

Yeshua was born on Yom Teruah (Rosh Hashanah)

Yeshua (Jesus) was most likely born on Yom Teruah (Rosh Hashanah). He was born near a Jewish feast day because there was no room for Miryam and Joseph at the inn. Bethlehem is near Jerusalem and Jerusalem is where the Jews would go to keep God's commanded feasts. Also, the Bible says that the shepherds were in the field working. **It could never have been Passover or Sukkot as some say because the shepherds would not be working on those feasts.** Once the Shofar sounded for Yom Teruah though (Rosh Hashanah), the shepherds could stop working and go see the Messiah Yeshua as it is recorded in the Bible. It could not have been in December because it is too cold and the shepherds would not have been in the field with their flocks.

Bible scholars are divided on this topic. The most important thing to remember is that Yeshua was born near the time of a Jewish feast and that particularly points to Yom Teruah (Rosh Hashanah). Many scholars see the blowing of the trumpets as the coming of the King, our Messiah Yeshua. Yom Teruah means the "Day of Shouting."

Picture this; the Chief Priest was notified that the first crescent of the moon was sighted which signaled the beginning of Yom Teruah. They then lit a signal fire on the Mount of Olives and blew the shofar from the Mount of Olives. Then on every hill in Israel they lit a signal fire and blew their trumpets (shofarim) signaling the feast of Yom Teruah. As soon as the trumpets sounded the Messiah was born and angels began shouting praise.

An angel told some shepherds that the Messiah was born and how to know it was Him so they could go see Him. The shepherds were still in the field because they were working. They could stop working at the sound of the shofars because Yom Teruah is a commanded day of rest. On other feast days they would know what day the upcoming feast was. They had to work until the sighting of the first crescent of the moon for Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah).

So we have the Messiah being born and everywhere in Israel we have trumpets blowing around the entire nation of Israel and angels shouting praise on the "Day of Shouting," Yom Teruah. Yom Teruah is also called the Feast of Trumpets because we are commanded to blow the shofar on Yom Teruah. "You shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets;" Leviticus 23:24 NKJV. That year the trumpets were also signaling the birth of their Messiah! Yeshua came the first time on Yom Teruah and will return on Yom Teruah at the last trump as Shaul (Paul) says. "At the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible;" 1 Corinthians 15:52 NKJV.

People that believe Yeshua was born on Sukkot cite one verse. John 1:14 NKJV says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." The word for dwelt means tented or encamped.¹ It does not say Yeshua was born on Sukkot. We have to understand the Bible in its Jewish context. The ancient rabbis said that the presence of God in the form of a cloud by day and fire by night was at the Mishkan (Tent of Meeting in the desert sometimes called the Tabernacle).

Yochanan (John) is referring to the presence of God when he says "tented" and he is referring to and thinking of the presence of God at the Mishkan (Tent of Meeting). Exodus 29:45 NKJV says, "I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God." **Just as God was physically with Israel at the Mishkan, God was physically with them in the form of Yeshua.** Yochanan does not say that Yeshua was born on Sukkot. In other words, Yochanan is saying, 'God became flesh and His presence was among us.' The people who teach that Yeshua was born on Sukkot miss this awesome point completely!

¹ g4637. σκηνώω skēnoō; from 4636; to tent or encamp, **Strong's Enhanced Dictionary**.

Consider the context in John. Yochanan (John) uses the word light in the first chapter of John 6 times referring to Yeshua. Yochanan says, 'Yeshua is the light of men; the light that shines into the darkness; He is the true light. Yochanan saw His glory, so what glory did they see? Yochanan saw the shekinah glory on Him as He was transfigured before his eyes (Matthew 17:1). Changing John 1:14 to mean Sukkot changes the context and the train of thought. Yeshua is the light of the world and was the presence of God among us.

This scripture in Amos refers to the reign of the Messiah when the Temple will be restored. It doesn't say that Yeshua was born on Sukkot. "On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins;" Amos 9:11 NKJV. **It is not** talking about Yeshua being born on Sukkot. Amos 9:14 NKJV says, "I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them." The context is about the restoration of Israel with Yeshua as King. It has nothing to do with Him being born on Sukkot.

