

LORD,
EMPTY ME
OF ME SO
I CAN BE
FILLED WITH
YOU.

10 Days of Awe

The background of the bottom half of the image features a sepia-toned photograph of ancient stone ruins, possibly a temple or city. In the foreground on the right, there is a large, weathered stone sculpture of a hand, with fingers slightly curled. The overall aesthetic is historical and spiritual.

Revised Fall 2024

Ten Days of Awe—Prayer Guide

The ten days starting with the Feast of Trumpets (*Yom Teruah*) and ending with the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) are commonly known as the **Ten Days of Awe** (*Yamim Noraim*) or the Days of Repentance. This is a time for serious introspection, a time to **consider the sins of the previous year and repent before *Yom Kippur***.

Our Master, Yeshua, taught us, “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds” (Matthew 16:26-27). This provides the setting for our observance of the Ten Days of Awe. We are to take inventory of our ways and consider our lives carefully so as not to be ashamed when He comes.

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: Fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Among the customs of this time, it is common to **seek reconciliation with people you may have wronged** during the course of the year. The Jewish Talmud maintains that the services of *Yom Kippur* attend only to sins between man and God. To deal rightly with sins against another person, you must first seek reconciliation with that person, righting the wrongs you committed against them if possible, and then present yourself to God. Messiah seems to say no less:

If you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. (Matthew 5:23-24)

Work is permitted as usual during the Ten Days of Awe, except of course for the regular weekly Sabbath. The Sabbath that occurs during the Ten Days of Awe is traditionally known as *Shabbat Tshuvah* (the Sabbath of Repentance). This is considered a rather important Sabbath to **spend extra time in prayer before the Lord**.

Day 1: Your Personal Walk With God

Look for ways to strengthen your moral behavior by knowing and walking faithfully in the commandments. Do you have daily routines of faithfulness? How is your prayer life, your time in Scripture and your attendance at worship? Do you make excuses for when you are less than faithful? Is God the first priority, or if something comes up, do you give up the things of God to do other things?

Your response:

Day 2: Your Relationship with Spouse (or parents if not married)

How is your attention to special times with spouse (or parents)? Do you only do what is necessary or do you show them they are special and loved? Do you teach your spouse about the Lord and His Word? Women, do you submit? Men, are you devoted? Is there love and care and special times in both directions? How could you do better? Do you pray with them? What do you do to help in their spiritual growth?

Your response:

Day 3: Children (or parents if without children of your own)

Do you have a routine of prayer with children (or parents)? Are you teaching them daily or weekly in the Scriptures (not just hit or miss times)? Do they know the Scriptures directly? How well? Do you have a set time to teach them? Do you regularly show your love and say so to them? Are your children accepting your encouragement as well as your discipline? Are you consistent and fair? Is anger or softness an issue in your parenting? Do you have them in youth groups (are your parents in adult groups) that teach biblically and not just recreational? Where could you improve?

Your response:

Day 4: Your Church Family

Are you diligent when it is inconvenient to attend or only as it “works out”? Is church a priority over work and other social opportunities? Do you concern yourself over the health of the church and others in it?

Your response:

Day 5: Do you give yourself to the oneness of the believers?

Are others more important than you? Do you support the church financially? Do you prepare for Bible study by reading before coming? Do you pray for the church and your brothers and sisters? Do you make calls to those in need of encouragement or correction? Do you know others well enough to know if they have concerns?

Your response:

Day 6: Your Ministry at Work (or school)

Do you look for opportunities to talk about the Lord and the Scripture's teachings as situations or relationships develop? Do you avoid ungodly music, conversations, and situations at work, or do you permit or partake in them? Do righteous thoughts, attitudes and conversations enter the workplace by your hands? Are you salt to your workplace, or are you silent and conforming? Are you a model employee, or one who "demands their rights"?

Your response:

Day 7: Ministry to the Lost

Are you a witness with your mouth? Do you give tracts? Do you give advice from the Bible and let people know that it comes from the Bible? Are you helping others? Do you hope for an opportunity to share Christ with others? Do you tell others quickly that you are a Christian? Do you invite others to church?

Your response:

Day 8: Our Country and the World

Are you involved in writing the government on issues? Do you vote? Do you pray for our leaders? Do so now and ask God for forgiveness and guidance. Pray for the leaders of Israel and for them to come to Christ. Pray for the schools as they teach our children. Do you thank God for the servicemen who give us freedom to speak of Christ and worship as we wish?

Your response:

Day 9: Seek to learn God's ways

Followers of Jesus the Christ must seek to mature in His image, learning His mind and pursuing Him in paths of righteousness. Determine to study the Bible with consistency and intensity to know God's ways. Pray that you will grow spiritually and that your children, family and church will also grow to love good and hate evil.

Your response:

Day 10: Establish set times

Times of prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other believers are keys to walking consistently as a Christian. Guard these times from invasion by the concerns of the world. The Scripture instructs us "to do as the Lord your God has commanded you ... do not turn aside to the right hand or to the left" (Deuteronomy 5:32; cf. Joshua 1:7). Make a schedule for observing these spiritual disciplines this coming year, lest "the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful" (Mark 4:19, our Master's explanation of the seed that fell among thorns).

Your response: