



Meeting Notes: 13-Year Anniversary Celebration
(October 3, 2018)

These notes capture our October 3, 2018 meeting. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each discussion topic.

Current Vision: “Moving Forward: Getting Unstuck”

Scripture Reference: TBD

Discussion Topic: Here are nuggets I wrote down along with additional insights:

- **Recurring themes.** We each made note of things the Father has been speaking to us over the last few years, but we’ve not yet implemented in our lives.
- **Rosh Hashanah.** Our main discussion came from “5 Things to Consider at Rosh Hashanah” (see attachment).¹ I’ll share why I chose this as our discussion topic at the end, but for now, the five questions we considered were:
 - **“Consider Your Ways:** We focused on our “actions, attitudes, habits, and thoughts” of the past year. General revelations from this discussion:
 - When we gain awareness of something we’ve heard before, we have made progress, because thoughts create attitudes. Attitudes create actions. Actions become habits.
 - During our prayer time, focus on putting off the old and putting on the new.
 - **Takeaway:** It may take days, months, or even years for what the Father said to sink in! Once it does, it’s time to take off the old (our current thoughts, attitudes, actions, and habits) and put on the new (what He says about our thoughts, attitudes, actions, and habits).
 - **Consider What God Has Done.** Here we looked at what He is done “for, in, and around” us. We identified gifts we need to reconnect to, blessings we thanked Him for, and how to be more aware of what He does in the coming year. One suggestion was writing down our blessings and putting them in a container so we can look at them later, especially in times of trial. **Takeaway.** Be purposeful about recognizing what the Lord does!
 - **Consider How to Encourage Others.** Listening and speaking kindly to

¹ Retrieved from <https://www.jewishvoice.org/read/blog/5-things-consider-rosh-hashanah>

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others is one way to encourage them, because ineffective communication can be a challenge and a stumbling block for many! **Takeaway.** Not only hear, but also listen to what the other person is saying and then think before we speak.

- **Consider Suffering Differently.** We discussed what this might look like. Our main point was to walk with, embrace, and trust Him, so He can produce in us the fruit that satisfies. As we examined what embracing Him looks like, we discussed our love for Him and His love for us helping us to hold onto Him. The visual image we saw was holding His hand as we walk, knowing if we stumble, He won't let us fall. This led us to Psalm 37:24, "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds *him with His hand*" (NKJV). Knowing He's not going to let us fall, helps us feel more secure and steady, which builds our trust! This security and steadiness also helps us learn to count it all joy when we go through our trials, because trials are what help us change; indeed, they are an answer to our prayers for change! **Takeaway.** A different perspective on our trials helps us go through them differently.
- **Consider the Value of Knowing Yeshua [Jesus].** Long story short, we could not imagine where we would be without Him! We left off our discussion with: "Can you say with the apostle Paul that all other gains amount to loss compared to knowing Jesus?"² **Takeaway.** How important is it to you to know the Lord? IS He your Lord?
- **Casting Vision.** Our vision was born because we want to know how do we gird our loins with truth to move forward in the things we say we believe, but are having trouble applying to our lives. **Takeaway.** We want to move forward in what we know, but need to know how!

Why discuss things to consider at Rosh Hashanah? If you've not seen or heard me mention it before, over the last several years, I have been exploring the Jewish roots of our faith to include learning more about the Jewish calendar, meaning the numerical year, the name of the month, the meaning of the name, and the holidays celebrated therein. One of the many things I learned is the Jewish calendar year changes in September/October and the first day or two is called Rosh Hashanah, meaning "Head of the Year," and considered by some to be the Jewish New Year.³ The interesting thing is, when I learned this, I found the creation of our group better aligns with the Jewish calendar, so for at least the last five years, we have been casting vision in October and not January. As not to completely confuse anyone, I am not becoming Jewish—I get hopelessly confused if I try to dig too deep into Judaism—but if you know me at all, you know I believe the root is what produces the fruit—be it positive or negative—and my better connecting to our Jewish roots has produced very positive fruit in my life. Therefore, this year, when I found "5 Things

² Retrieved from <https://www.jewishvoice.org/read/blog/5-things-consider-rosh-hashanah>

³ Retrieved from https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/4644/jewish/Rosh-Hashanah.htm

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to Consider at Rosh Hashanah," I felt it would be good for us to consider those same five questions at our "head of year." However, it's also important to note that, even though the calendar year has changed, the Biblical first month of the year won't happen until closer to Passover in March/April (see Exodus 12). Here's an excerpt I found on the web that might help clarify the difference:

Months of the Jewish Year

The "first month" of the Jewish calendar is the month of Nissan, in the spring, when Passover occurs. However, the Jewish New Year is in Tishri, the seventh month, and that is when the year number is increased. This concept of different starting points for a year is not as strange as it might seem at first glance. The American "new year" starts in January, but the new "school year" starts in September, and many businesses have "fiscal years" that start at various times of the year. Similarly, the Jewish calendar has different starting points for different purposes.⁴

Hopefully, this makes it easier to understand why our group "new year" starts in October, but our new calendar year doesn't start until January and why I chose the topic I did for this evening! Hopefully, it will also help clarify why you see me refer to the Lord as Messiah or Yeshua, which better aligns with His Jewish heritage rather than Christ or Jesus, respectively. Along those same lines, you will also see me say Father or Abba, to emphasize the relationship I have developed (and continue to develop) with that mysterious God I went searching for way back in 1983.

