



THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

The Reset



SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

BETHEL TEMPLE CATHEDRAL

1213 Purchase Street New Bedford, Massachusetts

BETHEL TEMPLE CATHEDRAL



Rosh Hashanah

SCHEDULE

Enjoy a traditional and meaningful Rosh Hashanah

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Evening Services 7:00pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:15 am - Morning Prayer

11:45 am - Sounding of the Shofar

6:45 pm - Worship

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

12 Noon - Morning Services

11:45 am - Sounding of the Shofar

6:45 pm - Evening Services

NO CHARGE
Donations appreciated

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THE ROSH HASHANAH WORSHIP CELEBRATION
7PM

THE OFFICIAL GREETING

"THE BLOWING OF THE SHOFAR"

THE OPENING PRAYER

PRAISE & WORSHIP

THE READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Genesis 21:1-34 & Genesis 22:1-24

Elder Michelle Lynch Donelson

WHAT IS ROSH HASHANAH, THE SPIRITUAL NEW YEAR

AVINU MALKEINU (OUR FATHER, OUR KING)

By Barbra Streisand

THE NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Bishop Lee Donelson Sr.

The New Year Blessing

THE OPENING PRAYER

FATHER, Thank You for every seat that has been filled here, today. For each mind and heart that fills the presence of this room, we thank You. Only You truly know what we are setting out to accomplish today. We have an idea, a vision, hints, and daily instructions. We have talents, abilities, and time to work. However, only You can see in perfect detail the end of every beginning. Every project, every season, every life. Nothing is ever in vain, for even mistakes and missteps are used for good.

Your righteousness transcends all our efforts and understanding. Forgive us for our pride. The pride that puffs us up and the pride that threatens to unqualify us. Strengthen our confidence in who you have made us to be. Set us free from comparison in order to work together efficiently.

Bless this meeting today, all those present, as well as the lives of those we will encounter afterward. Ready us to make every moment count. LORD, help us to study and apply Your Word to our lives each day. Help us make this a discipline of the mind and heart, empowered by Your Spirit, transforming us each day more and more into Your likeness. Help us have self-awareness of when we're falling into temptation and turn quickly back to You. Thank You for Your tender mercy and love, ever leading us onward. In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen.

וַיְהִי כִּי פָקַד אֶת-שָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה לְשָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר:

וַיְהוּה took note of Sarah as promised, and יְהוּה did for Sarah what had been announced.

וַתְּהַר וַתֵּלֶד שָׂרָה לְאַבְרָהָם בֶּן לְזִקְנָיו לְמוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר אֱלֹהִים:

Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken.

וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָהָם אֶת-שֵׁם-בְּנֵו הַנּוֹלָד-לֹו אֲשֶׁר-יִלְדָה-לֹו שָׂרָה יִצְחָק:

Abraham gave his newborn son, whom Sarah had borne him, the name of Isaac.

וַיִּמַּל אַבְרָהָם אֶת-יִצְחָק בְּנֵו בֶּן-שְׁמֹנֶת יָמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱלֹהִים:

And when his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded him.

וְאַבְרָהָם בֶּן-מֵאת שָׁנָה בְּהוֹלֵד לֹו אֶת יִצְחָק בְּנֵו:

Now Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרָה צִחָק עָשָׂה לִי אֱלֹהִים כָּל-הַשְּׂמֵעַ יִצְחָק-לִי:

Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter; everyone who hears will laugh with me."

7 ותאמר מי מלל לאברהם היניקה בנים שרה כי ילדתי בן לזקנני:

And she added,

"Who would have said to Abraham

That Sarah would suckle children!

Yet I have borne a son in his old age."

8 ויגדל הילד ויגמל ויעש אברהם משתה גדול ביום הגמל את יצחק:

The child grew up and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

9 ותרא שרה את בן־הגר המצרית אשר ילדה לאברהם מצחק:

Sarah saw the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham playing.

10 ותאמר לאברהם גרש האמה הזאת ואת־בנה כי לא יירש בן־האמה

הזאת עם־בני עם־יצחק:

She said to Abraham, "Cast out that slave-woman and her son, for the son of that slave shall not share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

11 וירע הדבר מאד בעיני אברהם על אודת בנו:

The matter distressed Abraham greatly, for it concerned a son of his.

