

## Our Jewish Roots Introduction

The following series of lessons were prepared for the home Bible study fellowship of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Silver Spring, Maryland. This file contains the student sheets for group Bible study.

If you use this material for a group, the leader should prepare for the lessons as follows:

- 1) Carefully study the Bible texts cited in each lesson. For some lessons, you may want to print the Bible texts and underline important verses for the group.
- 2) Read about traditions for each of the Jewish holidays on [www.jewfaq.org](http://www.jewfaq.org). You may want to print those holiday articles and give them to your class as supplemental information.
- 3) Purchase and read the following resources from Jews for Jesus (available either from your local Jews For Jesus office, or online at <http://store.jewsforjesus.org>)

*The Fall Feasts of Israel*, by Mitch & Zhava Glaser

*Christ in the Passover*, the book by Ceil & Moshe Rosen and the video by David Brickner.

*Walk With Y'shua Through the Jewish Year*, by Janie-Sue Wertheim and Kathy Shapiro

The *Christ in the Passover* video is not captioned. However, I was able to use it with our Deaf class by showing the demonstrations from the video, and then stopping it to explain the symbolism of the seder.

An inexpensive but excellent little book is Victor Buksbazen's *The Gospel in the Feasts of Israel*, from Christian Literature Crusade, [www.clcusa.org](http://www.clcusa.org). Consider buying it as a reference text for everyone in your study group.

- 4) Download the "Jewish Holy Day and Festival Calendar" from the National Jewish Girl Scout Committee web site [www.njgsc.org](http://www.njgsc.org), and print it for the group.

- 5) Recruit Jewish a friend to attend the class and share personal experiences of celebrating the holidays.

### Notes for the lesson on Covenants:

Do not attempt to teach this lesson in one day. Break it into at least three sessions.

### Notes for Jewish Holidays:

You will often need to review the concepts behind the Jewish lunar calendar. In the *Concordia Self-Study Bible*, on pages 102-103, there is a good chart of the Hebrew calendar and holidays.

I suggest you select the holidays to study nearest to the season in which your holding your class. For example, if you begin your series in the fall, start with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

As you progress through the year, point out that there are some holidays established by God in Leviticus. 23, and other holidays Israel has added (Purim, Hanukah, Tisha B'Av, Simchat Torah). Also point out the difference between holidays that commemorate historical events (Passover, Tabernacles, Purim, Hanukah, Tisha B'Av), and other holidays are thematic to our relationship with God.

Note that a few lessons have an extra page with supplemental information.

Other resources on [www.christdeaf.org/bible](http://www.christdeaf.org/bible)

For the lesson on Purim, see "Women of the Bible - Esther."

For the lesson on Passover, see "Christ and the Passover."

For the lesson on Hanukah, see "Old Testament Time Line."

~~ Pastor Ron Friedrich  
May 2006  
(corrected and updated 6/9/06)

## The Jewish lunar calendar.

1 Month = period of time between New Moon  
(29 or 30 days each)

Relig. Year	Civil Year	Hebrew name	Approximate time
1	7	<b>NISAN</b>	APRIL
2	8	IYAR	MAY
3	9	SIVAN	JUNE
4	12	TAMMUZ	JULY
5	11	AB or AV	AUGUST
6	12	ELUL	SEPTEMBER
7	1	<b>TISHRI</b>	OCTOBER
8	2	MARCHESHVAN	NOVEMBER
9	3	CHISLEU	DECEMBER
10	4	TEBETH	JANUARY
11	5	SHEBAT	FEBRUARY
12	6	ADAR	MARCH
		(2nd Adar)	

The lunar year = only 354 days That is 11 days short of a solar year. To put the lunar calendar back on schedule with the solar year, every three years the Jewish calendar has a "leap year" by adding a 13<sup>th</sup> month - "2<sup>nd</sup> Adar."

The **Jewish DAY** begins and ends at sunset.

Genesis 1:5 describes the first day of creation:

*"There was evening, and there was morning, the first day."*

Therefor the Jewish Sabbath [Shabbat] begins at sunset Friday and ends sunset Saturday. Holiday celebrations also begin at sunset.

Leviticus 23 establishes seven religious festivals for Israel. Most happen in NISAN and TISHRI.

