Proclaiming **Jesus**

In a Distinctly **Jewish Way**

Rock of Israel Ministries

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Celebrating 50+ over 50 years



Ministry Pres. Robert and Carrie Specter

September 2026: Here's an update of the ministry in the past month.

We LOVE encouraging notes! Send us an email

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1) Please check your Spam or Promotions folder each month.
Sadly, sometimes email servers send our newsletter there and not to your regular 'inbox'.

2) Gmail sometimes shortens our newsletter!
If so, then click this at the bottom.





Rosh Hashanah starts
the evening of September 11th,
Yom Kippur the evening of September 20th

Read about these significant days at the end of this newsletter.

The Ohio State Fair Conversations



OHIO STATE FAIR BOOTH

August was an extremely busy month for us.

We had a booth up at 1) the Ohio State Fair (completed) 2) the New York State Fair (going on as you read this) and 3) the Canadian National Exposition (Toronto - going on as you read this).

We will report on New York and Toronto next month since they are still going on until Labor Day 2026 (please pray for us!).

As for Ohio - we have been attending the Ohio State Fair for many years. It is one of our slower fairs, and not that many Jewish people attend, but we did speak with 59 Jewish people over the 12 days it ran. Here are some of the notable conversations we had:

** A young Jewish college student stopped by. He said his parents were from Russia, so while they are ethnically Jewish, they aren't very religious. He wasn't even sure whether God existed, though he said he was open to the idea. I asked him about the fine-tuning argument, which shows the universe is designed for life. He understood the concept and my point. He mentioned he is actually a physics major at Ohio State University. He shared that he is trying to read through the Old Testament now. I asked if he had ever read the New Testament; when he said no, I challenged him to read it. He mentioned he didn't understand why Rabbinic Judaism prohibits eating meat and dairy—or even chicken and dairy—together. I explained that rabbis made many rules over time that I don't necessarily agree with, noting that even Jesus had conflicts with the religious leaders of His day. He mentioned that he finds Christianity more convincing than Judaism. However, he still attends Chabad (Ultra-Orthodox Jewish group on campus) events for the free food they provide. He bought a menorah for his dorm room, and I gave him a large discount. He also took a prophecy flyer before leaving. We spoke for at least 20 minutes; please keep this young man in your prayers.

* An Israeli vendor in his twenties stopped by, smiling as he looked at the items. I mentioned that I believe in the Messiah - Yeshua, and he pulled up a photo of Rabbi Schneerson on his phone. (A number of Jewish people believe this late rabbi was the Messiah.) I clarified, "Not that Messiah, it's Yeshua." He just nodded. When I mentioned that Christians love Israel, he replied, "I know." He pointed to our model of the Temple and shared that during his military service, he was stationed right there in Jerusalem, where he saw firsthand how much Christians love Israel.

* A man wearing a Montreal Expos baseball cap approached, and we struck up a conversation. I asked if he was Jewish, and he removed his cap to reveal a yarmulke, saying, "I'm a rabbi from Montreal." I explained that we are Messianic Jews, to which he replied, "I know all about it." He noted that a well-known Canadian anti-Messianic speaker visits his congregation annually. I mentioned that we have answers to all those objections against Jesus, but he smiled cordially and said, "It's not about answers, and… I don't want to get into it here." He took a photo of our "Yeshua Loves You" baseball cap. We had a pleasant, respectful interaction, but he left without taking any literature.

* An elderly Jewish couple in their 70s (or 80s) stopped by; he was in a wheelchair. She purchased a necklace, and I explained that I am a Messianic Jew. She shrugged, and as they walked away, she said, "Don't forget you're a Jew."

* A couple visiting / traveling across the United States in an RV saw the Hebrew materials at our booth and stopped. They were from Israel and were very excited to see us, taking photos of everything. As I shared how much Christians love Israel, she agreed, explaining that they had been staying in the homes of Christians across the country who treated them wonderfully. She shared that when their RV broke down on the side of the road, a Christian man stopped to help, called his wife, and said, "Put two extra plates on the table—we're having guests for dinner." They were moved by the hospitality, and I noted to them that it all stems from the Messiah of Israel.



