near.”

**Joel 2:1** – “Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of Yahweh comes, it is close at hand.”

Jewish tradition teaches that the Holy One is more accessible during the 40-day period beginning with the start of Elul and culminating in the first ten days of the month of Tishrei, ending with Yom Kippur.

This is the time when the sages say the Eternal King leaves the heavenly throne and descends to inspect this world; as a period when “The King is in the Field.” When the “King is in the Field,” out to inspect the produce of his land, he is concerned about the well-being of the inhabitants of his kingdom.

This is the period when some believe we are closest to God, and God is most receptive to our prayers. This is based in the notion that, when a king is enthroned in his palace, he is not easily accessible; audience is granted only to those who have merited his attention. But when the king is out in public, anyone may approach him.

We look to the words of the prophet Isaiah, and make special efforts during this period to renew our commitment to Yahweh/Yeshua, when the Holy One is traditionally “nearest” to us. Not only is this the time when the king may be approached by the farmer, but the farmer should approach him, to show respect, and to take full advantage of this rare opportunity to express his needs and thoughts to the king.

## **Ten Days of Repentance – The Ten Days of Awe**

*Aseres Yemei Teshuvah*, or the *Ten Days of Repentance*, are the ten days starting with Yom Teruah and ending with Yom Kippur and are commonly known as the Days of Awe (*Yamim Noraim*) or the Days of Repentance. The first two days of *Aseres Yemei Teshuvah* are the two days of Yom Teruah, and the third day is the Fast of Gedalia.

Beginning on the second day, the shofar is blown every day as a warning to return to Yahweh in repentance. The tenth day is the last day of *Teshuvah*, the day of Yom Kippurim. Those who are neither totally righteous nor totally wicked will have until Yom Kippurim to repent.



The last ten days are also known as the Days of Awe, a term that is more commonly known as the Days of Jacob's Trouble and represent the Tribulation Period that will purge the Earth of evil. If you only count the days between Yom Teruah and Yom Kippur the number of days is seven, the same as the number of years in the tribulation period!

The tenth day is the last day of Teshuvah, the day of Yom Kippurim. The Feast of Yom Kippurim symbolizes the final writing of the verdict that each person listed in the Book of Life is a righteous one, a tzaddik (צדיק), or is forever separated from Yahweh. There are but a few days left to repent and return, to teshuvah. This is a time for serious introspection, a time to consider the sins of the previous year and repent before Yom Kippur.

One of the ongoing themes of the Days of Awe is the concept that Yahweh has "books" that He writes our names in, writing down who will live and who will die, who will have a good life and who will have a bad life, for the next year. These books are written in on Yom Teruah, but our actions during the Days of Awe can alter Yahweh's decree.

The actions that change the decree are "*teshuvah, tefilah and tzedakah*" repentance, prayer, and good deeds (or charity). These books are sealed on Yom Kippur. This concept of writing in books is the source of the common greeting during this time is "*May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.*" Make full use of this time lest you be separated forever and consigned to the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

### The Forty Day Connections

**Exodus 34:28** – "*Moshe was there with Yahweh forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread, nor drank water.*"

**Jonah 3:4** – "*Jonah entered into the city a day's journey, and he cried out and said: 'Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown'.*"

**Matthew and Luke 4:1-2** – "*And Yeshua was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for forty days and nights.*"

The forty days of Teshuvah represent the time frame of the fall feasts – the days of Yom Teruah, Yom Kippurim, and Sukkot!!!! Elul 1 to Tishri 10! They also represent numerous forty day events that scripture records:

- ✓ For forty days the rain came down upon the earth, and flooded the entire planet (**Genesis 7:4-17**).
- ✓ After the rains stopped, it was forty days before Noah exited the Ark (**Genesis 8:6**).
- ✓ Moshe was on the mountain for forty days (**Exodus 24:18**).
- ✓ The second forty days was due to the Golden Calf incident when Moses interceded for the people. Moses ascended on Yom Teruah and returned on Yom Kippurim (**Exodus 34:28**).
- ✓ Jonah was in Nineveh for forty days calling out for repentance. Jonah left Nineveh on the day of Yom Kippurim (**Jonah 3:4**), traveled to the east, and built himself a sukkah! (**Jonah 4:5**).
- ✓ Yeshua entered the Wilderness on Yom Teruah, fasted and prayed for forty days and returned on Yom Kippurim. (**Matthew 4:1, Luke 4:1**).

### Conclusions

The Forty Days of Teshuva are days of repentance. Yahweh has books that he writes our names in, writing down who will live and who will die, who will have a good life and who will have a bad life, for the next year. These books are written in on Yom Teruah, but our actions during the Days of Awe can alter his decree.