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אַל־יִרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ עַל־הַנָּעַר וְעַל־אִמָּתְךָ כֹּל
אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵלֶיךָ שָׂרָה שְׁמַע בְּקוֹלָהּ כִּי בְיִצְחָק יִקְרָא לָךְ זָרַע:

But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed over the boy or your slave; whatever Sarah tells you, do as she says, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be continued for you.

וְגַם אֶת־בְּנוֹת־הָאִמָּה לְגוֹי אֲשִׁימְנֶנּוּ כִּי זָרַעָהּ הוּא:

13

As for the son of the slave-woman, I will make a nation of him, too, for he is your seed."

וַיִּשְׁכֶּם אַבְרָהָם וּבִבְקָר וַיִּקַּח־לָחֶם וַחֲמַת מַיִם וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־הָגָר שָׁם
עַל־שִׁכְמָהּ וְאֶת־הַיֶּלֶד וַיְשַׁלְּחָהּ וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתִּתַּע בְּמִדְבַּר בְּאֵר שָׁבַע:

14

Early next morning Abraham took some bread and a skin of water, and gave them to Hagar. He placed them over her shoulder, together with the child, and sent her away. And she wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

וַיִּכְלוּ הַמַּיִם מִן־הַחַמָּת וַתִּשְׁלַךְ אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד תַּחַת אֶחָד הַשִּׁיחִים:

15

When the water was gone from the skin, she left the child under one of the bushes,

וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתֵּשֶׁב לָהּ מִנְּגַד הַרְחֵק כַּמֶּטְחָוּי קָשֶׁת כִּי אִמְרָה אֶל־אַרְאֶה בְּמוֹת
הַיֶּלֶד וַתֵּשֶׁב מִנְּגַד וַתִּשָּׂא אֶת־קוֹלָהּ וַתִּבְרַךְ:

16

and went and sat down at a distance, a bowshot away; for she thought, "Let me not look on as the child dies." And sitting thus afar, she burst into tears.

17 וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת-קוֹל הַנֶּעֱרָ וַיִּקְרָא מְלָאךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶל-הַגֵּר מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם
וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מִה-לָּךְ הָגֵר אֶל-תִּירְאִי כִּי-שָׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶל-קוֹל הַנֶּעֱרָ
בְּאֲשֶׁר הוּא-אֲשָׁם:

God heard the cry of the boy, and a messenger of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heeded the cry of the boy where he is.

18 קוּמִי שְׂאִי אֶת-הַנֶּעֱרָ וְהַחֲזִיקִי אֶת-יָדוֹ בּוֹ כִּי-לִגְוִי גָדוֹל אֲשִׁימְנוּ:

Come, lift up the boy and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him."

19 וַיִּפְקַח אֱלֹהִים אֶת-עֵינֶיהָ וַתֵּרָא בְּאֵר מַיִם וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתְּמַלֵּא אֶת-הַחֶמְתַּת מַיִם
וַתִּשָּׂק אֶת-הַנֶּעֱרָ:

Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water, and let the boy drink.

20 וַיְהִי אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הַנֶּעֱרָ וַיִּגְדַּל וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּמִדְבָּר וַיְהִי רֹבֵה קִשְׁת׃

God was with the boy and he grew up; he dwelt in the wilderness and became skilled with a bow.

21 וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּמִדְבָּר פָּאֵרָן וַתִּקַּח-לּוֹ אִמּוֹ אִשָּׁה מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: {פ}

He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

וַיְהִי בַעֲת הַהוּא וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֹל שָׂר־צְבָאוֹ אֶל־אַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר
אֱלֹהִים עִמָּךְ בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה:

At that time Abimelech and Phicol, chief of his troops, said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything that you do.

וַעֲתָה הַשְּׁבַעָה לִּי בֵּאלֹהִים הַנֵּה אִם־תִּשְׁקֹר לִּי וּלְגִינִי וּלְנַכְדֵי כַּחֲסֹד
אֲשֶׁר־עָשִׂיתִי עִמָּךְ תַּעֲשֶׂה עִמָּדִי וְעַם־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־גִּרְתָּה בָּהּ:

Therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my kith and kin, but will deal with me and with the land in which you have sojourned as loyally as I have dealt with you."

