

CHAIM TIMES

The Newsletter of CHAIM, "CHRistians Announcing Israel's Messiah"

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THE JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS

Tishri, the seventh month in the Jewish calendar, contains two major holidays: Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. Tishri begins sometime during the last three weeks of September or the first week of October. In 2017 it is September 21. The first day of Tishri is the Jewish New Year, Rosh HaShana, which means "head of the year." The Biblical holiday on this day is the Feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:23 and Nu. 29:1-6). It begins a ten-day period of repentance and prayer. During this period, it is customary to greet one another with the phrase, "L'Shanah Tovah Tikateyvu" meaning "To a good year, may you be inscribed" (in the Book of Life).

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, comes ten days later on September 30 in 2017. It is a solemn time of mourning for sin, fasting, and seeking God's mercy. It is believed the heavenly gates of prayer are open during this ten-day period. One hopes to be inscribed in Book of Life. (See Daniel 12:1)

In the synagogue the major focuses are recognizing one's sins, confessing them, and repenting. The blowing of the shofar (ram's horn trumpet) is a central feature and calls the worshipers to turn to God. It announces a great judgement is about to take place, as when the walls of Jericho fell. Genesis 22, which tells of God's command to Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, is read on the second day. At the close of the service at Yom Kippur the shofar is sounded, ending the fast.

The Biblical holiday of the Feast of Trumpets is described most fully in Numbers 29:1-6. Yom Kippur is fully described in Leviticus 16 where blood atonement was made for the nation by the High Priest.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS

God has provided the ultimate atonement for sin and rest from our works, the supreme sabbath rest, through Jesus the Messiah. 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). 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). Rosh HaShana also remembers Creation, we 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 (Romans 9:19-22).

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN WITNESS:

1. Wish your Jewish friend a Happy New Year. In Hebrew you say "L'Shanah Tovah." It is appropriate to send Jewish friends a Rosh HaShana card.
2. Ask your Jewish friend what he is doing for Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur and how his family celebrates these holidays.
3. Ask about your friend's concept of sin, judgement, and repentance.
4. Read together the biblical passages that describe these holidays. Numbers 29, Leviticus 16, Leviticus 23, and the book of Hebrews.
5. Share that Messiah came as the final atonement for sin and that we can know we are in the Book of Life through him.

—Fred Klett, Executive Director

R. C. Sproul on the Jewish People:

"And so all Israel will be saved." The context indicates that Paul must be speaking of the Jewish people. He does not mean every Jew that ever lived, but the nation of Israel. Now why do I say that 'Israel' in this phrase refers to the Jews? All through his discussion Paul is talking about Israel in part: part of Israel has been blinded, part of Israel has been cut away, part of Israel has been stubborn, part of Israel has been excluded from the kingdom of God and its blessings. The Jews as a people are presently under judgment. But as there was a national judgment, so there will be a national restoration. Their rejection, even though it was a national rejection, did not include the rejection of every individual. So the restoration doesn't necessarily mean that every individual Jew will be saved, but the nation as a nation will be restored to God. (From his commentary on Romans. The quotation was found on www.monergism.com, which has some great stuff!)

CHAIM Ministry Updates - Fred Klett

ARRGH! A JEWISH PIRATE COMES TO FAITH!

We gave out thousands of gospel pamphlets during our Independence Week street campaign in Philadelphia and had many chances to share the good news. Ten volunteers participated. At Independence Mall, as crowds of people passed by, I noticed a fellow walk by dressed as a pirate and sporting a parrot on his shoulder. He was posing with people for a few dollars. Rick Anderson told me later they spoke on the street and the fellow has a Jewish mother and has been wanting to know more about Jesus and what it means to believe in him! Talk about a divine appointment! Rick used his own experience with his pet cockateel to open the conversation which moved on to the gospel and then to prayer right there on the street! You just never know what God will use. And you never know when a Jewish pirate may profess faith! Pray for this man to grow in his faith and for his discipleship.



Rev. Rick Anderson sharing the gospel on the street during Independence week in Philly.



Rev. Fred Klett had a great time sharing Messiah with an Orthodox Jewish couple who happened to be African Americans. The wife says her family converted several generations back. You never know who you might meet doing street evangelism!



Brother Fran Proud came up from Virginia to participate during our campaign! It was inspirational to have this older brother join us and to see his zeal which has not diminished with his senior status!

We need to raise \$1,200 for an outreach project at our local Russian-speaking community festival, "Matryoshka!" We will be partnering with a Jewish-Christian singer/songwriter Sally Klein O'Connor in giving out roses with a Russian language gospel message and then hosting a concert. Please pray and send in a special designated gift if you would like to help!

Our new Rocky tract got people's attention at the annual showing of the Rocky film at the Philly Art Museum! Thanks to Shaun from Rock of Israel PCA for his cartooning!

We appreciate your prayers and support for our ministry! Be sure to pray for the Jewish community this fall as their holidays focus on sin, repentance and a hope for acceptance by God. We who know we have atonement and assurance of being in the Book of Life must always remember to pray for those through whom the Messiah came.

