

TZEDAKAH MINISTRIES
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Yom Teruah or Rosh Hoshanah?



All of your life, you have probably heard this particular Jewish holiday referred to by the name Rosh Hashanah ... Right? Have you ever heard of this special feast holiday referred to by the phrase “Yom Teruah” ... No? Don’t worry because most Jewish people haven’t heard of Yom Teruah either! However, the Biblical name for the holiday observed on the first day of Tishrei is actually **Yom Teruah** and perhaps we should return to the Biblical name for a lot of different reasons.

First, Rosh Hashanah for many Jewish people has lost all meaning — biblical and historical. I remember last year while waiting for a film to begin at the Dallas Jewish Film Festival overhearing several women *kvetching* (complaining) over having to attend to synagogue during the High Holidays. They were complaining over the high cost of the seats. They were kvetching over the long and boring services. They were wondering if the rabbi could find a way to not say the same thing or the same jokes he/she said last year. And just this year, I have read multiple articles about whether or not it is even worth going to synagogue during Rosh Hashanah because who can believe the whole *mishegoss* (craziness) unless one is Orthodox anyway. For truth be told, many Jewish people who are not Orthodox follow the view of Jay Michaelson who wrote in the 15 September online edition of the *Forward*, “*Sure, introspection is great, and asking for forgiveness from friends and relatives can be extremely powerful. But the Man in the Sky with the big Book of Life? The Birthday of the World? Who are we kidding here? Does anyone believe this stuff?*” And the answer is no as 50% (**fifty percent**) of American Jews and 80% (**eighty percent**) of Israeli Jews can be classified as

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To Equip His Church To Reach His People



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Yom Teruah or Rosh Hashanah (continued)

Agnostics/Atheists. For while they might go through the rituals of going to synagogue on Rosh Hashanah, their minds and hearts are not there. They symbolically are on a spiritual bridge but they cannot see where they are going and do not even realize they are headed off a cliff to nowhere.

Second, there is so much more to Rosh Hashanah (or really Yom Teruah than most Jewish people realize! If one goes to Leviticus 23:23-25, one can see the whole Biblical story and not just what has been created out of Rabbinical Judaism:

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD (KJV).

This day (**yom**) of rest is several components — (1) the blowing of the shofar (**teruah**); (2) worship; (3) complete rest; and (4) sacrifice. However, today's Rabbinic Judaism, can only do parts of these aspects because the Temple was destroyed in AD 70. They can blow the shofar.



They can abstain from work. They can go to synagogue but they **cannot** offer the sacrifice that is required. However, we who believe in Jesus know that He became our sacrifice and He will fulfill the ultimate blowing of the shofar in I Thessalonians 4:16-17. He also is and will be our Yom Kippur sacrifice as He is our High Priest (Hebrews 4 and 6). And Sukkot will be realized during the Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20). So ... why was Yom Teruah changed to Rosh Hashanah? Perhaps because Rosh Hashanah doesn't point to Jesus while Yom Teruah does. **Happy Yom Teruah!**

Acts 20:24,

Dr. Amy Downey (Director)

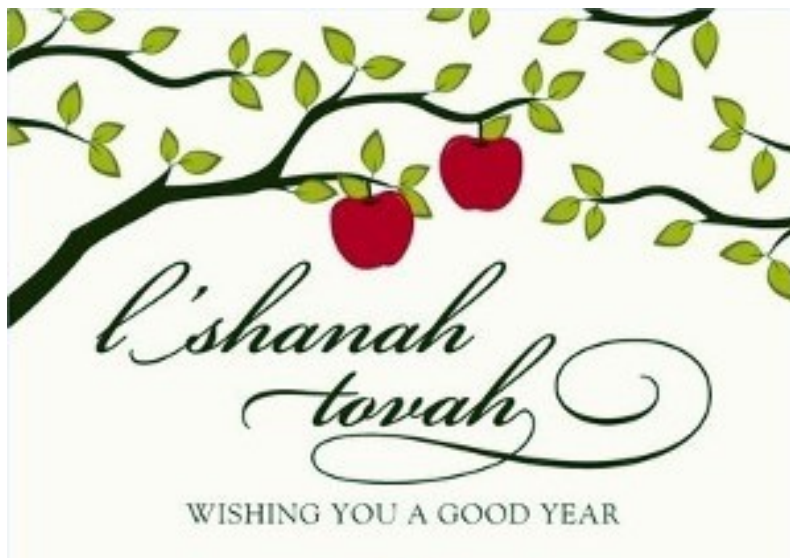
The “Jewish New Year” in the 7th Month...?