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אָנֹכִי אֲשָׁבַע:

And Abraham said, "I swear it."

וְהוֹכִיחַ אַבְרָהָם אֶת־אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ עַל־אֲדוּת בְּאֶר הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר גָּזְלוּ עַבְדֵי
אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ:

Then Abraham reproached Abimelech for the well of water which the servants of Abimelech had seized.

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ לֹא יָדַעְתִּי מִי עָשָׂה אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה וְגַם־אַתָּה לֹא־הִגַּדְתָּ
לִּי וְגַם אָנֹכִי לֹא שָׁמַעְתִּי בְלִתִּי הַיּוֹם:

But Abimelech said, "I do not know who did this; you did not tell me, nor have I heard of it until today."

וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם צֹאן וּבָקָר וַיִּתֵּן לְאַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וַיִּכְרְתוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם בְּרִית׃ 27

Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a pact.

וַיַּצֵּב אַבְרָהָם אֶת־שִׁבְעַת כִּבְשֹׁתַיִם הַצֹּאן לְבַדָּהוּ׃ 28

Abraham then set seven ewes of the flock by themselves,

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ אֶל־אַבְרָהָם מַה הֵנָּה שִׁבְעַת כִּבְשֹׁתַיִם הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר הִצַּבְתָּ לְבַדָּהָ׃ 29

and Abimelech said to Abraham, "What mean these seven ewes which you have set apart?"

וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי אֶת־שִׁבְעַת כִּבְשֹׁתַיִם תִּקַּח מִיָּדִי בְּעֵבוּר תְּהִיָּה־לִּי לְעֵדָה כִּי חָפְרְתִי אֶת־הַבְּאֵר הַזֹּאת׃ 30

He replied, "You are to accept these seven ewes from me as proof that I dug this well."

עַל־כֵּן קָרָא לַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא בְּאֵר שִׁבְעַת כִּי שָׁם נִשְׁבָּעוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם׃ 31

Hence that place was called Beer-sheba, for there the two of them swore an oath.

וַיִּכְרְתוּ בְרִית בְּבֵאֵר שָׁבַע וַיָּקָם אַבִּימֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֹל שַׂר־צְבָאוֹ וַיָּשָׁבוּ
אֶל-אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים:

When they had concluded the pact at Beer-sheba, Abimelech and Phicol, chief of his troops, departed and returned to the land of the Philistines.

וַיֵּטַע אַבְרָהָם בְּבֵאֵר שָׁבַע וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה אֵל עוֹלָם: 33

[Abraham] planted a tamarisk at Beer-sheba, and invoked there the name of יהוה, the Everlasting God.

וַיֵּגַר אַבְרָהָם בְּאֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים יָמִים רַבִּים: {פ} 34

And Abraham resided in the land of the Philistines a long time.

1 וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיְהַאֲלֵהִים נִסָּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:

Some time afterward, God put Abraham to the test, saying to him, "Abraham." He answered, "Here I am."

2 וַיֹּאמֶר קַח־נָא אֶת־בְּנֶךָ אֶת־יִחְזָקָה אֲשֶׁר־אַהַבְתָּ אֶת־יִצְחָק וְלֶךְ־לְךָ אֶל־אֶרֶץ הַמֹּרְיָה וְהַעֲלֵהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה עַל אֶחָד הַהָרִים אֲשֶׁר אֹמַר אֵלֶיךָ:

"Take your son, your favored one, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you."

3 וַיִּשְׁכַּח אַבְרָהָם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיַּחֲבֹשׁ אֶת־הַמֹּרֹו וַיִּקַּח אֶת־שְׁנֵי נַעֲרָיו אֹתוֹ וְאֶת יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּבְקַע עֵצִי עֲלָה וַיִּקַּח וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אָמַר־לּוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים:

So early next morning, Abraham saddled his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He split the wood for the burnt offering, and he set out for the place of which God had told him.

4 בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַיִּשָּׂא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא אֶת־הַמָּקוֹם מֵרְחֹק:

On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place from afar.

5 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־נְעָרָיו שְׁבוּ־לָכֶם פֹּה עִם־הַחֲמֹר וְאֲנִי וְהַנֶּעֱר גִּלְכָּה
עַד־כָּה וְנִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה וְנִשׁוּבָה אֵלֵיכֶם:

Then Abraham said to his servants, "You stay here with the ass. The boy and I will go up there; we will worship and we will return to you."

6 וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵצֵי הָעֵלֶה וַיִּשֶׂם עַל־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּקַּח בְּיָדוֹ אֶת־הָאֵשׁ
וְאֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלֹת וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו:

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac. He himself took the firestone and the knife; and the two walked off together.

7 וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּנִי בְנִי וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה
הָאֵשׁ וְהָעֵצִים וְאֵיהֶּ הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה:

Then Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he answered, "Yes, my son." And he said, "Here are the firestone and the wood; but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"

8 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהִים יִרְאֶה־לּוֹ הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה בְנִי וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו:

And Abraham said, "It is God who will see to the sheep for this burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

9 וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אָמַר־לּוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּבְנוּ שָׁם אַבְרָהָם אֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
וַיַּעֲרֹךְ אֶת־הָעֵצִים וַיַּעֲקֹל אֶת־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּשֶׂם אֹתוֹ עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִמַּעַל
לְעֵצִים:

They arrived at the place of which God had told him. Abraham built an altar there; he laid out the wood; he bound his son Isaac; he laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יָדוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הַמַּאֲכֵלֶת לְשַׁחֵט אֶת־בְּנוֹ: 10

And Abraham picked up the knife to slay his son.

וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִי: 11

Then a messenger of יהוה called to him from heaven: "Abraham! Abraham!" And he answered, "Here I am."

וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־תִּשְׁלַח יָדְךָ אֶל־הַנֶּעֱר וְאֶל־תַּעַשׂ לוֹ מְאוּמָה כִּי עַתָּה יָדַעְתִּי 12

כִּי־יִרָא אֱלֹהִים אֹתָהּ וְלֹא חָשַׁכְתָּ אֶת־בְּנוֹךְ אֶת־יַחֲדָךְ מִמֶּנִּי:

"Do not raise your hand against the boy, or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your favored one, from Me."

וַיִּשָּׂא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא וְהִנֵּה־אֵיל אֲחֵר נֶאֱחָז בַּסִּבְךְ בְּקַרְנָיו וַיִּלֶךְ 13

אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָאֵיל וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ לְעֹלָה תַחַת בְּנוֹ:

When Abraham looked up, his eye fell upon a ram, caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son.

וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָהָם שֵׁם־הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא יְהוָה וַיִּרְאָה אֲשֶׁר יֹאמַר הַיּוֹם בְּהַר 14

יְהוָה יִרְאָה:

And Abraham named that site Adonai-yireh, whence the present saying,
“On the mount of יהוה there is vision.”

וַיִּקְרָא מַלְאֲכֵי יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָהָם שְׁנִית מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם: 15

The messenger of יהוה called to Abraham a second time from heaven,

וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נְאֻם־יְהוָה כִּי יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה וְלֹא
חָשַׁכְתָּ אֶת־בְּנֶךָ אֶת־יְחִידְךָ: 16

and said, “By Myself I swear, יהוה declares: Because you have done this
and have not withheld your son, your favored one,

כִּי־בָרַךְ אֲבָרְכְךָ וְהִרְבָּה אֲרֻבָּה אֶת־זַרְעֲךָ כְּכּוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְכַחֹל אֲשֶׁר
עַל־שֹׁפֵת הַיָּם וַיִּרְשׁ זַרְעֲךָ אֶת שַׁעַר אֹיְבָיו: 17

I will bestow My blessing upon you and make your descendants as
numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands on the seashore; and your
descendants shall seize the gates of their foes.

וְהִתְבָּרְכוּ בְּזַרְעֲךָ כָּל גּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ עֲקֵב אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקִלְי: 18

All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants,
because you have obeyed My command.”