Next Meeting: We will continue to identify the full scope of our vision, define what it looks like, and develop strategies for how to move forward in the things we say we believe.

Closing: We closed our meeting in with a time of worship and need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our site, www.wow2women.com.

⁴ Retrieved from <http://www.jewfaq.org/calendar.htm>.



Meeting Notes: 13-Year Anniversary Celebration (Attachment 1)
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5 Things to Consider at Rosh Hashanah⁵

Published on August 28, 2018

“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Examine me, and know my anxious thoughts, and see if there be any offensive way within me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

—Psalm 139:23–24

At *Rosh Hashanah* (ROSHE Hah-SHAH-nah), Jewish people around the world spend time in reflection and repentance. The Jewish New Year offers the opportunity to examine our lives and our relationships with God.

David laid his life open before God asking Him to search his heart and show him where he fell short (Psalm 139:23–24). God sees us as righteous through the cleansing blood of Yeshua (Jesus); self-examination, confession and repentance keep our fellowship with Him clear and close. As you spend time this Rosh Hashanah taking stock of your life, here are five things to consider.

1. Consider Your Ways

“I have considered my ways and turned my feet back to Your testimonies.”

—Psalm 119:59

Examining your “ways” is an obvious starting point for any period of self-evaluation. Consider your actions, habits, thoughts and attitudes. As you do, keep in mind that all of us fall short in countless ways. Take care that you do not become overwhelmed with every single flaw. God calls us ever upward, and until we meet him face to face, we will not cease to need improvement. Each of us is a work in progress dependent on the Holy Spirit for change.

Ask God to show you what to focus on during this time of reflection. In confession and repentance, lay before Him the areas He reveals to you. Acknowledge your need of His life-changing power, and ask Him to transform you and guide you to pursue growth in each area.

⁵ Retrieved from <https://www.jewishvoice.org/read/blog/5-things-consider-rosh-hashanah> and inserted here for your convenience.

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2. Consider What God Has Done

"I will meditate also on all Your work and consider Your deeds."

—Psalm 77:13

As you take stock of your life, also consider what God has done for, in and around you. We sometimes forget God's many provisions throughout the year. The busyness of life can make it easy to overlook His many graces and gifts. He is a God who works wonders – in the earth and in our lives. Rosh Hashanah provides us the opportunity to look back and remember all the ways God has met our needs and shown us His love.

God is always at work to strengthen and mature you into the image of His Son, and He reveals His love in countless ways each day. As you examine the past 12 months, look for God's handiwork. Rediscover the gifts He gave you and how He has moved in your life and in the lives of others. Thank Him for His blessings this past year, and determine to be on the lookout for His gifts in the year ahead.

3. Consider How to Encourage Others

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds. And do not neglect our own meetings, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another – and all the more so as you see the Day approaching."

—Hebrews 10:24

Most of us would agree that we want to encourage people. Still, how many of us intentionally ponder ways to accomplish this? Aside from our children and families, do we take the time to think about how we can encourage others and "stir them up to love and good deeds"?

In the year to come, consider how you might encourage the people you encounter in the various areas of your life. Reflect on how your life and words could inspire others and spur them to be their best, and most loving and giving, selves.

4. Consider Suffering Differently

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

—James 1:2–3

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No one likes to suffer. Despite what James exhorted, hardship is something we earnestly try to avoid. And that's natural. But what if suffering opens a way to discover the deep joy and unflappable peace we genuinely crave? We'd much prefer to gain those without the affliction, but in God's kingdom, our trials are often the tools He uses to shape and complete us.

As we trust God with our challenges and pain, we discover His faithfulness and compassion toward us. The various difficulties we endure in this life are opportunities to move another step closer to living with the contentment and joy we so long for. Walk with Him through your suffering, embracing Him, trusting Him, and letting Him produce in you the fruit that satisfies.

5. Consider the Value of Knowing Yeshua

“But whatever things were gain to me, these I have considered as loss for the sake of the Messiah. More than that, I consider all things to be loss in comparison to the surpassing value of the knowledge of Messiah Yeshua my Lord.”

—Philippians 3:7–8

What would your life be like if you did not know Yeshua? Consider all you have gained from placing your faith in Him. The assurance of the world to come – hope for an eternity spent with no more sin or sorrow – is a future blessing that can help us get through the toughest of times in our lives. Of course, God's riches are for this life as well. He gives us wisdom to guide our decisions, comforts us in our affliction, and gives us strength when we are weary. He meets our needs, intervenes with answered prayer, and nurtures us with unconditional love.

As you review the previous year and your relationship with God, spend some time meditating on this: Can you say with the apostle Paul that all other gain amounts to loss compared to knowing Jesus? Take your answer into your prayers for the new year.

May your Rosh Hashanah reflection and the coming year be sweetened by deep fellowship with Messiah Yeshua.