

Rosh Hashanah began at Sundown on Friday, Sept. 18 and that began the Hebraic New Year. This is followed by Ten Days of Awe, which ends at Sundown on Monday, Sept. 28, with the conclusion of Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement – **Lev. 16:30** “*For on this day He will forgive you, to purify you, that you be cleansed from all your sins before God.*” This is the holiest day of the year for practicing Jews. Chabad.org says this about the Day of Atonement, “When the Holy Temple stood in Jerusalem, the Yom Kippur service included the High Priest’s entry into the “Holy of Holies” to offer the *ketoret* – the only time that anyone entered the Temple’s innermost chamber – and the “casting of lots” over two goats one to be offered to God and the other to carry off the sins of Israel to the wilderness. The day is the most solemn of the year, yet an undertone of joy suffuses it: a joy that revels in the spirituality of the day and expresses the confidence that God will accept our repentance, forgive our sins, and seal our verdict for a year of life, health and happiness.” This feast, the Day of Atonement, was literally fulfilled when our Lord Jesus Christ went to the Cross and took the punishment for our sins upon Himself, while the criminal Barabas was set free, according to Jewish custom.

Rosh Hashanah, the Hebraic New Year, represents the beginning of a new **era** for breaking curses and a new year of Apostolic authority. It’s very noteworthy that Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, herself a Jew, passed away on the very eve of this Jewish New Year at the age of 87. This Supreme Court vacancy will be the top story of the 2020 election until Nov. 3 and beyond, as President Trump plans to nominate a person, probably a woman, to the position this week, and majority leader of the Senate, Mitch McConnell, said that the President’s nominee will get a vote on the Senate floor. This potential swing in the makeup of the Supreme Court will change the complexion of our nation’s laws and governance for decades to come if and when it takes place under this President’s watch. This is historic for many reasons, so it requires vigilance from the saints of God to stay on our prayer watch for the coming days, weeks, months and beyond. This Saturday’s simulcast from Washington, D.C, called “The Return” will need our involvement, as well as prayer during the Dutch Sheet’s-led “Reset 2020” in Middletown, OH, Oct. 8-10.

This morning in partner prayer, I wept on the phone as I beheld the fate of our nation hanging in the balance on our watch. I sensed the weightiness of the fact that the fate of America’s future has been handed over to the praying Ekklesia, the called-out legislative assembly in the Body of Christ. We must not miss our moment in the annals of history to intercede like never before for the heart & soul of this great Nation. We must learn how **not** to be like the example of Jesus’ disciples in **Matt. 26:36-46 TPT**, but how to have the courage of our Lord & Savior

when facing the dark night of the soul. There, just after the institution of the Lord's Supper, Jesus prophesies Peter's Denial, then takes with his closest compatriots to an orchard called "**The Oil Press**," better known as Gethsemane. Here in Matt. 26 we find Jesus' betrayal & arrest taking place. Let's read (including TPT note (a) for 26:39).

So where does this courage come from that is needed so greatly in these last days? Let's look at Paul's answer. Turn or surf with me on your phones or tablets to **1 Cor. 15:1-11**. Paul who considered himself '*born out of due time*' (v. 8), '*the least of all the Apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle*' (v. 9), & '*the chief of sinners*' (1 Tim. 1:15). **V. 10** gives us the key to Paul's secret of his new identity, liberty, & accomplishments. It is the grace of God!

NKJV 1 Cor. 15:10a "*By His grace I am what I am.*" **2 Cor. 3:5-6 TPT** "*Yet we don't see ourselves as capable enough to do anything in our own strength, for our true competence flows from God's empowering presence. 6. He alone makes us adequate ministers who are focused on an entirely new covenant. Our ministry is not based on the letter of the law, but through the power of the Spirit. The letter of the law kills, but the Spirit pours out life.*" **TPT note:** I.e. "On the day when the law was given by Moses, 3,000 people were killed, but on the day the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, 3,000 people received new life."

1 Cor. 15:10b NKJV "*and His grace toward me was not in vain (TPT fruitless).*" Cf. v. 2 "*...unless you believed in vain.; AMPLC "...unless you believed at first without effect and all for nothing.; NLT "...unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place."* Or "*unless you never believed it in the first place.*"

V. 10c NKJV "*But I labored more abundantly than they all.*" (**Phil. 2:13 NKJV** "*For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*"); **TPT** "*God will continually revitalize you, implanting within you the passion to do what pleases Him (Aramaic "To accomplish the good things you desire to do."); 2 Cor. 11:16-28).*" **Phil. 1:6 TPT**

Your identity in Christ and faith-freedom from a "law-based identity" are critical to operating in the Spirit by faith, love and power! So let go of self-condemnation & ritual observances. Find your identity in the Lover of your soul. Be set free to live!