## Our Jewish Roots

### God's Covenants with...

Abraham  
Israel (via Moses)  
David  
The New Covenant  
The Messiah

### Jewish Feasts & Holidays

#### Spring:

Purim  
Pesach (Passover) & Unleavened Bread  
    The First Passover  
    Passover events in the life of Christ  
    The Seder  
Lag B'Omer (First Fruits)  
Shavuot (Feast of Weeks, Pentecost)

#### Summer:

Tisha B'Av (The 9<sup>th</sup> of Av)

#### Fall:

Rosh Hashanah (Trumpets; New Year)  
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)  
    the Tabernacle/Temple  
    the Priesthood  
    the sacrificial lambs  
    the scapegoat  
Sukkot (Tabernacles/Booths)  
Simchat Torah (Rejoicing in the Law)

#### Winter:

Chanukah/Hanukkah

## God's Covenants

### Abraham

- a. Genesis 12:1-3
  - v.1 The Call to leave and follow
  - v.2 A Nation
  - v.3 Blessed to be a blessing to the nations
- b. Genesis 15
- c. vv.1-4 the promise of a son
- d. v. 5 the promise of a nation = stars in the sky
- e. v. 6 Abraham's faith
- f. v. 7 the promise of the land
- g. vv. 8-11 setup for a sign
- h. vv. 12-16 prophecy of slavery in Egypt
- i. v. 17 a sign of the covenant
- j. Genesis 17:9-13 Circumcision, a sign of the covenant.
- k. (See Deuteronomy 30:6)
- l. Genesis 18:10-14 The specific promise of Isaac
- m. Genesis 21:1-7 The birth of Isaac

### Israel

- n. Deuteronomy 6 [the whole chapter]
- o. vv. 1-6 The Commandments and the Promises
- p. vv. 4-9 "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One..."
- q. Deuteronomy 26:16-19
- r. v. 17 "the Lord is your God"
- s. v. 18 "you are His people"
- t. Deuteronomy 30:15-20 A choice between life or death

### David

- u. 2 Samuel 7 - the tale of two houses

### The New Covenant

- v. Jeremiah 31:31-34

### The Messiah

- w. Isaiah 7:10-14 "Immanuel - God With Us"
- x. Isaiah 9:1-7 "To us a child is born... Prince of Peace."
- y. Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 The Suffering Servant

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the Tabernacle/Temple

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## PURIM

### *a* I. The Story: Esther

#### *b* The time & place:

*c* Susa, Persia (see map)

*d* Israel in Exile

#### *e* The people:

*f* The powerful King of Persia, Xerxes/Ahasuerus

*g* The beautiful Queen, Esther/Hadassah

*h* The hero, Mordecai

*i* The evil villain, Haman

#### *j* The drama:

*k* Drunk King Xerxes deposes his queen (chapter 1)

*l* Esther, a Jew, is chosen to be queen (chapter 2)

*m* Wicked Haman plots to kill all Jews (chapter 3-4)

*n* Esther exposes Haman & saves her people (ch.5-9)

### *o* II. The Command to celebrate every year (Esther 9:20-22)

*p* **The Date:** "the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Adar" -- the day of Jewish freedom. Spring time, the last month of the Jewish religious calendar. (In leap years, Purim is in 2<sup>nd</sup> Adar - the 13<sup>th</sup> lunar month.)

*q* **"Purim" = "lottery"** that Haman used to pick the date for the holocaust (Esther 9:23-28).

### *r* III. The Celebration today

#### *s* Prepare by fasting,

to remember Esther's 3-day fast (Esther 4:16)

*t* **The Main Event:** Read the whole story (*megillah*).

*u* When Haman's name is spoken, people boo, hiss, stamp feet, shake rattles (*gragers*), and shout, "*Cursed be Haman!*"

*v* Esther's and Mordecai's names prompt cheering.

*"Blessed be Mordecai!"*

*w* Children dress in character costumes & act the story in drama and song (*Purim Spiel*).

*x* **Gifts** and food baskets (*Shalach Manot*)

#### *y* The joyous feast

*z* A special dessert: *Hamentaschen* ("Haman's pockets")

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## PESACH (PASSOVER) & UNLEAVENED BREAD

### The First Passover (Exodus 12 & 13)

- a. The Place .....12:1
- b. The Date .....12:2-3
- c. Seven-day preparation:
  - Remove all leaven (yeast).....12:14-20
- d. The Passover lamb.....12:3-6
- e. The Lamb's Blood.....12:7, 12-13
- f. Cooking instructions .....12:8-9
- g. Unleavened bread & bitter herbs.....12:8,
- h. Who is permitted to eat the Passover.....12:43-49
- i. Leave nothing behind.....12:10
- j. Dressed for quick exit .....12:11
- k. Death of Egypt's firstborn.....12:12-13, 29-30
- l. Freedom from slavery .....12:31-42
- m. Consecration of Israel's firstborn.....13:1-2, 11-13
- n. Teaching the children.....12:24-28  
13:3-10; 13:14-16
- o. Crossing through the Red Sea.....14:21-28

### Meaning for Christians

- p. **Removing the leaven (yeast)** = removing sinful attitudes & habits  
(1 Corinthians. 5:6-8)
- q. **The Passover Lamb** = Christ Jesus  
(Matthew 26:26, 1 Corinthians 5:9)
- r. **The Lamb's blood around the door** = We are saved through the  
blood of Christ (Romans 3:25, Ephesians 1:7)
- s. **Who is permitted to eat the feast:** only people who belong to Christ  
(Luke 14:15-24; Revelation 19:9)
- t. **Dressed for quick exit** = Earth is not our home (Hebrews 11:13-17)
- u. **Freedom from slavery** = freedom from slavery to sin & Satan  
(Romans 6:6)
- v. **Death/Consecration of the firstborn** = God the Father killed His  
own Son to win our freedom (John 3:16; Romans 5:6-11)
- w. **Crossing through the Red Sea** = baptism (1 Corinthians 10:1-2)