Many of the forty day events of scripture take place during the same forty day time frame as the forty Days of Teshuva, Elul 1 to Tishri 10, – the time frame of the fall feasts – the days of Yom Teruah, Yom Kippurim, and Sukkot.

**Holiday – 4**

**Chanukah**

**The Feast of Dedication**

**The Festival of Light**



## Holiday -4 – Chanukah – Festival of Dedication

### The Chanukah Holiday

**Description:** Chanukah celebrates the cleansing and re-dedication of the Temple during the period of the Maccabees and the miracle of the Menorah staying lit for eight days despite having only one day's supply of oil.

**Key Scripture:** *John 10:22-23* – “It was winter, and Yeshua was in Jerusalem at the time of the Festival of Dedication, and he was walking in the Portico of Solomon inside the Temple.”

**Date Of Holiday:** Kislev/Tevet (November/December) generally between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

**Key Words:** Lampstand, Light, Menorah

**Actions:** The Menorah candles are lit, starting with the center Shamash (servant) candle, and each subsequent candle is lit from the center candle.

**Fulfillment:** Yeshua's is the Servant Candle

**John 10:22-23** – “It was winter, and Yeshua was in Jerusalem at the time of the Festival of Dedication, and he was walking in the Portico of Solomon inside the Temple.”

Chanukah (sometimes spelled Chanukkah, Hanukah, or Hanukkah) is celebrated each fall, generally between Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day. According to the scripture above, Yeshua was amongst the many who celebrated the yearly festival.

### Other Names

The Hebrew word Chanukah [חֲנֻכָּה - H2598] means: dedication, or consecration.

It comes from the root word, chanak [חָנַךְ –H2596].

In Greek, the word is egkainia [ἐγκαίνια - G1456].

Chanukah: Can be spelled as: Chanukkah, Hanukah, or Hanukkah.

Chanukah is also called:

- **The Feast of Dedication:** Celebrates the cleansing and re-dedication of the Temple during the period of the Maccabees.
- **The Festival of Light:** Celebrates the miracle of the burning of the Menorah for eight days despite having only one day's supply of oil.

### The Meaning of Chanukah

Chanukah was prophesied by Daniel: “In his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue” (Daniel 11:21), and “Armed forces will come at his order and profane the sanctuary and fortress. They will abolish the daily burnt offering and set up the abomination that causes desolation” (Daniel 11:31).

- Chanukah prophesies events that transpired in the time of the Maccabees will transpire again during the Tribulation Period – that apostasy will again come in part from within the religious circle – the priests will give in to the political leader of the day; the Antichrist or Beast, who will set up another Abomination that causes Desolation.
- Chanukah is also a time of thanksgiving.
- Chanukah celebrates the restoration of the Holy Temple after its desecration by Antiochus IV, also known as Antiochus Epiphanes.
- Chanukah commemorates an important victory over tyranny.

### The Historical Background

Antiochus IV, also known as Antiochus Epiphanes, which means “god manifest” was one of the successors of Alexander the Great. He oppressed the Jews severely, placed a Hellenistic priest in the Temple, massacred many Jews, prohibited them from practicing circumcision and other rites, and desecrated the Temple by placing a statue of Zeus while sacrificing pigs on the altar in 167 BC. (Daniel and Yeshua reference this as the Abomination That Causes Desolation – **(Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, and Mark 13:14)**). The Jews even had a nickname for Antiochus: “Epimames,” which means “the mad man”!

Many Jews chose to comply with the new laws, forsaking Torah to save their lives. Others stood fast to the covenant, and paid with their life for their convictions.

Mattathias the Hasmonean, a Kohen (Priest), and his son Yehudah (Judah) Maccabaeus joined forces and were able to retake the temple. Upon doing so, they found only enough oil to keep the Menorah lit for one day but miraculously it burned for eight days, the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the Menorah. It was on the 25th day of Kislev, exactly three years after the first swine had been sacrificed on the altar, that Yehudah and his men reinstated the daily burnt offerings to the Lord in 164 BC in memory of the cleansing of the Temple from the pollution of Antiochus IV.

The re-dedication of the Temple was celebrated for eight days, which came to be remembered and celebrated as the Festival of Chanukah. The festival centers around the lighting of the candles on the Menorah. Another tradition is called the Dreidel game, which commemorates when the Jews had to conceal that they were still studying Torah. They gathered in caves or private places, posted a lookout to let them know when the authorities were coming, and spun the dreidel. The dreidel is marked with four Hebrew letters: Nun, Gimmel, Heh, and Shin. The letters represent the Hebrew phrase, “*nes gadol hayah sham*”: “*a great miracle happened here*.”

