



Ever been on a hunt for your glasses just to find them perched on your head?
Or searched for your phone while you're actually holding it?

Sometimes the things we're looking for are right in front of us, hidden in plain sight. We wrote this guide with our Christian friends in mind for that very reason. You might think that the upcoming Jewish High Holy Days aren't for you, that they're exclusively a 'Jewish thing.' We get it, but hear us out.

We're not saying you're wrong for thinking that way, but we do believe you're missing out on something truly transformative. We invite you to take a closer look, to consider the deeper connections, and to broaden your understanding of faith by acknowledging its roots. So stay with us; you might just discover something you never knew you were missing.

What are the Ten Days of Awe?

The Ten Days of Awe, also known as the High Holy Days, are a significant period in the Jewish calendar. These represent the last three festival days given to Israel in Leviticus 23 in the Hebrew Bible, or what we at The Jewish Road like to call Act One of a two-act play. These festival days are actually called Moedim in Hebrew, or "Appointed Times." These are God's appointed times for Israel in which He laid out the course of history for Israel and, in fact, the world as He brings everything to fulfillment in His kingdom.

We should note that there are seven appointed times or festival days given to Israel in Leviticus 23, and they were all prophetic. Four of them have been historically fulfilled, leaving the final three festival days that occur in the fall as prophetic and yet to be fulfilled.

Having said that, the first appointed time on the Fall calendar is in Leviticus 23:23-25, the Feast of Trumpets or Yom Teruah in Hebrew, the Day of Blowing Trumpets. This is the first of the High Holy Days on Israel's calendar and it is celebrated today as Rosh Hashanah or the Jewish new year.

However, if we look at verse 23, we read that this day is a solemn rest and memorial that occurs on the first day of the seventh month, Tishrei. The first month on the Hebrew calendar is Nisan,

the time of Passover in the spring. How is this disparity reconciled? Jewish people traditionally began to celebrate this holiday as Rosh Hashanah as the civil new year on Israel's calendar, beginning during the second Temple period.

It is strictly traditional as the new year is in the spring. Interestingly, the Babylonians celebrated their new year at this time and we believe that Israel brought that tradition with them some time after the Babylonian captivity.

The blowing of the shofar or the trumpet was meant to bring Israel's attention to a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal as we turn our attention to God. It is a time when people take a hard look at their lives and actions over the past year.

Traditionally, this begins what is called the Ten Days of Awe. It's believed that God opens the Book of Life on Rosh Hashanah and seals it on Yom Kippur, deciding the fate of each individual for the upcoming year.

Why is this season important?

Well, it's a rare pause, a collective breath for introspection. It's not just about asking for forgiveness, but also about forgiving others and oneself.

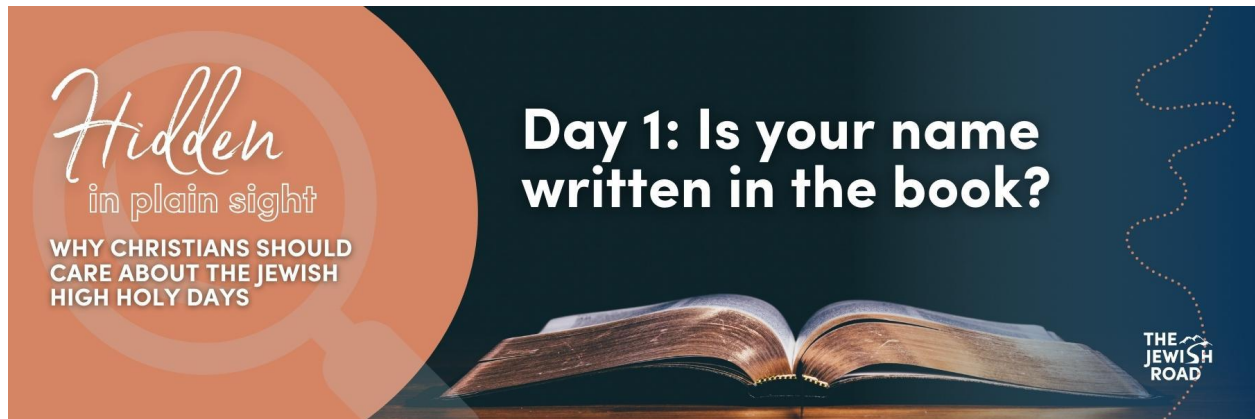
In Jewish tradition, it's a time to set the tone for the year ahead, wipe the slate clean, and start anew. It's why on the civil calendar, the Jewish community calls this the Jewish New Year. You'll probably see on your local TV news a Happy New Year wish to "our Jewish friends" and you'll see a graphic of apples and honey, that your new year may be sweet.

But really, this isn't just a religious exercise; it's a deeply human one, a call from the Creator to not only look back, but also look forward. More on that later.

So, you're thinking, "What now? How do I make the most of these Ten days?" We've put together a guide for each of the Ten days of awe. For every day, you will see:

- **A quick introduction**
- **Jewish practice today**
- **A prayer for the Jewish people**
- **Application for believers in Jesus**
- **A personal directed prayer point**

In less than five minutes, you could connect with the Jewish roots of your faith, pray for the Jewish people, and apply these Days of Awe to your own spiritual life. We promise, it will leave you deepened. The Ten days may seem short, but they're packed with potential for meaningful change. So, what are you waiting for? Let's make this season truly awe-inspiring.



As the Days of Awe kick off, we find ourselves on the cusp of a deeply spiritual journey. It's a time to pause and reflect, to account for the year that's been and prepare for the one that's coming. The Jewish tradition teaches that during these Ten days, three books are opened in the heavenly courts: the Book of Life, the Book of Death, and the Book of the In-Between. Each person's fate for the coming year will be inscribed in one of these books based on their deeds. While this may sound intimidating, it's also a beautiful reminder that our actions have consequences - both in this world and the next.

Jewish Practice Today

In modern Judaism, the concept of the three books still holds significant weight. Synagogue services often focus on themes of repentance and reflection, with the sounding of the shofar (ram's horn) as a wake-up call to the soul. Many people also engage in "Cheshbon HaNefesh," a personal accounting of the soul, evaluating their actions over the past year and seeking ways to improve. This practice isn't just limited to religious texts or prayers; it often extends to reconciling with people they've wronged and making amends in tangible ways. If you have a Jewish friend that you may have had contention with, don't be surprised if a gesture of reconciliation and forgiveness comes knocking at your door in this season.

Prayer for the Jewish People

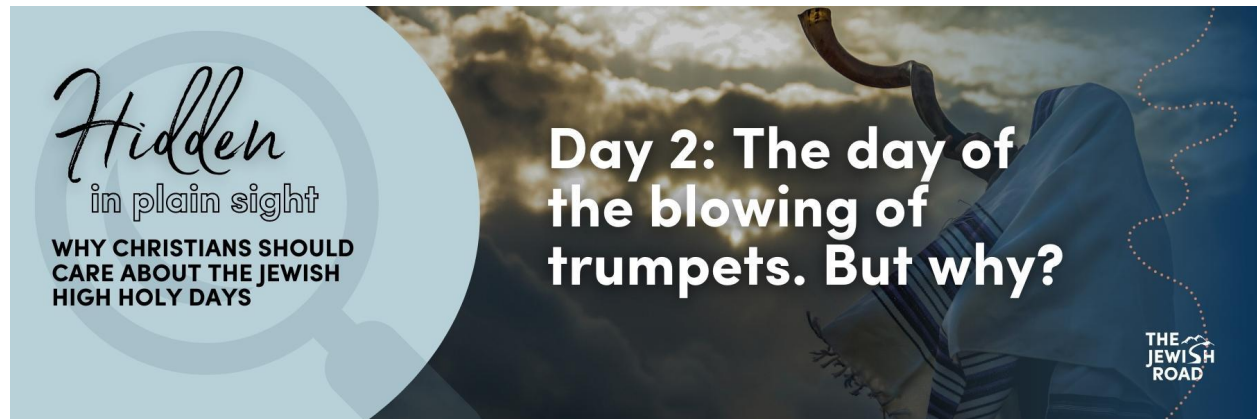
Pray that during this period of introspection, Jewish people may discover the fulfillment of this practice in Yeshua, who offers an everlasting inscription in the Lamb's book of life.

Application for Believers

With our names forever penned in the Lamb's book of life (Revelation 21:27), let's also take this time to better align our lives with God's will.