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### The First Passover (Exodus 12 - 14) *review*

- a. The Passover lamb ..... 12:3-6
- b. The Lamb's Blood ..... 12:7, 12-13
- c. Unleavened bread & bitter herbs..... 12:8
- d. Death of Egypt's firstborn..... 12:12-13, 29-30
- e. Freedom from slavery..... 12:31-42
- f. Consecration of Israel's firstborn.... 13:1-2, 11-13
- g. Teaching the children..... 12:24-28; 13:3-10,14-16
- h. Crossing through the Red Sea ..... 14:21-28
- i. 40 years in the wilderness ..... Deuteronomy 8:2-3

### Passover Events in Jesus' life

- j. Consecration of the firstborn..... Luke 2:22-25
- k. Return from Egypt..... Matthew 2:13-15,19-21
- l. 12<sup>th</sup> year visit to the temple ..... Luke 2:41-42
- m. Baptism..... Matthew 3:1, 5-6, 13-17
- n. 40 days in the wilderness ..... Matthew 4:1-10
- o. Holy Week..... Matthew 26:1-5
- p. Lord's Supper ..... Matthew 26:17-29
- q. Crucifixion..... John 18:28
- r. .... John 19:14-18

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## PESACH (PASSOVER) & UNLEAVENED BREAD

### The Seder ("order")

- 1 *Bedikat Chametz*: Purging the home of all leaven
- 2 *Birkat ha-ner*: Lighting the festival candles
- 3 *The Haggadah*: the book of the Passover service
- 4 *The Kittel & Mitre*: Father's ceremonial robe & crown
- 5 *The Ma Nishtanah*: The Four Questions
- 6 "Why is this night different from all other nights?..."
- 7 ...Why tonight do we eat unleavened bread?
- 8 ...Why tonight do we eat bitter herbs?
- 9 ...Why tonight do we dip twice?
- 10 ...Why tonight do we recline?
- 11 **The First Cup**: The Cup of Sanctification
- 12 The Seder plate
- 13 *Karpas*: greens (celery, lettuce)  
[dipped in salt water = tears]
- 14 *Maror*: Horseradish ("bitter herbs")
- 16 *Charoseth*: chopped apples, nuts, raisins = mortar
- 17 *Chazereth*: Horseradish root (not eaten)
- 18 *Haggigah*: egg = replaces the passover lamb  
[dipped in salt water = tears]
- 20 *Zeroah*: leg bone of a lamb
- 21 **The Second Cup**: The Cup of Plagues (or Cup of Iniquity)
- 22 *The Matzoh*: Unleavened bread - striped & pierced
- 23 *The Matzoh Tosh*: bag with three pockets.
- 24 *The Afikoman*: the middle piece from the *matzoh tosh*.  
broken, wrapped, and hidden
- 26 The family meal
- 27 **The Third Cup**: The Cup of Redemption (or Cup of Blessing)
- 28 *The Hillel*: Psalms of Praise (Ps. 113-118)
- 28 **The Fourth Cup**: The Cup of Praise (Elijah's Cup)
- 30 Elijah's chair & Elijah's cup -- looking for Elijah to come?
- 31 "Next year in Jerusalem!"

### 32 **The Lord's Supper:**

33	Matt 26:17-30	Mark 14:12-26	Luke 22:7-20
34	John 13:21-35	1 Cor. 10:14-17	1 Cor. 11:17-34

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## First Fruits

### Lag b'Omer

#### IN THE BIBLE

- a* **Leviticus 23:9-15** – Law about offering first grain harvest
- b* **Day?**
- c* At the start of the grain harvest, 1<sup>st</sup> day after the Sabbath.
- d* Jews who lived in cities (not farmers) needed a specific date, so they celebrated *First Fruits* on the 1<sup>st</sup> day after the Sabbath following Passover.
- e* **Purpose?**
- f* Offering to God the very first part of the spring harvest.
- g* **Name?**
- h* “First Fruits”
- i* **Application:**
- j* - Giving back to God what He has given to us.
- k* - The date of Jesus’ resurrection
- l* (first Sunday after Passover!)
- m* 1 Corinthians 15:20
- n* Romans 8:23

#### TODAY (TRADITION)

- o* **Day?**
- p* Nisan 16, the day after Passover.
- q* **Purpose?**
- r* Start counting 50 days to Shavuot (The First Fruit offering is postponed to the Feast of Weeks.)
- s* **Name?**
- t* *Lag b'Omer* - “Counting the Omer”  
Omer = measure for grain, > 2 dry quarts  
2<sup>nd</sup> day of Passover

