

# Yom Kippur



# What Is Yom Kippur?

Yom means 'day' in Hebrew and Kippur comes from a root word which means 'to atone'. Atonement means making up for something you have done wrong by asking for forgiveness from God. Yom Kippur (also known as 'Day of Atonement') is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people.

In the days leading up to Yom Kippur, Jewish people will apologise to anyone they might have upset or hurt so that God will forgive them for their wrongdoing when the special day comes.

In order to seek forgiveness and apologise to God, Jewish people will:

- reflect on their wrongdoing
- pray
- use the Torah for guidance
- give to charity





# What Happens on Yom Kippur?

The special day of Yom Kippur is marked by Jewish people in a number of ways.



No eating  
and drinking



No bathing  
or washing



No wearing of  
leather shoes



No using  
perfumes or lotions

By refraining from these activities, the body is uncomfortable but can still survive. Jewish people believe that feeling pain enables them to feel when others are in pain.

Jewish people may also wear something white to show cleanliness.



# Prayer Service in the Synagogue

The most important part of Yom Kippur is the time spent in the synagogue. There are five services in the synagogue. The day is spent in continuous prayer for forgiveness. The sound of the shofar (ram's horn) marks the end of the holy day.



Jewish people go to the synagogue to pray for forgiveness.



Blowing of the shofar.

# Celebrating Yom Kippur with Family and Friends.

Jewish people like to celebrate Yom Kippur with their family and friends. They also enjoy sending them greeting cards to wish them a happy holiday.





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