

High Holy Days Special

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Sounding the Shofar on
Rosh Hashanah

Question:

Why doesn't the Torah name this day or celebration?

Suggested answers:

**The day of the coronation of God as King;
related to the celebration of creation.
(cf., Psa. 95–100)**

Agricultural cycle, fall harvests

New Year

Rosh Hashanah

Scripture: Lev. 23:1–44; Num. 28:9–29:39; Deut. 16:1–17

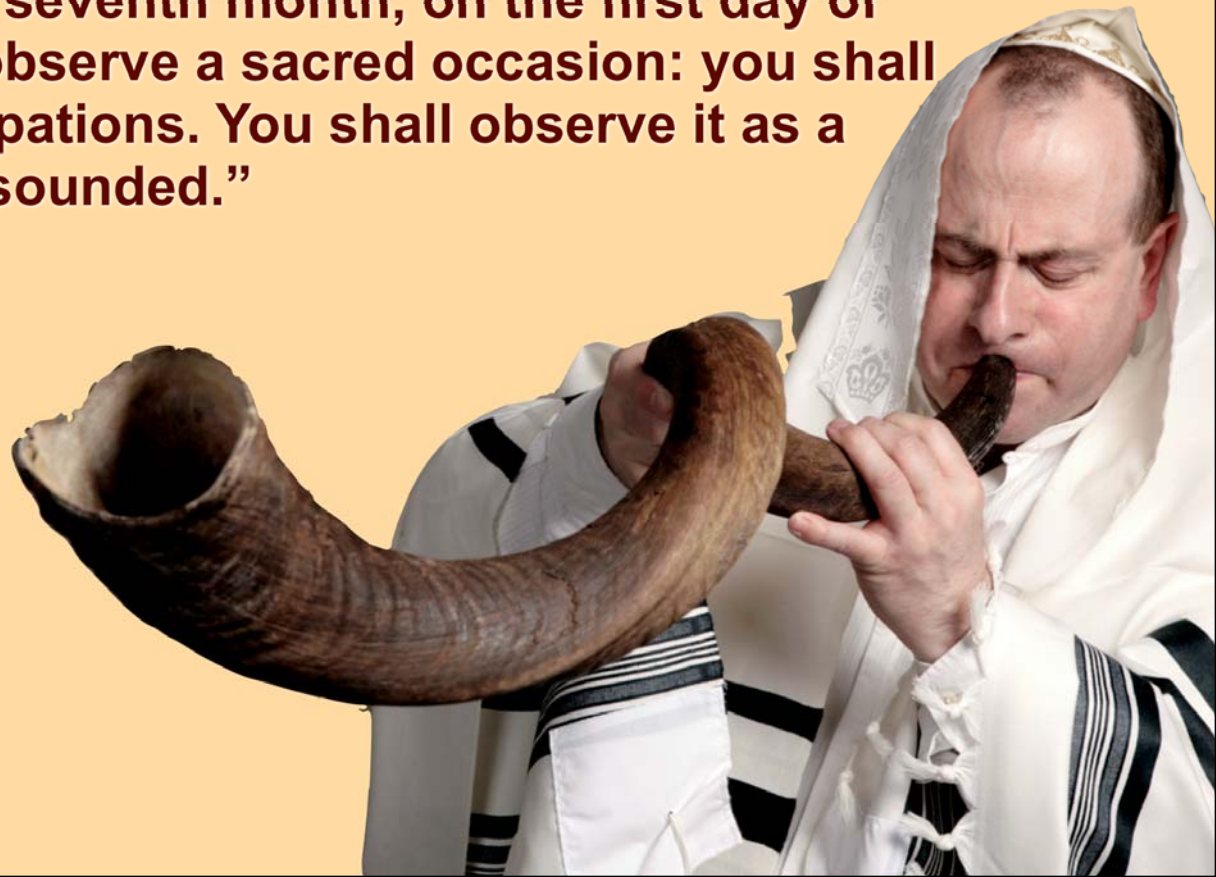
These High Holy Days are a unique creation of the Jewish religious spirit. They embody the singular ideas and theology of Judaism and have the power to transform and renew human life.

**Reuven Hammer, *Entering the High Holy Days*
(Philadelphia:JPS, 2005)**

Leviticus 23:24, “Speak to the Israelite people thus: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe complete rest, a sacred occasion commemorated with loud blasts.

Leviticus 23:25, “You shall not work at your occupations; and you shall bring an offering by fire to the Lord.”

Numbers 29:1, “In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations. You shall observe it as a day when the horn is sounded.”



Question:

Why doesn't the *Torah* name this day or celebration?

Suggested answers:

The day of the coronation of God as King; related to the celebration of creation. (cf., Psa. 95–100)

Agricultural cycle, fall harvests

Psalm 95:1, “Come, let us sing joyously to the Lord, raise a *shout* for our rock and deliverer;

Psalm 95:2, “let us come into His presence with praise; let us raise a *shout* for Him in song!”

Numbers 29:1, “In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations. You shall observe it as a day when the horn is sounded.”

Ezekiel 40:1, “In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, the fourteenth year after the city had fallen, at the beginning of the year [בְּרֵאשִׁית הַשָּׁנָה], the tenth day of the month—on that very day—the hand of the Lord came upon me, and He brought me there.”

- **The First of Nisan for reckoning the reigns of Jewish kings (the date for determining how many years a king has ruled) and for establishing the order of the festivals.**
- **The First of Elul for tithing animals.**
- **The First of Tishrei for agriculture (sabbatical years, jubilee years), passing judgment on humankind, and marking the anniversary of the Creation of the world.**
- **The First (but according to Hillel, the 15th) of Shevat for trees (RH 1:1).**

The Day of Judgment,

the Day of the Sounding of the Shofar (ram's horn),

the Day of Remembrance.