וַיָּשָׁב אַבְרָהָם אֶל־נַעֲרָיו וַיִּקְמוּ וַיֵּלְכוּ יַחְדָּו אֶל־בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע וַיֵּשֶׁב אַבְרָהָם
בְּבְאֵר שֶׁבַע: {פ} 19

Abraham then returned to his servants, and they departed together for
Beer-sheba; and Abraham stayed in Beer-sheba.

וַיְהִי אַחֲרַי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיֵּגֵד לְאַבְרָהָם לְאֵמֶר הַנְּיָה יִלְדָה מִלְכָּה 20
גַּם־הִוא בָּנִים לְנַחֲוֹר אַחִיָּה:

Some time later, Abraham was told, "Milcah too has borne sons to your brother Nahor:

אֶת־עֹזִן בְּכֹרֹו וְאֶת־בּוּז אָחִיו וְאֶת־קִמּוֹאֵל אָבִי אָרָם: 21

Uz the first-born, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram;

וְאֶת־כֶּשֶׁד וְאֶת־חָזוֹ וְאֶת־פִּלְדָּשׁ וְאֶת־יִדְלָף וְאֶת־בְּתוּאֵל: 22

and Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel"—

וּבְתוּאֵל יִלְדָה אֶת־רֵבְקָה שְׁמִנָּה אֵלֶּה יִלְדָה מִלְכָּה לְנַחֲוֹר אָחִי אַבְרָהָם: 23

Bethuel being the father of Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

וּפְלִגְשׁוֹ וְשִׁמְהָ רְאוּמָה וַתֵּלֶד גַּם־הִוא אֶת־טֶבַח וְאֶת־גָּחַם וְאֶת־תַּחַשׁ 24
וְאֶת־מַעֲכָה: {פ}

And his concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore [sons]—Tebah, Gaham, and Tahash—and [a daughter,] Maacah.

The Reset, Rosh Hashanah: The Feast of Trumpets

"Speak to the children of Israel, saying; 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.'" (Leviticus 23:24,25).

Introduction

Rosh Hashanah is the first of the three Fall Feasts of the Lord. It is commonly referred to as the Jewish New Year, literally meaning 'beginning of the year.' It is known as the 'day of shouting and blasting. Hence, the other name for Rosh Hashanah is Feast of Trumpets. Notice that these feasts are actually called: The Feasts of the Lord. Leviticus 23:4 states, ***"These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times."*** In Hebrew, moed means 'appointed time.' An appointed time is a particular time and place to meet for a specific purpose. God instructed His people to keep and observe this 'set apart' time for gathering in His presence.

We as Christians need to understand that these days were never referred to in scripture as Jewish Holidays. They are feast days we are to observe until the Coming of the Lord. When we as individuals, or the Church observe these Sabbath-rest we receive many blessings. These gifts that God promised to the children of Israel are ours as well when we choose to follow His commands.

Rosh Hashanah is also referred to as the Head of the Year. Since the head is where our mind, eyes, ears, and mouth are, this Head of the Year signifies that

wherever our focus is, that is the direction we will be led. When our head, and year, is focused on the Lord, we will align our time and resources with His will. Though established by the Lord as a Feast of the Lord in the Old Testament, it is a mirror of what is to come spiritually: both in our personal walk, as well as on God's prophetic timeline for the world.

When a shofar (or ram's horn) is blown, its blast as a memorial. We are to Reflect and remember the times during the previous year when we felt far from the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to activate our restoration at Rosh Hashanah. It is a time to repent and remember that God is good, that His mercies are new every day, and that by the blood shed from Yeshua, we have a new hope in the New Year.

“Speak to the children of Israel, saying; ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.’” (Leviticus 23:24,25).

The shofar, or trumpet, was also called to bring the assembly of Israel together. This can be seen today as Jewish people are gathered back to their homeland. Many scholars also believe that Rosh Hashanah foreshows the rapture. 1Cor. 15:51,52 says, ***“Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we***

shall be changed.” Rosh Hashanah was marked with a number of short trumpet blast followed by one long, unbroken blast. This unbroken blast means ‘the last trumpet.’ The shofar was also sounded as a battle cry that anticipated victory. When the ast trumpet calls during the end-times, we can be certain that “Death is swallowed up in the victory (1Cor. 15:55).”

NOW! All of us have those times when we are caught with egg on our face. We are guilty and there is no getting around it. What do we do now. Is God done with me? Would He even dare to entrust me to do something for Him again? At the beginning of a New Year, we need to “reset” the old things that dragged us back should go, we can start anew.