Directed Prayer Point

Lord, help us all to examine our hearts and see Your love anew, and may our Jewish brothers and sisters recognize Yeshua as their ultimate guide in this journey.



The sound of the shofar (ram's horn) calls us to something extraordinary - Yom Teruah, commonly known as the Day of Trumpets. This isn't just any call; it's an announcement, a heralding of something majestic. The trumpet's sound penetrates the soul, reminding us to awaken from our spiritual slumber. For Christians, the trumpets hold a dual meaning: they remind us of God's sovereignty and offer a glimpse into future prophetic events, like the return of Jesus.

Jewish Practice Today

In modern Jewish observance, the sounding of the shofar is an essential element of Yom Teruah. The blasts come in a variety of sequences, each with its own unique pattern and meaning. The idea is not merely to hear the shofar, but to listen - to allow the sounds to penetrate your heart and encourage deep reflection. Synagogues are filled with congregants participating in extended services that include additional prayers and readings specific to the holiday. Many families gather for festive meals, where apples dipped in honey are often served to symbolize the hope for a sweet new year. Interestingly, Yom Teruah is also considered the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah), even though it falls on the first day of the seventh month in the Jewish calendar. This duality - a new year in the middle of the year - highlights the layered meanings and depths of the High Holy Days.

Prayer for the Jewish People

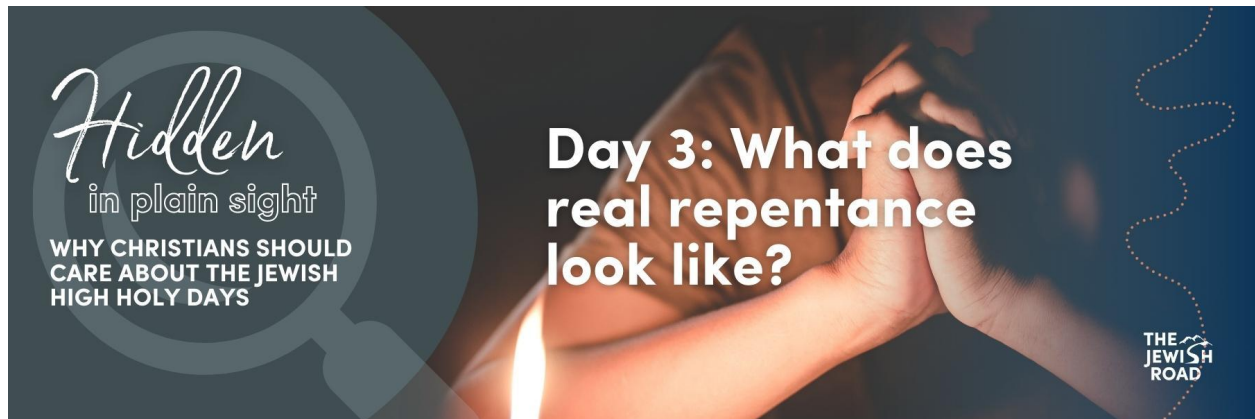
May the Jewish people hear the call of the shofar as a call to return to their Messiah, Yeshua. May their hearts be stirred to search for a more lasting, eternal connection with God.

Application for Believers

Yom Teruah serves as a spiritual alarm clock, awakening us to the importance of repentance and renewal. As believers in Jesus, the trumpet's call reminds us of the return of the Messiah and the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan. We can use this day to examine our readiness for His return and recommit to living a life that honors God.

Directed Prayer Point

Lord, as we listen for Your voice in our own lives, let us also be vigilant in praying for the Jewish people, that they may recognize Yeshua as the ultimate trumpet call to redemption.



Let's look into the essence of Teshuvah, which in Hebrew means "returning" or "repentance." While the word "repentance" might conjure up images of regret and shame, Teshuvah is about turning toward something as much as it's about turning away from something else. It's about re-aligning ourselves with God. The month preceding the High Holy Days, known as Elul, is traditionally a time to begin this process of self-examination and repentance. It's like a warm-up for the spiritual marathon that lies ahead.