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## Feast of Weeks – Pentecost *Shavuot*

- 1 **Leviticus 23:15-22** - Feast of Weeks
- 2 **Leviticus 23:23** – law about gleaning
- 3 **Day?**
- 4 In the Bible (Lev. 23:15,16) 7 weeks + 1 day (50 days) after First Fruits offering, on the day after Sabbath.
- 5 Today/tradition: 50 days after Passover (*Sivan 6*)
- 6 **Purpose?**
- 7 In the Bible (Lev. 23:17-20) Sacrifices
- 8 Two loaves of leavened bread
- 9 Animal sacrifices: sheep, lambs, bull
- 10 Grain offering
- 11 “Sin offering” – one goat
- 12 Today/tradition:
- 13 Celebrate God giving the Law to Israel.
- 14 (Assume 7 weeks time between Exodus and Mt. Sinai)
- 15 **Name?**
- 16 *Shavuot* (“weeks”) – Feast of Weeks
- 17 *Pentecost* (Greek word for 50<sup>th</sup>)
- 18 *Hag Matan Torateinu* (Festival of the Giving of Our Torah)
- 19 *Hag ha Bikkurim* (First Fruits Festival, delayed 7 weeks)
- 20 **Celebration?**
- 21 In the Bible: Sacrifices, worship, rest
- 22 Today/tradition:
- 23 (a) All-night Torah study session
- 24 (b) Morning worship
- 25 - Read the Ten Commandments
- 26 - Read the story of Ruth (Why? see Lev. 23:23)
- 27 (c) Special foods: Dairy (milk & cheese)
- 28 **New Testament:**
- 29 Acts 2 – God giving the Holy Spirit to believers
- 30 Jeremiah 31:31-34
- 31 John 1:17
- 32 Romans 8:3,4

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## Tisha B'Av

*The 9<sup>th</sup> of Av*  
*(end of July, beginning of August)*

### *a* **On this day in history...**

- b* 586 BC Babylonians destroyed Israel's 1<sup>st</sup> temple.  
*c* (2 Kings 25:8-10)  
*d* AD 70 Romans destroyed Israel's 2<sup>nd</sup> temple.  
*e* AD 1492 Spain expelled all Jews during the Inquisition  
*f* (The same day Christopher Columbus sailed west.)  
*g* **Tisha B'Av commemorates these three events**, and  
*h* remembers Israel's history of persecution.

### *i* **Prophecies**

- j* Isaiah 63:18 & 64:11 predicts the destruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> temple.  
*k* 2 Chronicles 36:14-19 explains why the 1<sup>st</sup> temple was  
destroyed – Israel rejected God's Law and  
worshipped idols.  
*l* Isaiah 44:28 predicts rebuilding the temple.  
*m* Ezra 1-7 describes building the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple.  
*n* Matthew 24:1-2 predicts the destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple.  
*o* Matthew 23:37-38 explains why the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple was destroyed  
– Israel rejected God's Grace by rejecting  
their Messiah, Jesus.

### *p* **Celebration**

- q* (a) Tisha B'Av ends a three week period of mourning.  
*r* (b) Sunset begins a 24-hour fast.  
*s* (c) The Ark (Torah cabinet) in the synagogue is  
covered with black cloth.  
*t* (d) Morning worship – read the book of Lamentations.

### *u* **Israel's persecution**

- v* Jewish people have suffered terrible persecution throughout their history. Many persecutors claimed to be Christians. Those persecutors did not understand the reason for Christ's sacrifice for their own sin. Because of this persecution from false Christians, many Jewish people feel they must reject Christ.

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## THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

### Rosh Hashanah (The Jewish New Year)

#### Part 1

#### Leviticus 23:23-35

- a* The Lord spoke to Moses. He said, "Say to the people of Israel, 'On the first day of the seventh month [Tishri] you must have a day of rest. It must be a special service that is announced with trumpet blasts. Do not do any regular work on that day. Instead, bring an offering...
- b* **Rosh Hashanah** means "head of the year," i.e. the beginning of the year. So how does the 7<sup>th</sup> month get to be called the *new year*?
- c* Answer: The *religious* calendar begins with Passover - the Exodus, remembering Israel's beginning as a nation. The *agricultural (civic)* calendar begins with the fall harvest season, and according to *Jewish tradition*, Rosh Hashanah commemorates the day in which God created Adam.
- d* **Biblical significance of the trumpet [SHOFAR, ram's horn]**
- e* Exodus 19 & 20 - announcing God's presence on Mt. Sinai
- f* Leviticus 25:9 - announcing freedom for all from debt and slavery in the Year of Jubilee, every 7<sup>th</sup> year.
- g* Joshua 6:20 - causing the walls of Jericho to fall.
- h* Judges 6:34 - call to battle
- i* 2 Samuel 2:28 - announcing victory in battle
- j* 2 Samuel 15:10 - announcing the coronation of a new king
- k* Psalms 150:3 - praise to God
- l* Jeremiah 51:27 & Ezekiel 33 - God's judgment
- m* Matt. 24:31 & 1 Thess. 4:16 - the final return of Christ.
- The ram's horn had very special significance for Israel. A ram caught by its horns in a bush saved Isaac's life. (Genesis 22) According to Jewish tradition, this happened on Rosh Hashanah.*
- n* **The Purpose of Rosh Hashanah** will become clear when we see how the holiday is celebrated now -- our next lesson.