Also, people say Yeshua was circumcised on the 8th day of Sukkot. Every believing male child in Israel was circumcised including Yeshua. It was a common occurrence and has no extra meaning. This was done all the time and even on Shabbat or on a holiday. It is of no significance. Don't let this insignificant point sidetrack you. **Nothing could be more significant than the angels shouting for joy on the Day of Shouting (Rosh Hashanah) with the trumpets blowing announcing that King Yeshua the Messiah was born!**

Also, the Jews think that creation took place on Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah). What better time for the beginning of a new era is the coming of Messiah Yeshua the first time on Yom Teruah and then the future return of the **Messiah as King** on Yom Teruah. Rosh Hashanah is referred to the day to bless our God and King by the ancient rabbis (Talmud, Rosh Hashanah 32a).

Yeshua was Born in the Fall (Autumn)

Another reason Yeshua had to be born in the Fall is because of the timing and recorded births of both Yeshua (Jesus) and Yochanan the Immerser (John the Baptist) in the New Testament portion. First, we know that Zechariah,² the father of Yochanan (John the Baptist), served as a cohen (priest) on the course of Aviyah. This course begins on the seventh Shabbat after Pesach (Passover). So, he offered incense in the Temple during his course of service and that is when the angel told him that he would have a son. His son, Yochanan the Immerser (John the Baptist), would be the Elijah type person who came before Yeshua.

If you allow for the timing of conception, Yochanon the Immerser (the Elijah to come) would have been born around Pesach (Passover) in the Spring. We know that Yeshua was born 6 months after Yochanan the Immerser was born (Luke 1:26-45) which would place Yeshua's birth in the Fall. Also, since some celebrate Yeshua's conception in December, that also links Yeshua's birth to September (nine months later), namely in the Fall. See my note on this interesting topic.³ Also, of scriptural significance, Rosh Hashanah is called Yom

² Zechariah was chosen by lot so that made Zechariah the legitimate Chief Priest. **The acting chief priest was only an appointee of the Roman Empire.** The angel Gabriel's announcement to Zechariah was probably God not only announcing the birth of John the Baptist (Yochanan the Immerser) and the Elijah to come before the Messiah, but the birth of the next actual Chief Priest chosen by God. John the Baptist was executed by Herod and then Yeshua became our eternal Chief Priest after His death and resurrection.

³ The Roman church celebrates the conception of Yeshua in December and Chanukkah begins on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar usually in our December. If Yeshua was conceived on the last day of Chanukkah when the chanukiah is fully lit then Yeshua would have been born on Yom Teruah which is usually close to 266 days, one of the accepted dates for gestation. The last evening of Chanukkah on the Orthodox calendar for 2017 is 12/19/17. Going forward 266 days we land exactly on the evening of Yom Teruah, 9/10/18! One text has human gestation at 266 days – see <https://opentextbc.ca/biology/chapter/24-5-human-pregnancy-and-birth/>; another text showed the minimum to be 259 days - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mammalian_gestation_durations). Also, in case anyone doubts that the Jews celebrated Chanukkah, archeology has found oil lamps, chanukkiot (plural), dating to the 1st century. This information about the celebration of Yeshua's conception and the possible connection with Chanukkah also establishes Yeshua's birth in the Fall, NOT the Spring.

Teruah in the Bible and Yom Teruah means the Day of Shouting, and we see the angels shouting praise for the birth of Yeshua!

Of interest, Pesach is the time that we set a place for Elijah at the Pesach (Passover) table, and we open our doors and sing a song asking Elijah to come with the Messiah, the son of David the Messiah (the song is Eliyahu Hanavi). We sing about Elijah coming at Passover and this also clearly connects Yochanan the Immerser (John the Baptist) with the time of the Passover. Yeshua was then born 6 months later at the time of a Jewish feast. Again, we know it had to be at the time of a Jewish feast because there was no place for Miryam and Joseph to stay in Bethlehem.