Jewish Practice Today

What's happening in the Jewish community before the High Holy Days? The work of Teshuvah actually starts before the Ten Days of Awe. During the month of Elul, the shofar is blown every morning except on Shabbat to wake up the soul and "kick-start" this period of introspection. People take the time to mend relationships and make amends. During the Ten Days, the concept of Teshuvah intensifies. Jewish communities hold workshops and study sessions focusing on the idea of repentance, making this period a deeply reflective time to consider one's actions over the past year. It's not just about saying sorry; it's about meaningful change. Many will write personal letters to friends and family asking for forgiveness for past wrongs, aiming to start the New Year with a clean slate.

Prayer for the Jewish People

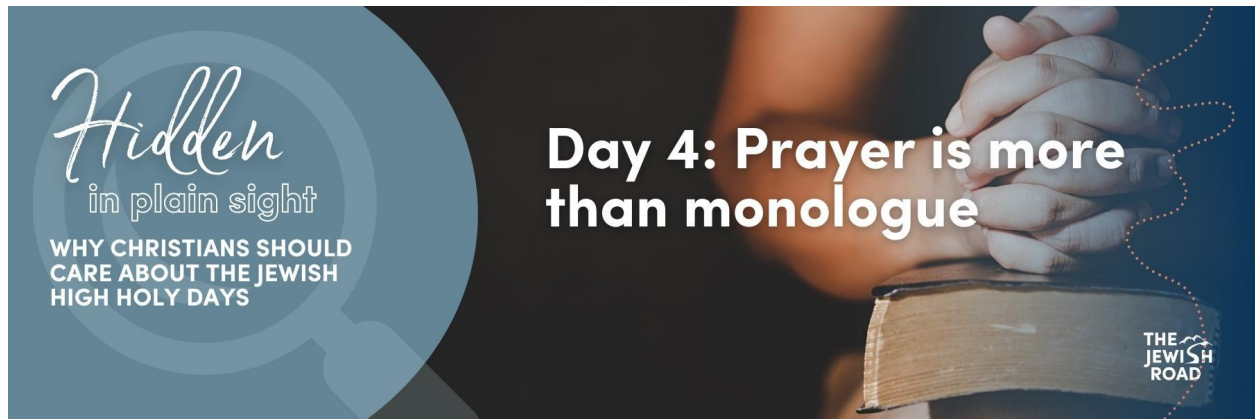
Pray that the Jewish community finds the courage to repent, turn to God, and recognize Jesus, Yeshua, as their ultimate means of atonement.

Application for Believers

As stated in Acts 3:19, repentance wipes away sin. This is a wonderful opportunity to let go of burdens and renew our commitment to following God's will.

Directed Prayer Point

Father, grant us the humility to admit our faults and the strength to turn from them. May the Jewish people also find in Yeshua the source of true repentance and life.



These Days of Awe invite us into the heart of prayer, or Tefillah, in Hebrew. Prayer is a universal act, a meeting place between the human and the divine, and during these days, it takes on an even more profound significance. Tefillah is less about asking God for what we need, and more about aligning ourselves with God's will. For Christians, the idea of interceding with Jesus as our mediator adds a layer of grace to this sacred time.

Jewish Practice Today

In the Jewish tradition, prayer isn't simply a monologue; it's a dialogue with God. Especially during the High Holy Days, you'll see Jewish people engaged in specific prayers, like the Amidah, a central prayer in Jewish liturgy. It's recited three times a day, but during the Ten Days of Awe, an additional section is added for repentance. Synagogues fill up, even in a world where attendance has dwindled. People wear white as a symbol of purity, and many wrap themselves in a prayer shawl, the Tallit. Virtual services have also gained traction, acknowledging modernity while holding fast to the essence of ancient practices.

