

Elul

40 Days of Prayer & Fasting

The month of Elul begins a 40 day period of repentance in preparation for the High Holy Days, 30 days from Yom Teruah and 40 days till Yom Kippur. Elul is seen as a time to search one's heart and draw close to God in preparation for the coming Day of Judgement, Yom Kippur.

The month of Elul began last evening, Thursday August 13th, 2026 at sunset! Elul is an Akkadian word for "harvest". The Jewish names of months came from our captivity in Babylon. Scripture refers to the months by their numerical order except for the first month of the new year, Aviv.

On the first day of Elul, Moses ascended Mt. Sinai once more to plead with God for the people after the sin of the Golden Calf. There, Adonai allowed Moses to see His back but not His face — a glimpse of His essence without full revelation. This event established Elul as a time when God is especially accessible, often described as "the King in the field" — a metaphor for His closeness to the people. Elul is a month of turning inward, facing our own "back" to God, and then, through love, humility, and joy, becoming "face to face" with Him — preparing the heart for the High Holy Days.

Israel interceded and prayed every day during the month of Elul that Moses would be successful with Adonai on their behalf. On the fortieth day, which was Yom Kippur, God said to Moses:

Numbers 14:20. ADONAI answered, "I have forgiven, as you have asked.

Adonai accepted Israel's remorse and Teshuvah (repentance) and from then on, this day was sanctified for this purpose."

Leviticus 16:30. For on this day, atonement will be made for you to purify you; you will be clean before ADONAI from all your sins.

Elul is a time to search one's own heart to draw close to Adonai in preparation for the coming Day of Judgement, The ten days of Awe between Yom Teruah and Yom Kippur, The Day of Atonement. It is customary to recite Psalm 27 every day on this 40-day period seeking God's mercy and forgiveness. The 27th Psalm is one of trust, the psalmist has no fear of enemies while in the Lord's protection. This Psalm is extremely relevant in our day today:

Psalm 27. By David: ADONAI is my light **(Ori)** and salvation **(Yeshua)**; whom do I need to fear? ADONAI is the stronghold of my life; of whom should I be afraid? ² When evildoers assailed me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and foes, they stumbled and fell. ³ If an army encamps against me, my heart will not fear; if war breaks out against me, even then

I will keep trusting. ⁴ Just one thing have I asked of ADONAI; only this will I seek: to live in the house of ADONAI all the days of my life, to see the beauty of ADONAI and visit in his temple. ⁵ For he will conceal me in his shelter **(Sukkah)** on the day of trouble, he will hide me in the folds of his tent, he will set me high on a rock. ⁶ Then my head will be lifted up above my surrounding foes, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, sing praises to ADONAI. ⁷ Listen, ADONAI, to my voice when I cry; show favor to me; and answer me. ⁸ "My heart said of you, 'Seek my face.' "Your face, ADONAI, I will seek. ⁹ Do not hide your face from me, don't turn your servant away in anger. You are my help; don't abandon me; don't leave me, God my savior. ¹⁰ Even though my father and mother have left me, ADONAI will care for me. ¹¹ Teach me your way, ADONAI; lead me on a level path because of my enemies ¹² don't give me up to the whims of my foes; for false witnesses have risen against me, also those who are breathing violence. ¹³ If I hadn't believed that I would see ADONAI's goodness in the land of the living, ¹⁴ Put your hope in ADONAI, be strong, and let your heart take courage! Yes, put your hope in ADONAI!

This reason this Psalm is fundamental to this period of T'Shuvah (repentance) is that it contains references to all three fall feasts: "my light," ori in Hebrew refers to Yom Teruah as the shofar announces the arrival of Adonai, the light! My Salvation, Yeshua refers to the atonement He gave us for Yom Kippur. Then David states Adonai would hide him in his sukkah in the times of trouble, referring to the holiday of Sukkot in verse 5.

Psalm 27:13 also contains a textual oddity: "If I hadn't believed that I would see ADONAI's goodness in the land of the living." The phrase "If I hadn't" in Hebrew is lule which when read backwards spells Elul. Salvation comes from devoted trust in Adonai's mercy, goodness, and salvation.

The number 40 also has great significance throughout the Torah. The number 40 represents transition, change; renewal; and new beginnings. The number 40 has the power to alter or shift a spiritual state. 40 is the number of knowledge and understanding. It is not a coincidence that in the story of Noah, the rain poured for 40 days, covering the world in water. Just as a person leaves a mikveh spiritually pure, so too when the waters of the flood subsided, the world was purified from the wickedness and perversion that had corrupted it in the days of Noah.