“Do not remember the former things, or ponder the things of the past. Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing. Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert (Isaiah 43:18,19 AMP).”

So our first Bible text this year is from Isaiah 43:18,19. We are now in a New Year and a New Beginning. So, we can Reset. How do we do that? Let’s look at our text closer: First, verse 18 “do not remember the former things,” Forget the Former Things. Second, verse 19a “see, I am doing a New Thing! Do you Perceive it? Thirdly, verse 19b “I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,” Be Encouraged!

I. **FORGET THE FORMER THINGS (v18).**

What are the “former things?” It’s everything we tried to do and didn’t succeed. It’s when someone said something that pulled us down, it’s when we’ve sinned, and we’re tempted to keep holding on to it because of guilt. As I am talking about these things, some of you are thinking, “I’ve been carrying around “former things for a long time.” The words of others, the burden you picked up months, or even years ago. The missed opportunities that you wished you had taken. How many of us are admitting to “former things” slowing us down in life? For the most part, can we do anything to change those former things? Yes, they may teach us a life lesson, but we know those former things are a weight to carry around, and they are stopping us from functioning in the way God made us. They may even be preventing us from carrying out the plan God has for us!

God says through Isaiah: Forget (say forget) the former thing. We have come through them and have learnt from them. When we dwell on the former things—what direction are we looking. Backwards. Move on --- look forward rather than backward. Why? Because

II. GOD IS DOING A "NEW THING, PERCEIVE IT! (v19a).

"See. I am doing a new thing! Now it spring up; do you not perceive it?"

God is ALWAYS making things NEW! IT SPRING UP! SUDDENLY! God is A Right Now God. A On Time God, yes He Is! Are you sensing the new things God is starting to do in your life? RIGHT NOW! Do you perceive it? Do you not notice it? Do you not recognize it? If you can perceive it, you can receive it!

God made us physical and spiritual beings. The trouble is, we spend much of our time on the physical. To understand what God is doing, we need to spend more time and energy tapping into our spiritual being. God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24). Spirit needs to connect with Spirit. So God is about to do a new thing with us—do you sense it? This is a good time to be looking to God's new things. God has brought us through lots of things and He is going to do a New Thing. The Lord says, "Do you not perceive it?" Do you not See it happening? Sometimes it's just LOOKING for it — realizing that there is something NEW to look for. Let's look for, and see clearly what God is doing in you and me, and us as His Church.

III. **BE ENCOURAGED! (v 19b). *"I will put a road in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."***

God makes Roads in the Wilderness and Rivers in the Desert. The God we serve is a God of new things. He is always bringing about a new work in His kingdom and your heart. What God has done in the past isn't as important as what God wants to do in your life today. Life is sometimes hard, and it can take us through the desert wilderness. As you face uncertain times, look for the new work God is about to perform in your life.

In the wilderness remember, God has made a path for you to follow. You don't have to wander in uncertainty. In the wilderness God has promised life-giving water. When water comes to the desert, life springs forth, a small pool of water will be surrounded by green grass, trees, and vegetation. It becomes an oasis in the middle of a barren wasteland. God promises more than an oasis. He promises a river. In the middle of your desert journey. Jesus promised that those who believed in Him would have rivers of living water gushing forth from their inner being. When you walk through the desert, remember God is bringing you more

than an oasis, He is releasing multiple rivers of refreshment and sustenance.

IN CONCLUSION:

MAKE THESE CONFESSIONS:

- I will not dwell on the past but look forward to what God will do today.
- I am keeping my eyes open to the new thing God is doing.
- When I face uncertain times, God will show me the path to follow.
- When the world dries up around me, God will bring rivers of refreshment and provision.

No matter how vast the wilderness or how dry the desert is you are facing, God is giving you direction and refreshing you with His presence.

“LET US PRAY!”