Prayer for the Jewish People

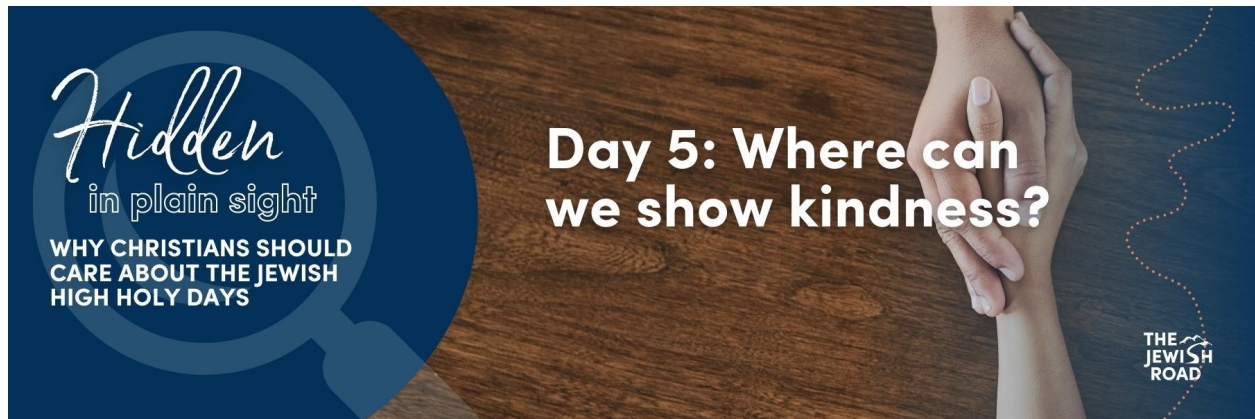
Pray the Jewish people will see Yeshua as their great High Priest, who understands and intercedes for them (Hebrews 4:14-15).

Application for Believers

Let's remember that our access to God is open because of Jesus. Our prayers are heard, and we have a mediator who understands us completely. Don't take this for granted, don't enter into prayer lightly, and don't forget. It's often simple to live our lives without acknowledging our great High Priest. We have access. Let's enter in.

Directed Prayer Point

Lord, deepen our understanding of prayer. As we grow closer to You, let our Jewish friends find the same closeness through Yeshua.



The concept of Tzedakah, often translated as “charity,” but more accurately understood as righteousness or justice. Giving isn't merely a charitable endeavor, but an ethical obligation. For Christians, this resonates deeply with the New Testament teachings on almsgiving and love for neighbor. Here, the idea of 'faith without works is dead' rings loud and clear.

Jewish Practice Today

In Jewish households, a Tzedakah box is often a common sight. It's a tradition to drop coins regularly into this box, especially before the Sabbath. During the High Holy Days, giving takes on heightened importance. Some Jewish communities organize drives to collect food, clothes, and other necessities for the less fortunate. It's also common for synagogues to allocate funds for community welfare projects during this season. In an era of digital transactions, online Tzedakah platforms have emerged, allowing people to donate to causes dear to their hearts at the click of a button. No matter the medium, the message remains the same: to love is to give.

Prayer for the Jewish People

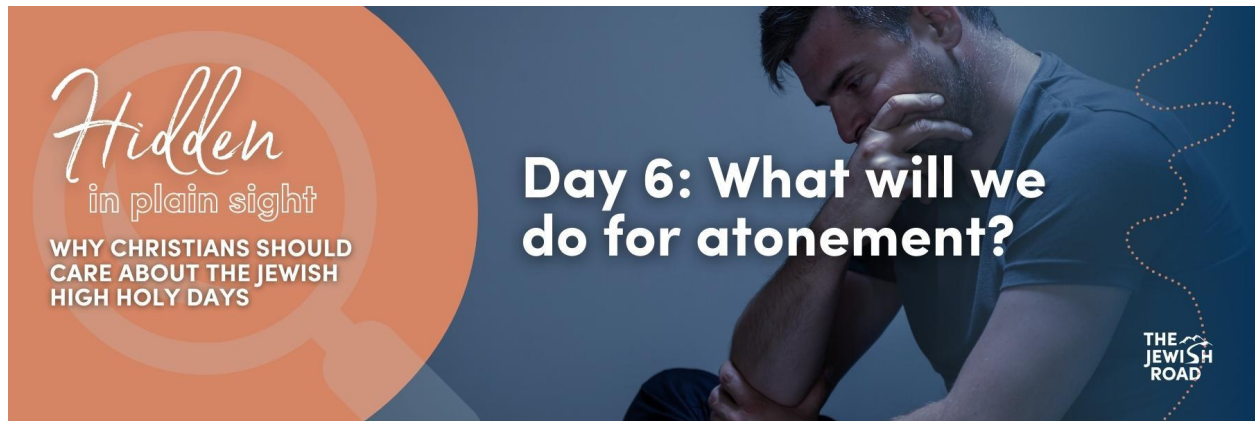
Let's pray that acts of Tzedakah lead the Jewish community closer to the heart of God and eventually to a revelation that the greatest act of charity was God sending His own Son, Yeshua, as the atonement for us all.