Israeli couple who stopped from above story

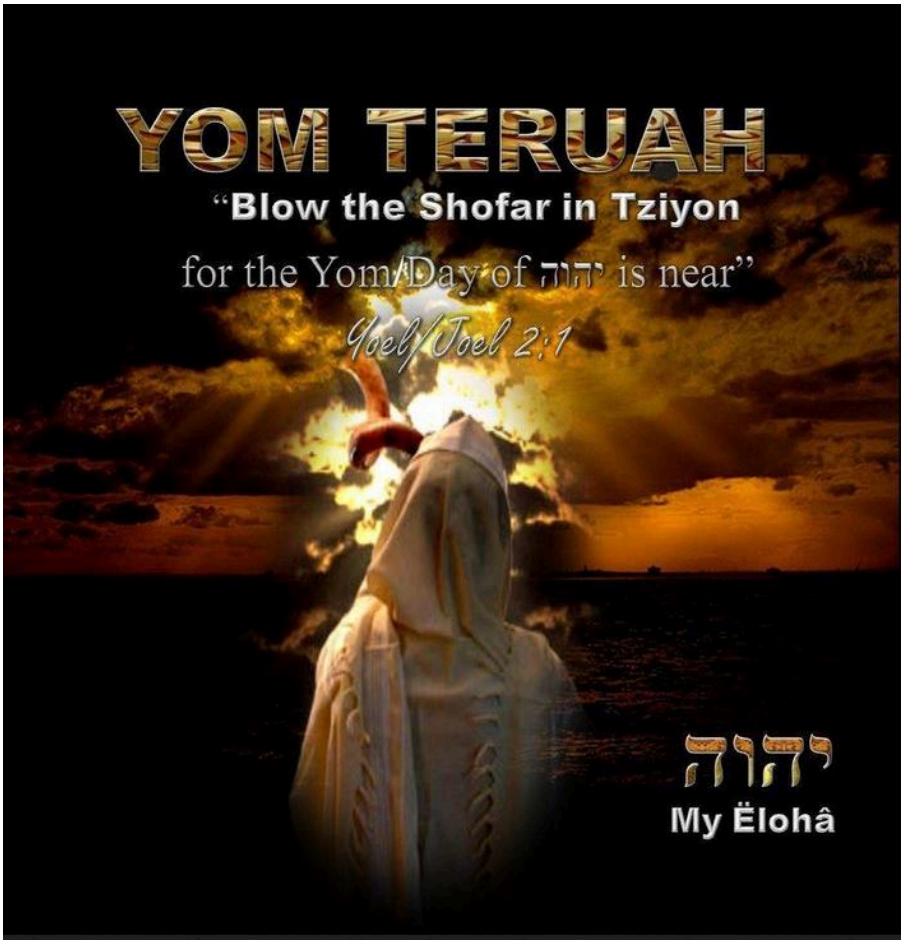
* A young man (not Jewish) around 19 or 20 years old asked what the booth was about. I explained that it focuses on Jesus, the Bible, and Israel. He asked, "So, religion?" I replied, "Yes, but Israel is also a nation, and it's important for people to understand the roots of their faith. Jesus was Jewish and lived in Israel." He questioned whether Jesus actually existed historically. I explained that numerous first-century historical documents—including non-religious Roman sources—confirm the existence of His early followers. I then shared a basic design argument: just as a building requires a designer, the universe and human life point to a Designer. I encouraged him to consider Jesus, and he nodded, shook my hand, and mentioned he was curious since several people had been talking to him about faith recently.

* A young family (not Jewish) with three energetic children (around 4 to 8 years old) visited the booth. The mother bought three Israeli coins for a dollar while the children looked around and touched everything. Eventually they all walked away. About 10 minutes later, the mother returned, bringing her oldest son back as he resisted, dragging him firmly by the arm. He just looked, head down, steadily at the ground. She held him firmly and said, “Apologize to the man!” The boy just stared at the ground, so I reached out my hand, and he placed one of the coins back into it. I looked at him and said, "Your mom loves you very much and is teaching you right from wrong." I then asked the mother if I could return the coin to him; she said, "It's up to you," and I handed it back so he could keep it. It was a very touching moment.

* This is a leftover story from our volunteer Lynn, who was in Alameda:
It was a better day for foot traffic. I did file a police report for *repeated* harassment by a man who said, "You kill innocent Palestinians." It wasn't a big deal, but I wanted a phone number to call because if I tell them they will be tossed if I dial this number, I want to have an actual number. I will

likely not do that, but I want to be able to say I could. The folks from a couple of booths were happy for me filing the report.