## Our Jewish Roots

### God's Covenants with...

Abraham  
Israel (via Moses)  
David  
The New Covenant  
The Messiah

### Jewish Feasts & Holidays

#### Spring:

Purim  
Pesach (Passover) & Unleavened Bread  
    The First Passover  
    Passover events in the life of Christ  
    The Seder  
Lag B'Omer (First Fruits)  
Shavuot (Feast of Weeks, Pentecost)

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#### Fall:

Rosh Hashanah (Trumpets; New Year)

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) the Tabernacle/Temple the priesthood the sacrificial lambs the scapegoat
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Sukkot (Tabernacles/Booths)

Simchat Torah (Rejoicing in the Law)

#### Winter:

Chanukah/Hanukkah

## YOM KIPPUR

### The Day of Atonement

*as ordained for Israel in the Old Testament*

**Yom** = Day    **Kippur** = Covering

**Atonement** = paying the penalty for sins

**When:** Tishri 10 -- 10 days after Rosh Hashanah (Feast of Trumpets)

#### Leviticus 23:26-32

*"The Lord spoke to Moses. He said, 'The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement...'"*

- [1] Hold a sacred assembly [meet together for worship]
- [2] Present a burnt offering to the Lord [for your sins]
- [3] Humble yourself and fast [don't eat any food for one day]
- [4] Rest - don't do any work

#### Leviticus 16 The High Priest...

- [a] v. 4 bathes, then dresses in simple white linen robe.
- [b] v. 6, 11 offers bull as sacrifice for his own sins and the sins of his family.
- [c] v. 5, 7-9, 15-16 offer a goat and ram as a sin offering for the people of Israel.
- [d] v. 12-15 enters the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle/temple to
  - put the blood of the animals offered for the sins of the Priest and of the people on the Ark of the Covenant.
  - burn incense in prayer for the people.*According to tradition, the High Priest tied a rope to his ankle, so the other priests could drag him out, if God found him unworthy and struck him dead in the Most Holy Place.*
- [e] v. 10, 20-22 lays his hands on the 2nd goat, the "**scapegoat**," symbolically putting the nation's sins on the goat, and releases that goat into the wilderness.
- [f] v. 23-28 bathes again.

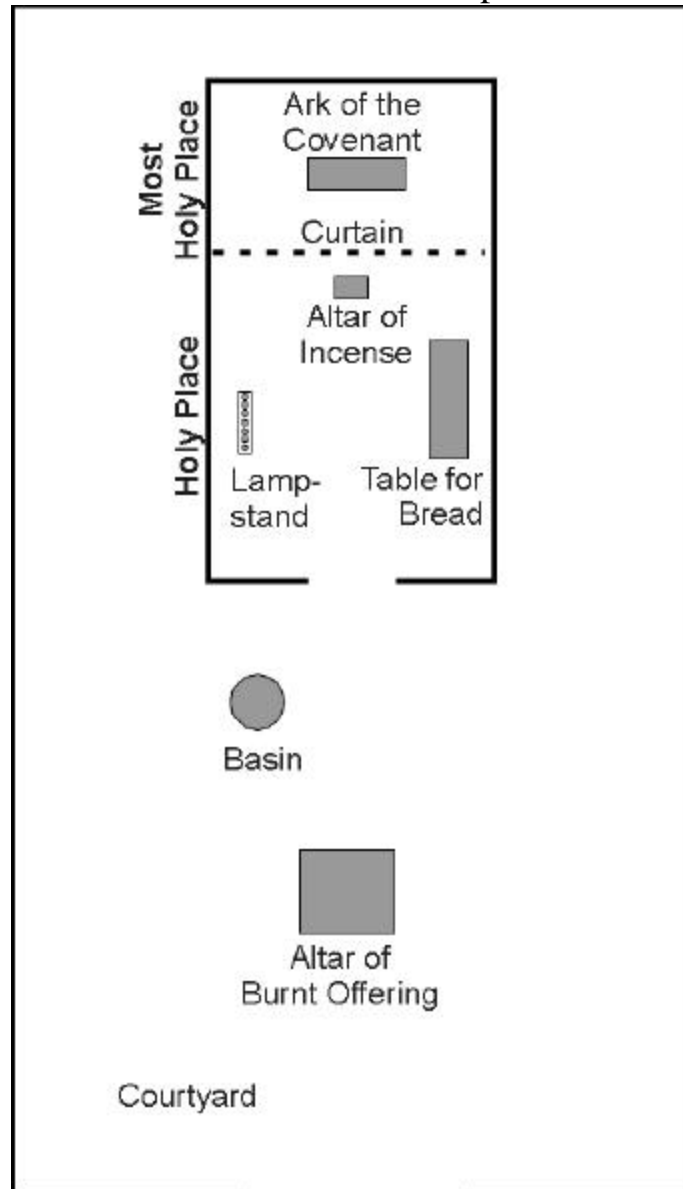
#### Fulfillment in Christ - Hebrews 9:11-14