The entire story of the abomination that causes desolation and the retaking and cleansing of the temple can be found in the *Apocrypha* in **Books 1-4 Maccabees**.

### **The Modern Background**

Each year, Jews light the candles on a nine branched Menorah called a chanukiah [חֲנֻכִּיָּה].

The center candle, known as the shamash [שמש] which means: attendant or servant, is raised higher than the other candles. This candle is lit first. All the other candles are lit from this center candle. The candles are progressively inserted into the Menorah, starting from the right and ending with the far left candle, but are lit on successive nights from left to right as one honors the newer thing first.

Chanukah is eight days long and is symbolic of something that is one step above the natural order, above nature and its limitations. The greatly outnumbered Maccabees’ resolve to battle the Greeks wasn’t logical or natural but took faith and courage that are not part of normal human nature. This resolve, therefore, merited a miracle higher than nature—a miracle that lasted eight days.

### **The Christian Background**

Yeshua is the light that has come into the world (**John 8:12, 9:5, 12:46**, etc).

Yahweh has not only the Temple in Jerusalem, but also has another Temple: Christians are the temple of the living word – believers in Him are a temple for Him, and He dwells in them. Like the Menorah in the stone Temple, Yeshua is the light in our temple of flesh. Yeshua is THE servant candle!

In ancient times, the Temple of Jerusalem was desecrated by pagan invaders. Without the presence of Yahweh’s Ruach Ha’Kodesh we become a temple of desecration, defiled, darkened, filled with idols . . . a temple created to be holy but fallen from its purpose.

The Mission Today: celebrate your own Chanukah, remove the idols, cleanse your chambers, rededicate and reconsecrate your temple to Yahweh / Yeshua, and the Ruach Ha’Kodesh – to Elohim.

## The Prophetic Nature of Chanukah

**Ecclesiastes 1:9** – *“What has been is what will be, what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.”*

**Genesis 12:3** – *“I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”*

The Greek nation waged war against the Jews, trying to instill their philosophies and teachings into the Jewish mindset. It only lasted for a short time!

Eventually, Biblical faith would replace Greek paganism. As the Greeks had left the Temple of Jerusalem desolate, today the temples of the Greeks and their gods are abandoned.

The invasion of Antiochus Epiphanes and his Abomination of Desolation was just a shadow of the coming Abomination under the Antichrist or Beast. The desolation begins when an evil king sets up an idol in the holy place. Antiochus set up a statue of Zeus. The False Prophet will create an image of the Beast that all will be required to worship (**Revelation 13:14-15**).

Chanukah foretold the apostasy of Yahweh’s people and foretells the future great apostasy of the people of the world. Just as the priests, rabbis, and people of ancient Israel turned away from Torah and embraced the ways of the Greek nation, so it will be during the Tribulation Period. People will abandon any worship of Yahweh and embrace the lies of the Beast and the False Prophet, worshipping them instead (**Daniel 9:27, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Revelation 13:7-9**).

Alexander the Great and his generals tried to bring the Hellenistic culture to the entire world. During the Tribulation Period the Beast will try to form a One World Government, One World Religion, and One World Economy. They sought to merge all cultures into one and to compel everyone to abandon their faith . Any culture, faith, people, or person that stood in its way, it tried to stamp out. The Beast will try to do the same.

The Beast system will try to establish a global culture, persecute Yahweh’s people, criminalize moral living, abolish the Bible, blaspheme the Name of God, desecrate all that is sacred, and prohibit observing the Sabbaths and other Biblical celebrations. The Beast system will try to merge all cultures into one and to compel everyone to abandon their faith. Any culture, faith, people, or person that stands in its way, it will to stamp out. Just as in the days of Antiochus, many will abandon their faith in Yahweh and will take the Mark of the Beast.

Chanukah prophesies both an early Jewish apostasy and takeover, and a global apostasy and take over. Only the return of Yeshua will reverse this vile takeover, re-establish the Holy Temple and accomplish its re-dedication. Chanukah is a very specific prophecy of what has been and what is going to happen in the end times.

