



New Years 2024
Rosh Hashanah & a Christian New Years
By Louie Marsh, 12-29-2024

Rosh Hashanah (Hebrew: ראש השנה, lit. 'head of the year') is the New Year in Judaism. The biblical name for this holiday is Yom Teruah (יום תְּרוּעָה, lit. 'day of shouting/blasting'). It is the first of the High Holy Days (יָמֵי נוֹרָאִים, Yāmīm Nōrā'īm, 'Days of Awe'), that occur in the late summer/early autumn of the Northern Hemisphere.

“²⁴Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. ²⁵You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the LORD.” (Leviticus 23:24–25, ESV)

Rosh Hashanah is a two-day observance and celebration that begins on the first day of Tishrei, which is the seventh month of the ecclesiastical year. Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the civil year, according to the teachings of Judaism, and is the traditional anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve.

Rosh Hashanah customs include sounding the shofar as prescribed in the Torah, following the prescription of the Hebrew Bible to "raise a noise" on Yom Teruah. Eating symbolic foods that represent various wishes for the new year is an ancient custom recorded in the Talmud.

“¹⁸Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. ¹⁹He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.” (Micah 7:18–20, ESV)

Because the New Year ushers in a 10-day period of self-examination and penitence, Rosh Hashana is also called the annual Day of Judgment; during this period Jews review their individual relationships with God, the Supreme Judge.

“¹“On the first day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a day for you to blow the trumpets, ²and you shall offer a burnt offering, for a pleasing aroma to the LORD: one bull from the herd, one ram, seven male lambs a year old without blemish;” (Numbers 29:1–2, ESV) [Ezra 3:1–4, ESV]

A More Biblical Approach to New Years

“¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12–14, ESV)

- 1) Be _____
 - Especially about my _____:
- 2) Be _____
 - Especially in dealing with my _____
- 3) Be _____ on my future.
 - Especially in being more like _____:
 - _____ this to all areas of my life.
- 4) Be _____ in how I approach all this.
 - Do things _____:



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