Yosef and Miryam Arrived Before the Jewish Fall High Holidays

The inns were filled at the time of Yeshua's birth so, as I stated, it means that it was a Jewish holiday and 6 months after Passover is our September (and so is Yom Teruah). Yosef and Miryam had to go to Bethlehem in spite of her being pregnant because there was a required census according to the New Testament portion. It would make sense for them to arrive early for the Fall holidays and the census because Miryam was pregnant.

Yeshua was Not Born on Sukkot

They were not in dormitories for Sukkot as some say (men and women would stay in separate housing). Both Yosef and Miryam were present when the shepherds arrived. "Hurrying off, they came and found Miryam and Yosef, and the baby lying in the feeding trough;" Luke 2:16 CJB. Yosef and Miryam were staying where animals were kept; animals were kept (including the family's Passover lamb) in a family's sukkah. So Yeshua, the Lamb of God, was born in a sukkah. A sukkah is the structure that the Jewish family would stay in for Sukkot. That is where they would raise their Passover lamb. Yeshua is the lamb of God who took away our sins (Isaiah 53:6-7; John 1:29,36).

The Family was not Staying in Their Sukkah Yet

Families would live in their sukkah for the feast of Sukkot, **so it could not have been the feast of Sukkot**. The Bible does not say that the family was present, but shepherds came after they were invited by an angel.

We'd expect the Messiah to be born on a day of rest during a Jewish feast because God does things on the feasts; for example, Yeshua died and rose from the dead at the time of the Passover; the law was given on Shavuot (Pentecost) and so was the Holy Spirit. As I said, since the Shepherds were working, it could not have been a day of rest for either Sukkot or Passover.

The Shepherds Went to See Yeshua on Yom Teruah

Again, the shepherds would not have been in the fields in December – the nights are too cold. As I said, they also would not be in the field for Passover because they would be getting ready for the Passover meal and observing the Passover. Also, the shepherds were also not observing Sukkot because they were working. They stopped working to go find where Yeshua was born because the trumpets sounded announcing that Yom Teruah had started which is a day of rest.

The ancient new moon or first crescent of the moon may not be visible for a couple days after the moon is completely dark (the ancient new moon is the first sighting of the crescent moon and is different than the modern day astronomical dark new moon). So, the Jewish leaders would have to determine when Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah) started. Since Yom Teruah is a day of rest the Jewish leaders would announce the day of rest with the blowing of trumpets so the people would know that Yom Teruah had begun. At the blowing of the trumpets, the shepherds would then be free to stop working to see the new born baby Yeshua that the angel told them about.

The Culmination of the Jewish Feast of Yom Teruah

The Birth of the Messiah Yeshua was on Yom Teruah which is the Day of Shouting. The angels shouted for joy when Yeshua was born. Yom Teruah is another name for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Teruah means "Day of

Shouting." "Suddenly, along with the angel was a vast army from heaven praising God: 'In the highest heaven, glory to God! And on earth, peace among people of good will!'" Luke 2:13-14 CJB. As we see, it was indeed a day of shouting! **This is a clear scriptural reference to the day Yeshua was born.**

The Blowing of the Trumpets Announced King Yeshua

As I said, the sounding of the trumpets announced Yom Teruah to the entire nation in ancient Israel. It is a day of rest and that is how the people were notified that the first sliver of the moon had been sighted. That year, the sounding of the trumpets also announced the coming of the Messiah our King, namely King Yeshua. There is often some way that dignitaries are announced. The blowing of the trumpets over all of Israel that year on Yom Teruah announced the arrival of Yeshua Hamashiach, Yeshua the Messiah. ⁴ He came on Yom Teruah and will most likely come again on Yom Teruah. Also, Yom Teruah is when the trumpets are sounded 100 times in synagogues and the last trump is blown until they can't blow any more – this is the last trump that is mostly likely referred to as being the time of the resurrection by Shaul (Paul), see 1 Corinthians 15:52.