Here is a head scratcher for you? How can the “**Jewish New Year**” be celebrated in the seventh month of the Biblical calendar?

You don’t believe me ... let’s look at the evidence but first we have to go to one of the least read books of the Bible — Leviticus. For we find in Leviticus 23 not only the calendar for the Biblical feasts but also I would argue the calendar of the **history of time**. And I recognize a bold statement was just made but give me a few moments to make **Tzedakah Ministries’** case...

In Leviticus 23:4-14, the three Spring feasts of Passover, Unleavened, and First Fruits deal with the 1st coming of Jesus the Messiah as they are sequential (14th, 15th, and 16th of Nisan which is also called the **first month in the Bible**). In fact, Paul speaks of the Feast of First Fruits in I Corinthians 15:20-23 when he speaks of Jesus being the example of the first fruit of those who are raised from the dead.

The Summer feast is called Shavuot which begins immediately at the same time as First Fruits (hmm...) and ends with the arrival of the barley harvest. You can find a fuller description of Shavuot in Leviticus 23:15-22 as well as Acts 2:1-4 (aka Pentecost). Therefore, one can see that the Holy Spirit arrives in Acts 2:1-4 just as tradition alleges that Ezekiel 1:1-18 is being read in the Temple. Coincidence or God-planned? I believe the answer is obvious.



Therefore, the Jewish people now arrive at the Fall feasts (**seventh month in the Bible** — Leviticus 23:23-44). They are the following: Yom Teruah (aka Rosh Hashanah), Yom Kippur and Sukkot. And so ... I arrive back at the head scratcher — how can the “Jewish New Year” be celebrated in the seventh month of the Biblical calendar?

I have asked Jewish friends. I have looked it up on the internet. And I have come to only one possible conclusion that the Biblical calendar is awkward because it points to **one truth**: Jesus is the Messiah! Rabbinical Judaism had to do something to turn the eyes of the Jewish people away from Messiah Jesus! In fact, the Mishnah which was codified in the 2nd century after Jesus set the date for the New Year but give no absolute reason as to why. I think I no why and I think now you do as well. His name is Jesus the Messiah.

**Rabbinical Judaism
had to do something
to turn the eyes away
of the Jewish people
from the Bible and
away from Messiah
Jesus!**



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Explore Messiah...? Website

The website for *Explore Messiah...?* is being built even as this newsletter is being read! We are tweaking the design. We are focusing on how it needs to be presented to Jewish Millennials and the upcoming generation. There are even times that I believe that every third and fourth words out of my mouth are “*Explore Messiah.*”

Tzedakah Ministries has also secured the logo below! For we believe that this ministry focus will not only reach until numbers of Jewish people but will also equip churches like never before!



My Dad Still Teaches — Proverbs 29:18

I have more recent pictures of myself with my dad but this one from my high school graduation (1987!) is one of my favorites. He had just gone through a very tough week as a pastor (a double funeral the day before) but he had made sure that my graduation day was his top priority. He continues to be one of my greatest heroes even though he has been in heaven for 16 years.

His favorite Bible verse was found in Proverbs 29:18, “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” He taught me that many people have dreams but very few people have visions. Why is that you might ask? It is because a vision should be defined as **a dream WITH a plan**.

I would like to add to my dad’s definition and I am sure he would agree with my addendum — a vision is a dream with a plan **that is first covered in prayer**. **Tzedakah Ministries** wants to assure you that every step and facet of *Explore Messiah...?* has been covered in prayer and diligently considered.

It is important that **Tzedakah Ministries** be careful about this ministry endeavor because the truth is that Jewish people are perishing. It is important that *Explore Messiah...?* be not just a missionary campaign but a visionary evangelism outreach as Jewish Millennials need Jesus today!



To Equip His Church To Reach His People