

# CHAIM TIMES

The Newsletter of CHAIM, CHristians Announcing Israel's Messiah

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## The Fall Holidays

Several times every year we have a great opportunity to connect with our Jewish friends and tell them the Good News about Jesus the Messiah. In addition, knowing about these holidays and their profound meanings is an encouragement to Christians and tells us more about the Lord and his redemption. All of these holidays can be a segue into a discussion of spiritual things with Jewish friends, which can in turn naturally lead to sharing what God has done for us through the Messiah. These are important cultural and religious inroads.

The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashana) comes in the Fall on the first day of the seventh month of the Jewish calendar, the month of Tishri. This occurs any time between early September and early October. In 2025 it begins the evening of September 22. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Tishri, and the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Tishri. (After that there is also a non-biblical holiday, Simchat Torah, which is a time for rejoicing over the completion of the liturgical reading calendar.) Jewish holidays, like the Sabbath, all begin at sundown the day before. You will need to check online for the exact dates of these holidays each year, which you can do by “googling,” or there are free apps like “Simple Luach” that you can put on either your Apple or Android phone.

Rosh Hashana (see Lev. 23:23 and Nu. 29:1-6) isn't explained much in the Torah (Pentateuch) where it is commanded to sound the animal horn trumpet, or shofar, and make certain sacrifices. A shofar can be made from a ram, goat, ibex, or antelope horn. Why is it done? The shofar was an ancient alarm, a siren warning of a great event or judgement. It calls to mind God as the holy judge and our need to repent. It is appropriate to send Jewish friends cards wishing them a Happy Rosh Hashana. The holiday today also has been interpreted as the day on which God began to create the world or when he created mankind.

Yom Kippur is the holiest day in the Hebrew calendar. (See

Lev. 16 and 23:26-32 and Nu. 29:7-11) It was a day when the Israelites were commanded to “afflict themselves” which is understood as fasting. The Jewish High Priest would make a sacrifice to pay for all the sins of Israel. In the synagogue today, worshipers confess their sins and hope they make it into the Book of Life. There are now no animal sacrifices as there is no Temple in Jerusalem. Some very orthodox Jews do sacrifice a chicken and donate it, or a sum of money, to the poor for their atonement.

The last of the three Biblical fall holidays is the 8-day Feast of Tabernacles. (See Lev. 23:33-44 and Nu. 29:12-40) The Israelites were commanded to live in makeshift booths for the holiday to remember the wilderness wandering and how God provided. In ancient times there was a great water-pouring ceremony in Jerusalem seeking God's blessing of much needed water. Today many build a little booth, or synagogues and Jewish student organizations build a big booth, and observant Jews eat meals in these temporary structures.

Notice the logic of these holidays. We must recognize God is the Holy Judge and acknowledge our sin, repent, and receive God's atonement before we can experience God's providential care over our lives.

God has provided the ultimate rest from our works, the supreme Sabbath rest, through the Messiah. He is our sin offering. We must recognize our sin, repent, and trust him in order to know our names are inscribed in the Book of Life (Phil. 4:3 and Rev. 3:5). Jesus' death demonstrated that sin must be judged (he received the judgement in our place). The Lord providentially cares for us and provides Living Water. His resurrection shows that God has appointed Him the Judge (see John 5:21-27; 12:31; and Acts 17:31). That final Day of Judgement will come when the trumpet sounds and the Lord Jesus returns to judge the earth (I Thess. 4:16; I Cor. 15:52). We can now celebrate the New Creation that has already begun in the Messiah (2 Cor. 5:17; Romans 5:12-19; and I Cor. 15:45) and will come in fullness when he returns. —Director Fred Klett

## CHAIM UPDATES

Remember, You can find helpful articles and materials, such as Jewish Holy Day bulletin inserts online at [www.chaim.org](http://www.chaim.org) and there is also a link to support our work.



Our missionary Rick Anderson outside the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia to do tracting and evangelism. He wore our blue and white "Messiah Has Set Us Free" T-shirt and passed out "Messiah Has Set Us Free" CHAIM brochures.



Director Fred Klett, Jean Klett, and Russian Ministry Staff Vitaly Kalinovsky manning a booth at the Southampton Days Community Fair. We shared the Gospel and gave away books and DVDs.

**Pray for the upcoming Philly Children's Festival in the Russian-speaking immigrant community on Sept. 21. All ages come. We plan to again have a booth to give away Bibles and share the Gospel.**



2025 "Jesus Our Passover" Seder at Rock of Israel PCA. You can schedule a Seder or a Passover presentation at your church for 2026! Don't Wait! We will go anywhere!

### Individuals to Pray For:

**Miriam:** She has been coming out to services for years and attends our weekly study in Lawrenceville, NJ. She has become more open to the Good News. Many in her family died in the Holocaust. She always has good questions. Pray for her to come to a true belief in Jesus. She is getting up there in years, and her health isn't great.

**Susan:** Jean Klett has become fast friends with a Jewish woman in our Condo. Susan is quite a character! She has asked why we believe there is a God. Pray for Jean's witness to her and other women in our condo.

**Ron:** A long-time Jewish friend of Fred's met through the local music scene. He is very open to the gospel. His girlfriend friend "M," from an orthodox Jewish family, has also become a great friend. Pray for them to come to faith.

**Irene:** Jean Klett has known her for decades and they meet together periodically. We value the friendship of Irene and her husband. They are agnostic or atheist. We would love to see them come to faith.

**Jhanna:** A lovely Jewish lady from Moldavia. She and her Muslim friend Zema have been coming out to our Rock of Israel PCA church plant and are very open and interested.

**Zema:** A very nice culturally Muslim woman from Azerbaijan who has been coming out to Rock of Israel and is also very open to faith in Messiah Jesus.

**Sasha and Lena:** Jewish friends we see in the Poconos. They are from Ukraine and now Brooklyn. They are such sweet and open people. We value their friendship.

**Larissa:** A Ukrainian Jewish woman who organizes the festival (←See box). She had a back surgery and asked for prayer. We encouraged many to pray, and the results were her saying it was "miraculous" how well she recovered! There was a moment when she could have died. She believes God providentially prevented that from happening. Pray also for Martha who helps her organize the festival.