September reminder:



This month's offer:



Our Jewish Wall Calendar for 2027

Did you know that the Jewish people consider Rosh HaShana to be the beginning of the new year? Therefore Jewish calendars always start in September. This calendar is for the Sept 2026 - Sept 2027 year. It has 12 beautiful photos.

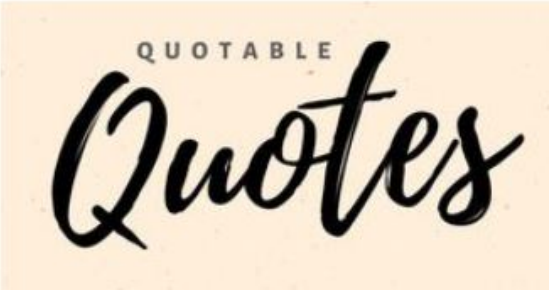
The holidays are all listed:

* Rosh HaShanah
* Yom Kippur
* Sukkot (Tabernacles)
* Hanukkah
* Pesach (Passover)
* And much more!

Beautiful photos can be framed at the end of the calendar's life...

The calendar is 10 3/4 inches wide. $8.85 plus s & h

CALENDAR HERE



"Was Jesus a Jew? Of course, Jesus was a Jew. He was born to a Jewish mother in Galilee, a Jewish part of the world. All of his friends, associates, colleagues, disciples - all of them were Jews. He regularly worshiped in Jewish communal worship, what we call a synagogue. He preached from Jewish texts from the Bible. He celebrated the Jewish festivals. He was born, lived, died, and taught as a Jew."

- Prof. Shaye I. D. Cohen.

(A Jewish historian who has taught at Jewish Theological Seminary, Harvard University, and Brown University.)



THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA:

Which body of water does not touch Israel?

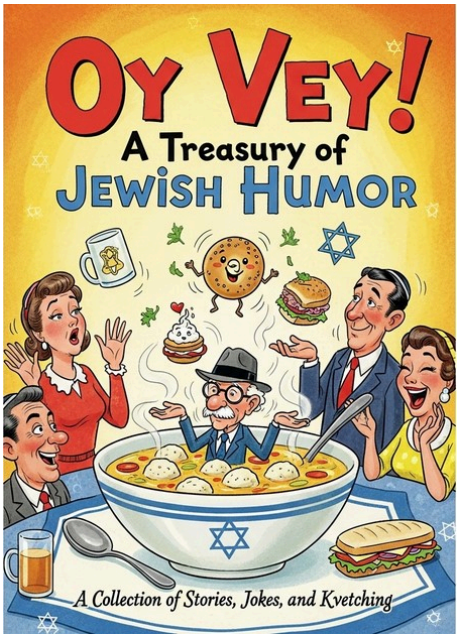
A) The Sea of Galilee

B) The Nile River

C) The Dead Sea

D) The Mediterranean

Answer near bottom



This Month's Jewish Humor

A woman goes to a Jewish restaurant, buys a coffee and sits down to drink it. She looks at the side of her cup and finds a peal-off prize. She pulls off the tab and yells, "I WON! I WON! I WON a motor home! I WON a motor home!"

The waitress runs over and says, "That's impossible. The biggest prize given away was a dinner for four!" The woman replies, "No. I WON A motor home, I WON a motor home!"

By this time the manager makes his way over to the table and says, "You couldn't possibly have won a motor home because we don't have that as a prize!" Again the woman says, "No, no mistake, I WON a motor home, I WON a motor home!"

The woman hands the prize ticket to the manager and he reads, "WIN A BAGEL."

(Explanation - if you don't get it: A famous motorhome company is called Winnebago.)

Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are this month



The Fall Feasts are upon us. God gave Israel an annual cycle of spring and autumn events to observe and for thousands of years that traditionally have gone virtually unbroken.

The first of the fall feasts is called “Rosh Hashana” by the Jewish community at large, but biblically it is called “Yom Teruah” (Day of Shouting or Trumpets.) God never tells Israel WHY they are shouting or blowing trumpets, but just to do it.

