

# ROSH HASHANAH



Celebrated in 2022: Sunday September 25th – Tuesday September 27th

## What is it?

It is the Jewish New Year & it means “head of the year” or “first of the year.” The exact date of Rosh Hashanah varies every year, since it is based on the Hebrew Calendar, where it begins on the first day of the seventh month.

## How do people celebrate?

- Because Jewish texts differ on the festival’s length, Rosh Hashanah is observed for a single day by some denominations and for two days by others. Work is prohibited, and religious Jews spend much of the holiday attending synagogue.
- The sounding of the shofar—a trumpet made from a ram’s horn—is an essential part of Rosh Hashanah.
- After religious services are over, many Jews return home for a festive meal steeped in symbolism and tradition.

## What are Some Symbols & Their Meanings?

**Apple & Honey**– Ancient Jews believed apples had healing properties, and the honey signifies the hope that the new year will be sweet.

**Round Challah**– On Rosh Hashanah, the challah, Jewish traditional braided bread, is often baked in a round shape to symbolize either the cyclical nature of life or the crown of God. Raisins are sometimes added to the dough for a sweet new year.

**White**– With the beginning of a new year, the color white symbolizes purity, cleanliness, and new beginnings.