Application for Believers

Understanding the concept of Tzedakah gives us a new perspective on what charity means in the Kingdom of God. Unlike a mere optional act, it's our responsibility to take care of each other, to extend love to those in need. In the New Testament, this idea is echoed in James 2:14-17, where faith without deeds is deemed useless. So, how can we incorporate this practice in our own lives? Start by identifying a need in your community or social circle that you can meet. Remember, it doesn't have to be a grand gesture; even a cup of cold water given in love carries eternal weight.

Directed Prayer Point

Ask God to reveal to you an opportunity where you can demonstrate Tzedakah in your life. Secondly, pray for the hearts of the Jewish people to be softened and to be receptive to the ultimate act of divine charity—Yeshua, who is the answer to the profound needs of every human heart.



The human soul carries a deep yearning for atonement. In cultures around the world and across the broad expanse of religious thought, rituals and traditions abound, highlighting the lengths we go to find relief from the weight of our mistakes and misdeeds. The Jewish people are no different. As followers of Jesus, we know that our atonement not only covered our sins once for the next year, but also forgave our sins once and for all.

Jewish Practice

Today, among Orthodox communities, the ceremony known as "Kaparot" is still observed. A chicken or fish is taken and waved over the head three times while a specific prayer is recited. In more liberal Jewish circles, the ceremony may be modified or replaced with charitable donations, known as "Tzedakah," which we discussed yesterday. Money is put in an envelope, and a prayer, rooted in the Book of Job, is repeated three times. The money is then given to the poor, channeling the act of atonement through charity. These acts are believed to bring about a form of earthly atonement, even though the concept of atonement varies within Judaism.

Prayer for the Jewish People

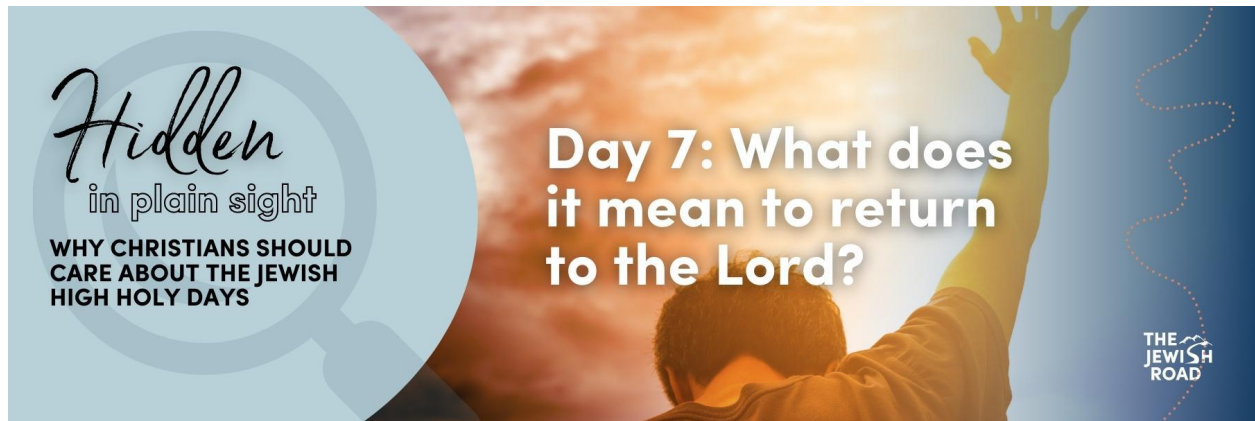
As we consider these rich and varied traditions, our prayer is for the Jewish people to come to know Yeshua, the ultimate atonement for our sins. May these earthly rituals spark a heavenly realization, allowing them to see that Jesus has already paid the price for all, fulfilling the yearning that these practices symbolize.

Application for Believers

For Christians, the rituals around atonement may seem foreign, but the core principle should not. After all, the New Testament teaches that Jesus is our atonement, once and for all. During this day, let's reflect on the depth of that gift. What areas in our lives need atonement and reconciliation? How can we extend grace to others, just as it has been extended to us?