The first 40 years of Moses life he spent in Egypt in the house of Pharaoh, the second forty years of his life was in the wilderness where he witnessed the burning bush. His last 40 years was leading Israel in the wilderness! Moses was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days and came down with the stone tablets. 40 is represented by the Hebrew letter Mem. 40 is the revelation of the concealed.

The number forty is used by God to represent periods of testing or judgment (the length of time necessary to accomplish God's plan by his interaction with mankind). Forty is the product of 5 X 8, and points to the action of *grace* (5), leading to and ending in *Schminnee-revival, renewal, and new beginnings*. (8). But where forty relates to dominion or rule it does so by virtue of its factors 4 (Dalet-the physical dimensions of the world including the cardinal directions North, South, East, and West) X 10 (Yad, the Hand of God). Mem expresses God's sovereignty over us and His Kingdom. God uses the number 40 when starting a new chapter of the history of salvation. Human gestation is 40 weeks! Teshuvah is a sort of death and rebirth: a death of the past life and the birth of a new life and a new creation:

II Corinthians 5:17. Therefore, if anyone is united with the Messiah, he is a new creation - the old has passed; look, what has come is fresh and new!

The 40 days of Elul are an awakening from our apathy and slumber induced by sin. The Fall Feasts are Moedim, Divine Appointments that God established, specific times that he'd be among His people! Its critical to prepare for these appointed times.

Isaiah 55:6-7. Seek ADONAI while he is available, call on him while he is still nearby. ⁷ Let the wicked person abandon his way and the evil person his thoughts; let him return to ADONAI, and he will have mercy on him; let him return to our God, for he will freely forgive.

The services in these 40 days of Elul are referred to as Selichot Services from:

Psalm 130:4. But with you there is forgiveness (**selichah: forgiveness, pardon**), so that you will be feared.

This word exclusively refers to God's mercy to grant forgiveness, to pardon the sins of those who repent. Selichah is found only three times in the Tanach, once in Psalm 130:4 the other two are in profound prayers of repentance. The first in Nehemiah where he recalled our rebellion and Adonai's compassion toward us:

Nehemiah 9:16-17. "'But they and our ancestors were arrogant; they stiffened their necks and ignored your mitzvot; ¹⁷ they refused to listen and paid no attention to the wonders you had done among them. No, they stiffened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a leader to return them to their slavery. But because you are a God of forgiveness (**selichah**), merciful, full of compassion, slow to grow angry and full of grace, you did not abandon them.

And then in Daniels powerful prayer of repentance upon reading in Jeremiah that Israel's 70 years of captivity and exile in Babylon/Persia was complete Daniel immediately began repenting for Israel's sins that had resulted in our exile:

Daniel 9:8-10. Yes, ADONAI, shame falls on us, our kings, our leaders and our ancestors; because we sinned against you. ⁹ It is for Adonai our God to show compassion and forgiveness (**selichah**), because we rebelled against him. ¹⁰ We didn't listen to the voice of ADONAI our God, so that we could live by his laws, which he presented to us through his servants the prophets.

Elul 1st nine years ago, August 21st 2017 was marked by a solar eclipse which was visible within a band that spanned the entire contiguous United States, passing from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts which hadn't happened since 1918 (Spanish Flu Pandemic). We also experienced the Revelation 12 sign in the heavens on Yom Teruah 2017. I'm going to quote from my message nine years ago about this event and Elul From August 2017:

While the eclipse day itself may come and go with everything remaining "normal" we need to be focused on what could be coming soon after. In light of recent events post October 7th 2023, Antisemitism, Global Intifada, and the Islamic invasions of the West coupled with communism, is the US being warned or even provoked to repent? 40 days were given to Nineveh to repent and turn back to God but before Jonah gave his message a sign was given to Nineveh that Yeshua referenced. A solar Eclipse 763 B.C.

Then last Wednesday, August 12th. 2026 Before sunrise on August 12, six planets will be spread across the morning sky. Later that same day, the moon will pass directly between the Earth and sun, producing a total solar eclipse across portions of the Northern Hemisphere. Then, as darkness falls, one of the year's most spectacular meteor showers will be reaching its peak.

NASA confirms that the August 12 total solar eclipse will sweep across Greenland, Iceland, northern Russia, the Atlantic Ocean, Spain and a small portion of Portugal. Parts of North America, Europe and Africa will experience a partial eclipse.

At roughly the same time, the Planetary Society says a six-planet "parade" will stretch across the predawn sky for several mornings. Jupiter, Mercury, Mars, Uranus, Saturn and Neptune will all be present, although Uranus and Neptune will require optical assistance to see.