HEAVENLY FATHER,

WE FEEL THAT WE'RE STEPPING OUT ONTO THE THRESHOLD OF A COMPLETELY NEW BEGINNING WITH A TOTAL CHANGE IN OUR LIFESTYLE

LORD, WE KNOW THAT THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY THAT YOU HAVE GRACIOUSLY OPENED UP FOR US AND WE PRAY THAT YOU WOULD BE WITH US TO LEAD AND GUIDE, AS WE SEEK TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO SO MANY CHANGES IN OUR LIVES. WE PRAY THAT YOU WOULD REMAIN EVER CLOSE TO US AND THAT WE DO NOT STRAY FAR FROM YOUR SIDE OR BECOME LUKEWARM IN OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD YOUR WILL AND PURPOSE.

HELP US TO KEEP OUR EYES FIRMLY FIXED ON JESUS AND TO TRUST ALL WE SAY AND DO INTO YOUR CAPABLE HANDS. PROVIDE US WITH ALL THAT WE NEED TO CARRY OUT THE TASKS AND DUTIES THAT WE ARE CALLED UPON TO DO WITH GRACE AND COURAGE, AND WE PRAY THAT OUR JOY WOULD BE FIRMLY FIXED IN JESUS AND THAT WE MAY BE STRENGTHENED WITH ALL POWER FROM ABOVE, IN JESUS' NAME WE PRAY, AMEN!

**Rosh Hashanah is the New Year,
When the Chosen People need to report to G-d,
And ask for forgiveness from everyone whom they offended,
And forgive everyone else who has offended them.
G-d sees everything from above.
Three books lie before G-d.
And if G-d forgives you, you will be in the Book of Life.
We wish each other happiness on this day.**

**Let troubles pass, grief and misfortune.
And may the sweet new year be celebrated by
all our people.**

A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

DEAR GOD, Thank You for Your amazing power and work in our lives, thank You for Your goodness and for Your blessings over us. Thank you that you are Able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for Your purposes. Thank You for Your great love and care. Thank You for Your mercy and grace. Thank You that You are always with us and will never leave us. Thank You for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life.

Forgive us for when we don't thank You enough, for who You are, for all that You do., for all that You're given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on You afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with Your peace and joy. We love You and we need You, this day and every day. We give You praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

FOR THE SPIRIT TO WORK

DEAR LORD, as we rise to meet each new day, please let us be filled with Your spirit. Wherever we go, let us spread love, joy, peace, goodness, and faithfulness. Let us desire to become more like You and to worship You in all we do. Help us desire these things so much more than the sin that entices us. Thank You for always going before us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

A PRAYER OF BLESSING

DEAR GOD, Thank You for Your great love and blessing over our lives. Thank You that Your favor has no end, but it last for our entire lifetime. Forgive us for sometimes forgetting that You are intimately acquainted with all of our ways, that You know what concerns us, and You cover us, as with a shield. We ask for Your guidance so that we might walk fully in Your blessing and goodness today. We ask that Your face would shine on us. That you would open the right doors for our lives and for our loved ones, that You would you close the wrong doors and protect us from those we need to walk away from.

Establish the work of our hands and bring to fulfillment all that You have given us to do in these days. We pray that You would make our way purposeful and our footsteps firm out of your goodness and love. Give us a heart of wisdom to hear Your voice, and make us strong by Your huge favor and grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

GRACIOUS LORD, give us the courage to seek forgiveness. Remind us that confession is never a mistake; it frees us from the chains of the enemy. We know we cannot hide our hearts from You. Help us to let go of our bitterness and fear, and purify us with the knowledge that You have taken away every sin. In Your name, Amen.

The 7 Promises During Sukkot First Fruits

"But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." Matthew 13:8

Overflowing Rain

"Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you--the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month." Joel 2:23

Overflowing Restoration

"So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you." Joel 2:25

Overflowing Joy

*"Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice."
Deuteronomy 16:15*

Overflowing Financial Blessing

"Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine." Proverbs 3:9-10

Overflowing Spiritual Blessing

“Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.” Proverbs 3:9-10

Opening Windows of Heaven

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:10

Rebuking the Devourer

“And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” says the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 3:11

THE PRAYER OF ATONEMENT

HEAVENLY FATHER, We are all Your children, and You love us in a way we can hardly fathom. Help us to see past the issues that divide us, and see one another with eyes free of hate. We have sinned. We have struck at our brothers and sisters with malice in our heart. We have made enemies of others while claiming to be Your disciples. Help us to atone for these sins, and remember to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. In Jesus' Name, Amen.