Directed Prayer Point

First, let's pray for the Jewish people, that their search for atonement would lead them to Yeshua. And for ourselves, ask God to reveal areas where we can extend His grace and atonement to others. May this day serve as a reminder of the ultimate atonement we have through the Messiah and inspire us to live in that truth daily.



Central to the Days of Awe is what we call Shabbat Shuvah, or the "Sabbath of Return." Situated between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, this Shabbat holds a special significance. It serves as a momentary pause, a sacred interval for personal and communal reflection. In a season filled with introspection and repentance, Shabbat Shuvah invites us to come home - to return to the Lord with all our hearts. For Christians, this idea of "returning" finds its full expression in the grace and redemption offered through Jesus, our Messiah.

Jewish Practice Today

Shabbat Shuvah is a highly introspective Sabbath, often characterized by increased synagogue attendance and a heightened sense of spirituality. The Rabbi's message is one of the most anticipated events of the year, addressing themes of repentance, self-examination, and the loving call of God for His people to return. Special prayers, like the Selichot - penitential prayers - are added to the liturgy, and the Torah portion often centers around themes of return and renewal. Additionally, many Jews take this time to visit the graves of loved ones, seeking to connect with their ancestors' wisdom and blessings as they prepare for Yom Kippur. The focus is less on ritual and more on relationship - how each person can turn their heart toward God and rectify relationships with their fellow humans.

Prayer for the Jewish People

May this Shabbat open the door for the Jewish people to return to their roots, finding in Yeshua the completion of their faith journey.

Application for Believers

Shabbat Shuvah, the Sabbath of Return, is all about repentance and returning to God. For Christians, it offers a dedicated time to contemplate our own spiritual walk. Are there areas in your life where you have drifted away from God? This is the time to make amends.

Directed Prayer Point

Lord, help us to return to You in areas where we have strayed. May we find rest and peace in You, just as we pray for the Jewish people to find their rest in Yeshua.



There is the practice of Tashlich, a deeply symbolic ceremony that resonates with believers of all backgrounds. As the sun sets and the day comes to an end, many Jewish people flock to rivers and streams, emptying their pockets or throwing pieces of bread into the water. This simple yet powerful act serves as a physical embodiment of letting go, a casting away of sins and burdens. For Christians, it's hard not to think of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, the Messiah, who makes it possible to truly cast our sins "as far as the east is from the west."

Jewish Practice Today

Tashlich ceremonies are diverse, but always meaningful. Some communities gather in large groups near a body of water, reciting prayers and singing songs. The recitation often includes passages from the book of Micah, specifically the verse: "You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19). In some traditions, people also shake out their pockets or even their prayer shawls, symbolizing a thorough cleansing from sin. In modern practices, some people write down their regrets or sins on biodegradable paper and let them dissolve in the water. It's a ceremony thick with anticipation and hope, a physical manifestation of a spiritual yearning to start anew.

Prayer for the Jewish People

May the Jewish people see this act not just as tradition, but as a precursor to the ultimate cleansing available through Yeshua, their Messiah.

Application for Believers

The practice of Tashlich echoes the Christian concept of repentance and forgiveness through Yeshua. Consider taking a quiet moment by a body of water, mentally or physically casting away struggles or sins as a symbolic act of accepting the Messiah's redeeming love.

Directed Prayer Point

Father, as we think about the sins we need to let go of, remind us that Yeshua is our ultimate source of cleansing. Let us also pray that the Jewish people recognize Yeshua as the living water that can wash away all sins.



Al Chet. The term itself is Hebrew for "for the sin," and it serves as the entry point into a profound, soul-searching confession. This isn't just about saying sorry; it's about identifying specific areas where we've fallen short and asking for divine forgiveness. Al Chet is an invitation to take stock of our souls, to identify our missteps, and to seek absolution. It reflects a universal human yearning for forgiveness and liberation that transcends culture and geography. The human soul longs for atonement, for a release from the burden of guilt and imperfection. And in this tradition, we see a beautiful, poignant way of seeking that freedom.