And then there are the Perseids meteors. The American Meteor Society places the 2026 Perseid maximum around August 12-13, with virtually no moonlight to interfere with viewing. The Perseids are among the most anticipated meteor showers of the year, producing brilliant streaks of light across summer skies.

None of those things, by themselves, are supernatural. Eclipses are predictable. Planetary movements are predictable. Meteor showers occur as Earth passes through debris left behind by comets.

But believers should be careful about going from that scientific observation to another conclusion increasingly common in our secular age: that because something has a natural explanation, it therefore cannot have spiritual significance. The Bible never makes that distinction. When Yeshua described conditions surrounding the end of the age, He included a remarkable statement:

Luke 21:25. "There will appear signs in the sun, moon and stars; and on earth, nations will be in anxiety and bewilderment at the sound and surge of the sea,

This should at least get our attention. Yeshua didn't tell His disciples to practice astrology. But He did tell them that the heavens would matter. That doesn't mean every eclipse is a prophecy.

Believers have repeatedly embarrassed themselves by assigning specific prophetic significance to astronomical events only to watch the predicted dates come and go. We should learn from that. There is no biblical passage saying that an eclipse on August 12, 2026 will trigger a war, economic collapse, earthquake or the return of Yeshua.

We should not manufacture prophecy where Scripture has given none. The events themselves are remarkable enough. They don't need embellishment. But avoiding sensationalism does not require adopting the opposite extreme. There is a difference between date-setting and watchfulness. Yeshua repeatedly commanded the latter, watchfulness.

As we prepare for the Fall High Holy Days, we must pursue "Repentance and prayer" which can override any evil intent or decree and remove sin. It can be a moment that reminds us of God's awesome power and goodness. We must be ready now, every day, living our lives as if Yeshua were returning this very moment.

Proverbs 1:23. Repent when I reprove -I will pour out my spirit to you, I will make my words known to you.

Salvation comes from devoted trust in Adonai's mercy, goodness, and salvation.

Psalm 139:23-24. Examine me, God, and know my heart; test me, and know my thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is in me any hurtful way, and lead me along the eternal way.

Kefa urged his fellow Jewish brothers and sisters in Jerusalem in:

Acts 3:19-21. "Therefore, repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be erased; ²⁰ so that times of refreshing may come from the Lord's presence; and he may send the Messiah appointed in advance for you, that is, Yeshua. ²¹ He has to remain in heaven until the time comes for restoring everything, as God said long ago, when he spoke through the holy prophets.

What are the results of repentance in this passage?

- 1) Our sins will be erased.**
- 2) Times of refreshing is Anapsyxis in the Greek: cooling, refreshing, or revival which comes from the Lord's presence.**
- 3) There will be a time of restoration.**
- 4) Yeshua will return.**

These things are assured, but repentance must occur before these other things can take place.

I John 1:9-10. If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not been sinning, we are making him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us.

He has assured us of total forgiveness, but ONLY on the condition that we acknowledge, if we confess our sins. Unfortunately, this is lost upon most of the body. The single most important and critical thing one can do in these days of Elul is repent and work on our relationship and standing with God. "If we claim we have not been sinning, we are making him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us" verse 10. Adonai makes promises in the midst of His judgment for the righteous (those who repent) who will be established;

Isaiah 54:14-17 In righteousness you will be established **(Ti'Kônäniy: to be established, be stable, be secure, be enduring, to be fixed, be securely**

determined, be steadfast, far from oppression, with nothing to fear; far from ruin, make ready, prepare, provide, to be restored) for it will not come near you. ¹⁵ Any alliance that forms against you will not be my doing; whoever tries to form such an alliance will fall because of you. ¹⁶ It is I who created the craftsman who blows on the coals and forges weapons suited to their purpose; I also created the destroyer to work havoc. ¹⁷ No weapon **(k@liy {kel-ee'}: article, vessel, implement, utensil, article, object, apparatus, vessel, war implement, tool, equipment, yoke)** made will prevail against you. In court you will refute every accusation. The servants of ADONAI inherit all this; the reward for their righteousness is from me, "says ADONAI.

