

RUSSELL SANDERS

9-8-2021

ROSH HA SHANAH – PART 2

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Today at sundown concludes the second day of the Feast of Trumpets called Rosh Ha Shanah or Yom Teruah by Jews to start their civil New Year.

The trumpets are ram's horns called shofars. The shofar is sounded to call together a solemn assembly. At the assembly the shofar is blown over one hundred times using a specific sequence of varied blasts. Scriptures are read and certain prayers recited.

The first day of the month of Tishri is Rosh Ha Shanah, the beginning of ten days of self-examination culminating with the Day of Atonement on the tenth of Tishri. In preparation for the Day of Atonement when all sins are to be forgiven, the Jews are to examine themselves and all their actions from the past year. They seek to assure that the good deeds outweigh the bad deeds in the scale of justice. If the good outweighs the bad on the Day of Atonement, then their sins are forgiven, and their names are written in heaven's Book of Life for one more year.

This means they must "right" any "wrong" that had occurred regardless of whether it was intentional or unintentional, and whether it is "known" of them or "unknown" to them.

The days between 1 Tishri and 10 Tishri are therefore called "the days of awe." During this time several activities take place. They often call friends, neighbors, and relatives to inquire if they have caused any offense, and deeply apologize and make amends if so.

Many of them will cast stones into a river or lake as symbolic of their sins being cast off them into the deep sea. If they have dealt dishonestly with anyone, they make restitution. If they qualify to have their name written in The Book of Life, they will receive God's grace (favor) for the New Year of good health, prosperity, and all good things. If they do not purge themselves, they will spend the year outside of God's graces.

To help balance the scale, they do many good and charitable works from Rosh Ha Shanah and throughout the Days of Awe. They tend to continue charitable works all through the New Year as their religion is based on works.

Those of us who have received Jesus as our Lord have our names in the Book of Life by our faith instead of our works. Through our atonement by the blood of Jesus, our name is permanently written in the Book of Life according to God's great redemptive plan. We study these feasts to understand the prophetic meaning of them. We live in their fulfillment today while it was but a foreshadowing in the Old Covenant. It helps us to understand and better appreciate what God has done for us.