Jewish Practice Today

The Al Chet is an integral part of the Yom Kippur liturgy. Comprising a list of sins in a specific confessional prayer, the congregation recites this litany in unison. There's an admirable level of specificity here. This isn't a general acknowledgment of being a flawed human; it's a point-by-point admission of individual failings. The practice demands a humility and honesty that's rare to find, even in many modern religious observances. It also brings the community together in a shared acknowledgment of human imperfection, fostering a sense of unity in humility.

Prayer for the Jewish People

For those of us who recognize Jesus, Yeshua, as the Messiah, let's lift the Jewish people in prayer that they may also come to see Him as their ultimate atonement. Yeshua himself modeled confession and forgiveness, and His sacrifice on the cross serves as the eternal Al Chet for us all.

Application for Believers

As believers, the Al Chet tradition can serve as a timely reminder to conduct our own personal inventory. While we hold to the belief that Yeshua has already made atonement for us, taking time for introspection is an act of spiritual maturity. What areas of your life need confession and surrender? For the unbeliever the message is you must repent. For the believer the message is when did you repent last?

Directed Prayer Point

Today, let's pray for a heart open to self-examination and an even deeper understanding of the forgiveness already won for us by Yeshua. Ask God to reveal areas in your life that need His light, and lift a prayer for the Jewish people to experience this illumination as well.



Here we are, at the peak of the Ten Days of Awe, Yom Kippur. It's the Day of Atonement, a time when many Jewish people fast, pray, and attend synagogue services. This solemn day carries enormous significance. It's not just a day to say sorry, but to truly reflect on one's actions and seek genuine atonement. While the weight of the day is profoundly felt in Jewish communities, it also offers an extraordinary moment for us as followers of Jesus to recognize Him as our ultimate atonement.

Jewish Practice Today

In modern times, Jewish people observe Yom Kippur with a 25-hour fasting period, beginning at sundown and ending after nightfall the following day. Synagogues are filled to the brim, even by those who don't regularly attend. Prayers asking for forgiveness fill the air, and the powerful sound of the shofar marks the end of the fast. Traditionally, five services are held, culminating in the Neilah service, which signifies the "locking of the gates" of Heaven. It's considered the last chance to make amends before the book of life is sealed for another year.

Prayer for the Jewish People

As we pray today, let's focus on the incredible love and sacrifice that Jesus, Yeshua, has offered not just for us but for His own people, the Jews. May their eyes be opened to recognize Him as their true atonement, fulfilling what the rituals and ceremonies could only point towards.

Application for Believers

While Yom Kippur shines a light on the gravity of our actions, it also illuminates the limitations of human efforts to achieve atonement. For us, as followers of Jesus, the day holds a mirror to our souls and invites us to dive deeper into what it means to live a life washed clean by the ultimate sacrifice. Our atonement isn't earned; it's a gift. So today, let's also focus on extending that gift of grace and forgiveness to others in our lives, reflecting the love of Jesus in all we do.

Directed Prayer Point

Lord, we pray for the Jewish people on this Yom Kippur. Open their eyes to see that their ultimate atonement lies not in rituals but in the sacrificial love of Yeshua. And for us, whose names are already written in the Lamb's book of life, let this day be a reminder to walk in a manner worthy of such an indescribable gift. Amen.



Well, you've made it through the Ten Days of Awe, a journey that has hopefully not only enriched your understanding of Jewish traditions, but deepened your faith in Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of those traditions. Now what? The story doesn't have to end here. In fact, it's just the beginning, especially when it comes to the mission of The Jewish Road. Our aim is to bridge the gap, to open eyes and hearts, and we invite you to link arms with us in this crucial endeavor.

About The Jewish Road

The Jewish Road provides resources, training, and opportunities for Christians to be authentic and effective witnesses to our Jewish friends and neighbors. And let's be clear: this is no small task. It requires persistence, dedication, and a whole lot of love. But the reward? Being part of the redemptive story of God calling His chosen people back to Himself, through you!

If this journey through the Ten Days of Awe has touched you, consider linking arms with The Jewish Road. Whether it's through prayer, financial support, or volunteering your time and skills, your involvement can make a real difference.

Application

Today, ponder this: Your faith journey didn't end with your own acceptance of Jesus; it flourished through your relationships and sharing your faith with others. The same can be true for the Jewish community. As your next step, reach out and connect with us at The Jewish Road. You never know - the road ahead could be filled with divine appointments and miraculous breakthroughs, all because you chose to be part of the journey.