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Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are part of the same holy season, which reminds us that [1] we are sinners worthy of God's judgment, and [2] God is both holy and merciful, eager to forgive all who turn to Him in sincere repentance.

*Next time: How Yom Kippur is celebrated today.*

## Design of the Tabernacle and Temple



## Jesus our High Priest

Hebrew 4:14 - 10:23

Jewish High Priest	Jesus our High Priest
<b>SIMILARITIES</b>	
Chosen by someone else (by right of birth)	
Prays to God for people	
Offered sacrifices for the sins of the people	
Serves in the temple - the presence of God	
<b>DIFFERENCES</b>	
term of service ended when the priest died	lives & serves forever
Served in a physical temple (a copy of the real one)	Serves in the true temple: Heaven
Only HP can enter The Most Holy Place (yearly on Yom Kippur)	We can now enter Heaven's Most Holy Place through Christ
Must first sacrifice for his own sins before offering sacrifices for the people	Has no sin of His own
sacrificed animals, which can never remove sin	Sacrifices Himself
Offers sacrificed repeatedly -- daily,	offers His sacrifice only once -- enough for all people for all time
Old covenant: Law [religious duty]	New covenant: Grace & Mercy [relationship with God]
Prophecy	Fulfillment
Today: No more sacrifices! Christ's one sacrifice is enough for all time.	

*"So, brothers and sisters, we are completely free to enter the Most Holy Place without fear because of the blood of Jesus' death. We can enter through a new and living way that Jesus opened for us. It leads through the curtain--Christ's body. And since we have a great priest over God's house, let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, because we have been made free from a guilty conscience..."*

*(Hebrews 10:19-22 NCV)*

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## YOM KIPPUR The Day of Atonement

*as celebrated today*

- a Yom Kippur finishes the solemn season of repentance. According to Jewish Tradition, it is the day that God closes and seals the two books -- the Book of Life and the Book of Death.
- b **Shabbat Suvah** -- the Sabbath of Repentance, the Sabbath day during the Days of Awe (*Yamim Noraim*), the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The service focuses on repentance and gifts for charity.
- c **Kol Nidre** ("all vows") -- prayer for God to cancel all foolish and unfulfilled vows, oaths, and promises we make to God during the coming year.
- d **Fasting** 25 hours (excused are children and those who should not fast for health reasons)
- e **Yom Kippur worship**
- f Dress in white (or a white *Kittel* robe), representing
- g [1] God's forgiveness.
- h [2] shroud that clothes the dead
- i Blow the *shofar*
- j Confess sins
- k Prayers for forgiveness
- l Prayers of remembrance of the dead
- m **Neilah** ("closing") is the evening worship that ends Yom Kippur, representing the "closing of the gates of heaven" when our judgment is sealed until next year. Final prayers beg for God's forgiveness and His favor. The service closes with one long blast on the *shofar*, and the congregation responds: "*Next year in Jerusalem!*"
- n **Preparing for Sukkot** -- before the family sits down to eat, they pound the first nail for the *Sukkuh*, a homemade booth needed for the next holiday which begins in five days.

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## SUKKOT

### The Feast of Tabernacles/Booths

*a* **Leviticus 23:33-44**

*b* When? v.34 (15th Day of Tishri = 5 days after Yom Kippur [Day of Atonement] in the fall, usually October)

*c* v.39 (after the fall harvest)

*d* 1<sup>st</sup> Day? v.35 \_\_\_\_\_

*e* 8<sup>th</sup> Day? v.39 \_\_\_\_\_

*f* 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> days? \_\_\_\_\_

*g* v.36 \_\_\_\_\_

*h* v.40 \_\_\_\_\_

*i* Mood of the celebration v.40 \_\_\_\_\_

(Remember that this follows the season of confession and repentance, Yom Kippur)

*j* **Sukkah** = Booth **Sukkot** = Booths; small temporary outdoor shelters

*k* **Built from what?** v.40 \_\_\_\_\_

*l* **Why?** v.43 \_\_\_\_\_

*m* **Deuteronomy 6:13-16** *The Feast of Booths was one of three annual holidays that required attendance at the Temple (v.16)*

*n* **Numbers 29:12-3** *The schedule for daily sacrifices.*

*o* **Zechariah 14:16-19** During the Feast of Booths, people will...

