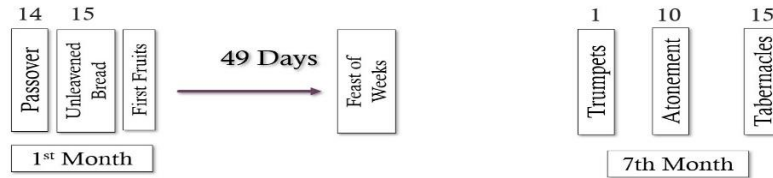


### 1. God's Appointed Feasts:



### 2. Feast of Trumpets – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the Seventh Month:

- The Feast of Trumpets (call to repentance) and the Day of Atonement are connected.
- The month begins with the sighting – two witnesses - of the New Moon.
- No one knows the day or the hour. (Matt. 24:36)

### 3. Feast of Trumpets to Rosh Hashanah (Head of the Year)?

- Rosh Hashana translates – Head of the Year
- How did the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Seventh month become the Head of the Year (New Year's)?

### 4. Ancient Near East – “New Years” Festivals:

- Coincide with seasonal change – the seasons of the earth are “renewed.”<sup>1</sup>
- Babylonian “scapegoat” ceremony to remove the sins of the king/people.

### 5. The Human Predicament: We Exist Across Time, and we have *an awareness* of that time -

- Past becomes a “weight”
- Corrosive Negative Emotions
- Past must be forgiven.
- Redeemed, renewed.
- A rebirth.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/feast-religion/The-significance-of-seasonal-renewal-in-ancient-Mesopotamia>

## 6. Ancient Cultures:

- Babylonian *Akitu* ceremony to judge past sins and remove them from the king/city/people.
- Roman Lupercalia<sup>2</sup> festival before their New Year in March –
  - The Roman god – *Februus* – is the god of purification.<sup>3</sup>
  - “*Februa*” – means purifications or purging.
  - Celebration on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The city of Rome was “purged” or “purified” before the start of the New Year.

## 7. Month the sins of the Israelites forgiven/taken away/ allowing a time of renewal and rebirth?

- The Seventh Month – Trumpets (call to repentance) and Day of Atonement (forgiveness).
- Feast of Trumpets makes a perfect New Year considering the ancient New Year rituals.

## 8. Rosh Ha Shanah – “Head of the Year” -

- *Shanah* is an **antonym**<sup>4</sup> or **contronym** – a word that has opposite meanings.
- Examples: cleave, citation, anxious, fast, buckle.
- *Shanah* means – “to repeat” and “to change.”
  - A year is a “period of time” that is repeated, but you will do it differently.

## 9. Modern New Years Ritual:

- Time has grown old – Father Time
- We need time to be reborn – Baby New Year
- We resolve to live differently – to make changes from now on.
- Unfortunately, without Jesus, there is no permanent forgiveness of sin!

## 10. 40 Days of Preparation (Month of *Elul*):

- 40 Days of fasting, self-assessment, meditation, self-reflection, and repentance.
  - Corresponding to Moses on Mount Sinai for 40 days w/o food and water (Ex. 34:28).
- Seek forgiveness from those you may have offended.
  - **Matthew 5:23** – “someone has something against you.”
- Forgive those who have offended you.
  - **Matthew 6:14** – “forgive others so that your father in heaven will forgive you.”
- John’s Baptism – a baptism of repentance (Matt. 3:11).
- Jesus immediately led into the wilderness for 40 days/nights of fasting (Matt. 4:2).

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<sup>2</sup> Lupercalia Festival - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lupercalia>

<sup>3</sup> Februus - <https://tinyurl.com/3zydrzrb>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~cellis/antagonym.html>