## Chanukah Lessons

- Everyone has a purpose – one is not to fail to stand up for Yahweh, his people, or, in this case, his Temple.
- Yahweh answers prayer – He is in control. Yahweh has covenanted with the Jewish people to be their God. Yahweh will not allow another to take his place, no matter how hard they try.
- Be Faithful To Yahweh in all you do – Bowing only to Yahweh may land you in trouble, but Yahweh is more than able to overcome any obstacles you face, even against principalities, powers, rulers, and the spiritually wicked in high places (Ephesians 6:12).
- Yahweh can turn mourning into joy – The Temple was retaken and rededicated.

## Interesting Correlations

In Matthew Chapters 24 and 25 we see many aspects of Chanukah being repeated.

- When Yeshua begins with the phrase of “*wars and rumors of wars*” the thoughts of his Jewish hearers would turn to Chanukah.
- When Yeshua speaks about “*many being offended and betraying each other*” and the “*love of many waxing cold*” his Jewish hearers would say: That’s exactly what happened during Chanukah!
- When he speaks about seeing “*the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place*” his Jewish hearers would say: This is exactly what happened 170 years earlier during Chanukah!
- When Yeshua says, “*Then let them which are in Judea flee into the mountains*” these are the exact words of the Maccabees after they killed the officer of Antiochus.
- When Yeshua talks about the good and evil servants his Jewish hearers would say that during Chanukah there were faithful (good) Jews who held to the Torah and unfaithful (evil) ones who adhered to the Greek mindset.
- Finally, when Yeshua tells the parable about the wise and foolish virgins and the wise have oil to relight their lamps, his Jewish hearers would have immediately thought about the one day supply of oil that kept the Menorah lit for eight days during the time of the Maccabees: *It is Chanukah all over!*

**Luke 21:25** – “*There will be signs in sun and moon and stars . . .*”

According to some calculations it is possible that Yeshua was conceived on Chanukah. We all walk in darkness and need a miracle to uphold the light within. Only Yeshua can do so.

In 2013 Chanukah began in the evening on Wednesday, November 27th and ended on the evening of Thursday, December 5th. This is the last time that Chanukah and Thanksgiving will be celebrated on the same day for the next 75,000 years, according to [Mark Biltz](#) of El Shaddai Ministries.

Comet Ison, officially known as comet C/2012 S1, was also currently gracing our skies. It was hoped to become the brightest comet to grace our skies, even brighter than Venus, said some astronomers. It had already brightened by a factor of 10 since its initial sighting. Ison will swoop quite close to the Sun on November 28th which will enable it to light up dramatically, “coincidentally” on the first day of Chanukah! Perhaps Yahweh lit his Chanukah candle in our heavens to signal the imminent return of Yeshua.

## **Chanukah Nightly Checklist**

**First night:** Scripture: Is 51:1-4; Proverbs 6:23; Matthew 25:1-4; Proverbs 13:9; Lamentations 2:9; Proverbs 29:18

Discuss: The importance of a new understanding of what Torah really means

Question: What was the light Messiah brought to the nations?

Prayer: That God would bring His light into any darkness in our own lives

**Second night:** Scripture: Psalm 119:1-24

Discuss: How living out the Torah is what makes us light in this dark world.

Question: What does Psalm 119:18 mean to you?

Prayer: That God would open our eyes to see wonderful things in His Torah!

**Third night:** Scripture: Psalm 119:25-48

Discuss: Having borders or fences to protect us is good not bad.

Question: What is the significance of Psalm 119:44,45?

Prayer: That we may see Torah as what God has given us to protect us.

**Fourth Night:** Scripture: Psalm 119:49-72

Discuss: What do we value more: riches or Torah

Question: What does Psalm 119:53 mean to you?

Prayer: That we may learn to put a higher value on what God says.

**Fifth Night:** Scripture: Psalm 119:73-96

Discuss: The faithfulness and longevity of God's Word.

Question: What does Psalm 119:89-91 mean to you?

Prayer: That God would settle His Word in each of our lives.

**Sixth Night:** Scripture: Psalm 119:97-120

Discuss: How God's Word is what lights our path so we won't fall.

Question: What does Psalm 119:103-105 mean to you?

Prayer: That the anointing of the Messiah would fuel the flames of our faith, illuminating the Kingdom of God to those around us so they won't fall.

**Seventh Night:** Scripture: Psalm 119:121-14

Discuss: Why does God's servant want God to go to work

Question: What does Psalm 119:125,126,135,136 mean to you?

Prayer: That we can comprehend our new identity, respond to the call to be lights and recognize our servant-hood to the King.

**Eighth Night:** Scripture: Psalm 119:145-176

Discuss: Peace comes from Torah

Question: What does Psalm 119:165-167 mean to you?

Prayer: Pray the Lord help you be a shining light in Yeshua.