*p* v.16 Worship Messiah!

*q* v.17 Prayer for Rain (for next year's crops)

*r* **Psalms 81:3** Blow the *shofar* (ram's horn)

*s* **John 7:37-39** *Jesus celebrated & interpreted the Feast of Booths. Also see Galatians 5:22,23.*

*t* To everyone believing in Jesus, He promised to give what?

*u* **Modern celebration of Sukkot**

*v* Build booths, decorated (especially with vegetation & fruit)

*w* Hospitality to the needy.

*x* "Live" in the booths - pray, worship, eat, and sleep.

*y* **Hoshana Rabbah** - Day 7, March around the Synagogue and wave a *lulav*, branches of willow, myrtle, & *etrog*.

*z* **Shemini Atzeret** - Day 8, pray for rain, read Ecclesiastes.

## Sukkot: Schedule for daily sacrifices

### Numbers 29

#### [The first day]

<sup>12</sup> On the 15th day of the seventh month, come together for a special service. Do not do any regular work. Celebrate the Feast of Booths in honor of the Lord for seven days.

<sup>13</sup> Bring an offering that is made with fire. It will give a smell that is pleasant to the Lord. Bring a burnt offering of 13 young bulls and two rams. Also bring 14 male lambs that are a year old. They must not have any flaws.

<sup>14</sup> Prepare a grain offering along with each of the 13 bulls. It must have 24 cups of fine flour. Mix it with olive oil. Offer 16 cups along with each of the two rams. <sup>15</sup> Offer eight cups along with each of the 14 lambs.

<sup>16</sup> Include a male goat as a sin offering. It is in addition to the regular burnt offering. It is also in addition to its grain offering and drink offering.

<sup>17</sup> **On the second day** prepare 12 young bulls and two rams. Also prepare 14 male lambs that are a year old. They must not have any flaws.

<sup>18</sup> Prepare their grain offerings and drink offerings. Prepare them along with the bulls, rams and lambs. Prepare them in keeping with the required number.

<sup>19</sup> Include a male goat as a sin offering. It is in addition to the regular burnt offering along with its grain offering. It is also in addition to their drink offerings... *etc.*

### DAILY SACRIFICES FOR SUKKOT

#### Numbers 29:12-38

DAY	BULLS	RAMS	LAMBS	GOAT	GRAIN
1	13	2	14	1	456 cups
2	12	2	14	1	432 cups
3	11	2	14	1	408 cups
4	10	2	14	1	384 cups
5	9	2	14	1	360 cups
6	8	2	14	1	336 cups
7	7	2	14	1	312 cups
8	1	1	7	1	96 cups
<b>TOTAL</b>	71	15	105	8	2,784 cups

### Recipes for Grain offering

With each bull: *24 cups of fine flour. Mix it with olive oil*

With each ram: *16 cups of fine flour.*

With each lamb: *8 cups of fine flour.*

With each goat (daily sin offering): *1 handful (Lev 9:1-17)*

## Sukkot celebrations in the Bible

### Old Testament ...after return from Babylonian captivity

Ezra 3:1-4

Nehemiah 8:14-17

### New Testament

*The seventh day of the Feast is called **Hoshana Rabah**, "The Great Hosanna." On that day, in the liturgical prayer for rain, the priests got water from the Pool of Siloam outside Jerusalem. They carried the water in a gold pitcher into the city through the Water Gate. They took this water into the Temple, and they poured the water into a bowl next to the altar, while the people cheered and waved their tree branches. Today, on Hoshana Rabah the congregation marches around the synagogue seven times waving branches and singing "Hosheanah (Save us)."*

### John 7:37-39

<sup>37</sup> It was the last and most important day of the Feast [*Hoshana Rabah*\*]. Jesus stood up and spoke in a loud voice. He said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Does anyone believe in me? Then, just as Scripture says, streams of living water will flow from inside him."

<sup>39</sup> When he said this, he meant the Holy Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit later. Up to that time, the Spirit had not been given. This was because Jesus had not yet received glory. (*NIRV*)

*In ancient times, the eighth day of the Feast, called **Shemini Atzeret**, was considered a separate holiday, which was a day of solemn assembly for prayer. Today Semini Atzeret is considered part of the Sukkot celebration, with meals still eaten in the festival booth. The assembly prays for rain for the coming season and reads the book of Ecclesiastes.*



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## Hanukkah

### Festival of Lights

- a **Hanukkah** (also spelled *Chanukah*) means "dedication."
- b **Date:** Kislev 25, normally in December
- c **Why:** Hanukkah celebrates an important event in Israel's history during the time between the Old Testament and the New Testament:
  - d > Freedom from Syria's King Antiochus Epihanes,
  - e > Cleansing the temple from idol worship,
  - f > Rededicating the temple for the Lord,
  - g > Legend of miraculous oil.