“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 (Teruah), a holy convocation.” (Leviticus 23:24)

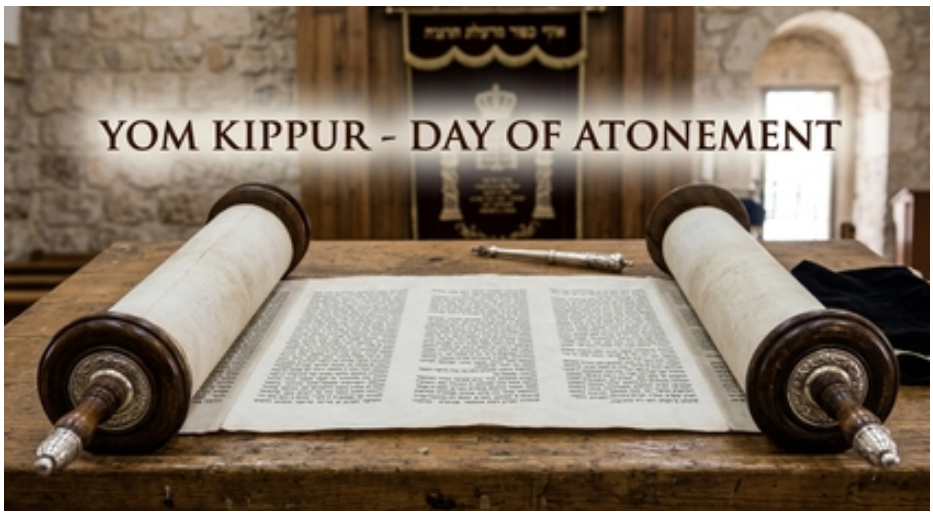
Sadly, the Jewish community calls this the “New Year,” but biblically, God clearly says it is the start of the seventh month, not the first month.



The Jewish community will celebrate this event (what is erroneously called “the New Year”) by eating sweets like apples and honey. This signifies their desire for a sweet New Year. However, the specific word God uses for this day is not New Year but “Teruah” (A Day of shouting/blasting), and its root form is used elsewhere in Scripture to mark God’s people gathering and making a loud noise:

· “Clap hands, all nations, *shout* (Teruah) to God, with a singing voice!” (Psalm 47:2)
· “*Shout* (Teruah) to God, all the earth!” (Psalm 66:1)
· “Sing to God, our strength, *shout* (Teruah) to the God of Jacob!” (Psalm 81:2)
· “*Shout* (Teruah) to the Lord, all the earth!” (Psalm 100:1)

As believers, we know that the “loud noise / trumpet” (Teruah) that we wait for is…. the Messiah’s return with the sound of the Trumpet (a loud noise)! (1 Thess. 4:16)



TEN DAYS LATER… we have the most somber event of the year for Israel, Yom Kippur - the “Day of Atonement”.

“Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.” (Leviticus 23:27)

In Biblical times, the High Priest alone was to go into a special room in God’s Temple called the “Holy of Holies”. This was the only day he was allowed in and he never went in empty handed. He always went in with blood from an innocent sacrifice to sprinkle upon, and in front of, The Mercy Seat.



The Mercy Seat sat upon the ‘Ark of the Covenant’. Inside the Ark, it held the actual 10 Commandments, in stone, that Moses received on Mount Sinai. But remember, what had Israel done to the Law of God (which we all have done)... They broke it. That is why something had to die each year as a penalty for Israel’s sin. We call it “Substitutionary Atonement”.



Today, Israel does none of this because there is no Temple in Jerusalem. The Dome of the Rock now stands in the place where the Temple of God once stood. So, today there is no Holy of Holies and thus, no blood atonement for Israel. Instead, the rabbis have said that fasting, prayer, and good deeds have replaced the blood sacrifices, but God never said this to Israel.

Deep down, the Orthodox Jewish community still senses a need for blood atonement and many will swing a live chicken over their heads as their substitute! Between 50,000 and 100,000 chickens in NY will undergo this in the Hasidic Jewish community - becoming their substitute! We are not joking.



To read an article on this and see the sad photos:

Kaporos - Chickens in New York

Here's our article about all of this:

Why Thousand of live chickens will be swung over their heads

Ultimately, Yom Kippur foreshadows the time when all Israel will look to their High Priest and accept the forgiveness of their sins that he purchased for them (and us all) 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem.

We, as believers in the Messiah Yeshua/Jesus, can rejoice that our substitute took all our sins upon Him. He is our Day of Atonement, not some chicken!

QUIZ ANSWER:

Answer - B The Nile

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