

RUSSELL SANDERS

9-14-2021

ROSH HA SHANAH TO SIMCHAT TORAH

THE JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS – PART 8

THE CALENDAR

Sundown today starts the eighth day of The Days of Admitting (Awe, Repentance, Returning), Tishri 8, which ends at sundown tomorrow. Let me lay out the whole fall calendar of Jewish observance. The first column will show the Jew's Civil Calendar: the second column is our Gregorian Calendar showing two dates for one Jewish date, the first being the date at sundown and the second being the full daylight only time

| JEWISH DATE | GREGORIAN DATE | OBSERVANCE |
|--------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Tishri 1 | Sept. 6/7 | Rosh Ha Shanah/Feast of Trumpets |
| Tishri 2-9 | Sept 7/15 | Days of Awe |
| Tishri 10 | Sept. 15/16 | Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement |
| Tishri 15-22 | Sept. 20/28 | Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles |
| Tishri 20-23 | Sept. 28/29 | Simchat Torah |

The Jewish time and calendar differ from ours in several ways. Their day starts at sundown and goes through the daylight hours and ends at sundown. Ours runs from midnight to midnight. Sundown can be considered as 6:00 p.m. instead of actual sunset.

Their night is divided into four watches running from 6-9; 9-12; 12-3; and 3-6. There are four night watches, and four day watches. Prayer intercessors have found that the most effective prayer time (open heaven and less evil resistance) is in the fourth night watch of 3 to 6 a.m. which also is the watch when Jesus walked on the water of the Sea of Galilee to join the disciples on the boat.

The Jewish month consists of 28 days running from the start of the new moon until the next new moon. The new moon is a feast time, and the shofar is given a long blast. This means their 12-month standard year would have 336 days, not 365. In order to correct this difference to adjust for the seasons and the sun, they add a 13th month.

This calendar difference can be confusing to us. It means the civil new year can start anywhere from the first week of our September (as it did this year) to the first week of October.

The main thing for us to learn from this period of time, is that as they examine their position with God, we should also do that, but not just during the fall feast. It should be for the Christian a daily examination.