What a phenomenal promise of God. No matter what weapon, alliance, or accusation formed, made, stated, or issued against you will prosper, prevail, or come to pass. That is the reward for righteousness says Adonai! Those who know Adonai, who walk in truth and righteousness before Him! Those who submit, obey, honor, and worship the King of Kings. Job, in the midst of his crisis, in the center of the maelstrom, in the center of his own personal storm has an epiphany, a realization when Adonai speaks to him out of the storm:

Job 42:5. I had heard about you with my ears, but now my eye sees **(Ra'ah: look at, see, regard, learn, observe, watch, look upon, find out, consider, give attention to, discern)** you;

There is a great difference between hearing about something and experiencing it yourself. I can only speak the word so far; head knowledge is only knowledge. Adonai's words, commands, and instructions must become a matter of the heart and put into action. As James 1:25 says we must not be a forgetful hearer of the word but a doer. Your heart must become circumcised, He must be real in your life, a realization of who God is transitioned Job from hearing about God to seeing God, to knowing Him, to observing Him, to learn, to regard, and observe Him! It was in this condition that God Healed, restored, and set Job free from the storm. Proverbs reveals a profound truth regarding the "humble in heart", those who repent when God reproves and the result for those who do not:

Proverbs 1:23. Repent when I reprove -I will pour out my spirit to you, I will make my words known to you.

In its simplest sense, Teshuvah is the act of repentance—turning away from sin and returning to God's commandments. But this concept goes far beyond mere behavioral correction. Teshuvah is a comprehensive reorientation of the self, a process so powerful that it transforms the past and elevates the penitent to a spiritual height that draws us close to Adonai.

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, in his profound work "On Repentance," distinguished between two forms of Teshuvah: that motivated by fear and that motivated by love. Teshuvah born of fear arises from recognition of transgression and dread of its consequences. It restores the sinner to a state of innocence but does not fundamentally transform the relationship with God.

Teshuvah born of love, however, does something far greater—it transforms sins into merits, turning the very distance created by transgression into fuel for a more passionate and intimate return. The person who returns out of love does not merely go back to where they stood before the fall; they attain a closeness to God that would have been previously impossible. Salvation comes from Teshuvah (repentance) and devoted trust in Adonai's mercy, goodness, and salvation. Repentance results in Adonai pouring out His spirit upon you. The Key is having God's presence with you!

When the storm comes as America continues to reject and rebel against Adonai, and it is coming, either this September, October, next year, two years or five years from now the storm, the great and terrible day of the Lord is coming! What will the storm mean for you? Let me share a mystery regarding the rise

Jeremiah 16:16. "'Look,' says ADONAI, 'I will send for many fishermen, and they will fish for them. Afterwards, I will send for many hunters; and they will hunt them from every mountain and hill and out of caves in the rocks.

From Today's Divine Mentor reading, I don't have it in the Power Points, Yeshua said:

John 16:2. They will ban you from the synagogue; in fact, the time will come when anyone who kills you will think he is serving God!

These two passages speak profoundly to us today! Jeremiah is seeing a greater move or exodus of the Jewish people since the Exodus from slavery in Egypt! We've been experiencing this since May 1948! Millions of Jewish People have returned home but millions have not! First the Fisherman came post 1948(Barb and I were part of this) throughout the former Soviet Union after it collapse, millions of Jews made Aliya for Israel. But millions more remained, in Ukraine and in the west! Then when Russia invaded Ukraine 35,000 Ukrainian Jews showed up in Israel without any documentation as war refugees! The Lord said after the Fishers the hunters would come next! That's what the rising tide of Islam and the global Intifada is! Yeshua said: "the time will come when anyone who kills you will think he is serving God!" **This is that day! This powerfully reveals we are in the last days! We bemoan the rise of antisemitism yet it's all part of God's plan to get us all home to Israel! Diligently seek after God, and you will find both the truth and authentic peace.**

Philippians 4:6-7. Don't worry about anything; on the contrary, make your requests known to God by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving. ⁷ Then God's shalom, passing all understanding, will keep **(phroureo {froo-reh'-o}: to guard, protect by a military guard, to prevent hostile invasion, protect by guarding)** your hearts and minds safe in union with the Messiah Yeshua.

What will be your focus in these days of Elul? To repent that you may live and walk in the presence and voice of God allowing you to sleep in Shalom during the storm! Or refuse like Jonah and become a victim of the raging storm.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for Jewish Revival (Land & the People) which results in global revival and the return of Messiah.
- Pray for America's awakening, for salvation and revival, that America will turn back to God!
- Pray against the Spiritual Strongholds of Darkness over our City, state, and Nation
- Pray against Antisemitism and the rise of Islamism.
- Pray for racial equality, justice, national unity, national Shalom, Peace and national healing!
- Pray for righteous leaders to arise in the greater body of Messiah to stand upon biblical truth and lead America into truth & righteousness!
- Pray for the release of the One New Man from the Eastern Gate to sweep across this nation and the world!