#### h **Celebration:**

#### i **Hanukkah Menorah**

9 candles

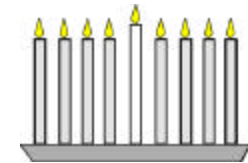
Use the center candle to light other candles.

Night 1: light 1 candle on the left.

Night 2: light 2 candles on the left.

Night 3: light 3 candles on the left, *etc.*

The center candle is a symbol of Christ, the Light of the World, who kindles the light of faith in us.



#### j **Festive Hanukkah holiday songs**

#### k **Games:** *Dreidels*

#### l **Food:** *Latkes* (potato pancakes) & doughnuts



#### m **John 10:22-39**

Here Jesus revealed His divinity at the temple during Hanukkah. During Hanukkah the people remembered the blasphemy of King Antiochus Epiphanes, who desecrated the temple and claimed to be a god. It is no surprise they were angry at Jesus for claiming to be God.

## Our Jewish Roots

# The Story of Hanukkah

The story of **Hanukkah** happens during the time between the Old Testament and New Testament.

The OT prophet Daniel predicted the events 400 years earlier. *See Daniel 11:29-32.*

The history is reported in the Apocrypha, in the book of *1 Maccabees*. (You will find this book included in Bibles published for the Roman Catholic Church.)

Israel's captivity in **Babylon** (Iraq) ended in 538 BC when **Persia** (Iran) conquered Babylon, and let all the captives return home.

In 334 BC, The **Greeks** (Alexander the Great) conquered Israel... and the rest of the Middle East.

Nine years later in 323 BC, Alexander died, and his empire broke up into four sections.

The Seleucids ruled north of Israel in **Syria**. A series of Seleucid kings called themselves "Antiochus." Antiochus IV called himself "**Antiochus Epiphanes**" -- meaning that he called himself a god. The year was around 175 BC.

Antiochus forced all his subjects to accept the Greek religion. He defiled the temple by ordering his soldiers to put pagan idols and altars in the temple. They polluted the holy altar by sacrificing a pig to worship Zeus. They burned every copy of the Holy Scriptures that they found.

Antiochus Epiphanes prohibited Jews from circumcising their baby boys (if they disobeyed, both parents and children were killed). Antiochus prohibited the celebration of any Jewish holy day, including the weekly Sabbath. (*See 1 Maccabees 1.*)

In the Jewish town of Modein there lived a Jewish priest name **Mattathias**. The officials from Antiochus ordered Mattathias to offer pagan sacrifices:

*"You are a respected leader in this town, and you have the support of your sons and relatives. Why not be the first one here to do what the king has commanded. All the Gentiles, the people of Judea, and all the people left in Jerusalem have already done so. If you do, you and your sons will be honored with the title of 'Friends of the King,' and you will be rewarded with silver and gold and many gifts." (1 Macc 2:17-18 TEV)*

Mattathias refused, one of the Jewish citizens of Modein volunteered to offer the pagan sacrifice. This so angered Mattathias that he attacked and killed both the Jewish traitor and the Syrian official, and he tore down the pagan altar. Then he shouted, *"Everyone who is faithful to God's covenant and obeys His Laws, Follow me!"* Mattathias and his sons fled to the mountains, and from there led a movement of guerilla warfare against Syria. (1 Maccabees 2:19-28)

When Mattathias died, his third son Judah (or Judas) became the leader. He was so bold and reckless in battle, that he earned the Syrian nickname "*Maccaba*," which means "hammer." He is now known as **Judas Maccabeus**, and his brothers were "the Maccabees."

Eventually Judas Maccabeus and his followers won a brief independence for Israel. They removed and replaced all the polluted items from the temple, including the stones for the altar of sacrifice. They rebuilt all the damaged parts of temple buildings, and finally, when the temple was proper cleansed, they rededicated the temple to God. **The word Hanukkah means "dedication."**

*"They repaired the Temple, inside and out, and dedicated its courtyards. They made new utensils for worship and brought the lampstand, the altar of incense, and the table for the bread into the Temple. They burned incense on the altar and lit the lamps on the lampstand, and there was light in the Temple!" (1 Macc. 4:48-50)*

They celebrated the dedication of the temple and its altar for eight days. Naturally, part of the dedication ceremonies included offering sacrifices on the new altar.

*"Judas, his brothers, and the entire community of Israel decreed that the rededication of the altar should be celebrated with a festival of joy and gladness at the same time each year, beginning on the 25th of the month of Kislev and lasting for eight days." (1 Macc. 4:59)*

Later a legend developed about that 8-day celebration. The legend says that the priests had enough consecrated olive oil for only one day. But the temple lamp continued burning for eight days, until they got a new supply of oil. It is from this legend that Hanukkah is now known as "the Festival of Lights."