

## Yom Kippur



September 15, at sundown, was the beginning of Yom Kippur. Those who practice Judaism are currently celebrating the holiest day of the year in the Jewish Calendar.

### What is Yom Kippur?

- Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) is regarded as the holiest day of the year in Judaism.
- Yom Kippur always begins 10 days after Rosh Hashana.
- Yom Kippur 2021: September 15<sup>th</sup> (Sundown) to September 16<sup>th</sup> (Sundown) – 25 hours
  - 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month (Tishrei)
- Yom Kippur completes the annual period known as the High Holy Days
  - The ten days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur corresponds to the last 10 days of the 40-day period Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the second set of tablets
- Significance: Atonement for personal sins, fate of each person is sealed for the upcoming year

### What happens on Yom Kippur?

- It is a time of deep introspection and is usually a quiet and somber experience. To gain atonement from God one must:
  - Pray
  - Repent of one's sins
  - Give to Charity
- Yom Kippur has five prayer services (Ma'ariv; Shacharit; Mussaf; Mincha; and Ne'ilah)

- Includes a unique prayer dedicated to the special Yom Kippur service of the high priest Kohen Gadol.
- Most Jews refrain from working on Yom Kippur as it is a strict day of rest.
  - Other Additional Prohibitions:
    - Eating or Drinking
    - Bathing or washing
    - Anointing the body with oil, perfumes or lotions
    - Wearing leather (including shoes)
    - Marital Relations
- White clothing is usually worn to synagogue to symbolize purity.
- Jewish people who many not observe other holidays usually observe Yom Kippur as the High Holy Days is one of the most culturally significant Jewish holidays.

### Greeting for Yom Kippur?

The most common Jewish greeting on Yom Kippur is “**g'mar chatima tova**”, which means “a good final sealing” and is often shortened to just g'mar tov.

Another is “tzom kal” which literally means “easy fast”. The English equivalent of the greeting, “have an easy fast” is also not uncommon.

### Interesting Fact:

In 1965, Sandy Koufax, famous Dodger Pitcher, declined to pitch in Game 1 of the World Series due to his observance of Yom Kippur. This brought national attention of conflicts between professional pressures and personal religious beliefs. Even with their star pitcher not working in game 1, they took the World Series title in 1965, with Koufax pitching in games 2, 5 & 7! Koufax became the World Series MVP making him the first player to win the award twice.