Yeshua was the Bodily Presence of God Among Them

Where it says that Yeshua tabernacled among them (John 1:14) it is referring to Yeshua's bodily presence; in other words, the bodily presence of God in the form of Yeshua. The shekinah glory at the Tabernacle in the desert was the presence of God. So Yochanan (in the gospel of John) is not saying that Yeshua was born on Sukkot as some say, but that the light of God's presence was among them in the form of Yeshua. This messianic scripture says that a man from the seed of David who is also God will be the Messiah, "The days are coming," says ADONAI when I will raise a righteous Branch for David. He will reign as king and succeed, he will do what is just and right in the land. In his days Y'hudah will be saved, Isra'el will live in safety, and the name given to him will be ADONAI Tzidkenu [ADONAI our righteousness]. Jeremiah 23:5-6 CJB. Adonai in the Hebrew is the name for God, Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey, known to be pronounced as YeHoVáh.

The Shekinah Glory Led the Magi to Yeshua

Also, it is likely when the Magi came, they saw the shekinah glory over where the young boy was standing (Yeshua was older by the time the Magi got there; after they saw the sign in the heavens they got ready for their journey.); and, that's probably why the Magi were able to find Yeshua; Matthew 2:9-11. We could say that the shekinah glory led the Magi to Yeshua. It says in Matthew 2:9 CJB, "Till it came and stood over where the young Child was." When you think about it, what kind of light could possibly stand over someone; it was probably the shekinah glory rather than a star and it was then probably this same shekinah glory that the Magi saw earlier from the east near Babylon where they came from when Yeshua was born.⁵

Jupiter is a Bright Star

In addition, Jupiter could have been visible at both the birth of Yeshua and when the Magi arrived when Yeshua was a young child; Jupiter is an extremely bright planet and also known as the king planet. It is called Tsedeq in Hebrew which means righteousness. This could explain the reference to a star. Also, Jupiter could have been in retrograde as it does this sometimes (Retrograde makes Jupiter appear to move backwards for several months.). Also, explaining the shekinah as a star could have been a way to explain the shekinah light they saw. I think it could have been a combination of both the shekinah light and Jupiter. Jupiter moving in retrograde occurs nearly every year so it would not be a signal that anything extraordinary had happened. Seeing the shekinah glory in the sky would be an extraordinary event. Also, it could have been that the Magi saw an exploding star, a supernova, but there is none recorded during the time period when Yeshua was born.

⁴ After the first crescent of the moon was sighted, they would report this finding to the chief priest and he would give the order to light a fire on top of the Mount of Olives and subsequently fires would be lit on all the mountain tops of Israel and they would blow their shofars. The people then knew that Yom Teruah and the day of rest had begun. For the birth of the Messiah Yeshua this presents an awesome picture as shofars would be sounding all over Israel.

⁵ I've heard a lot of explanations as to how, for example, Jupiter rose and directed the Magi to the young child Yeshua, but none makes more sense than the shekinah glory. They could have seen the shekinah glory from a distance as they didn't have electricity back then! When they got there, it was standing over where the young child was standing.

Yeshua Wasn't Born in December

That's why I celebrate the coming of Yeshua on Yom Teruah. We know that Yeshua absolutely came in the Fall even though some come up with ideas that don't fit the correlations with the feasts. Like I said, Yeshua came the first time on Yom Teruah and that is when He will likely come again, at the last trump according to Shaul (Paul). That is a correlation. The feasts of God all correlate to what God did, is doing, and will do.

For example, the children of Israel were freed from Egypt at the time of the Passover so they could serve God. The Messiah died as the Lamb of God and rose from the dead around the time of Passover so we could be freed from sin and serve God. That's the correlation for Passover. There are correlations for all the feasts. For example, Yeshua will likely come again on Yom Teruah. The next Jewish feast is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement where we ask God to forgive our sins, and that is a picture of the future judgment. Sukkot is the next feast and it is a harvest festival which lasts 7 days with a final 8th day of rest. That is a picture of our time in the future kingdom celebrating with God for all eternity (and not the birth of Yeshua). As we can see, the Fall feasts fit perfectly in timing and correlation. Yeshua was born on Yom Teruah and will likely come again on Yom Teruah.

Some say it must have been on Sukkot, but I believe it was on Yom Teruah. It definitely was not in the Winter or on Passover (The correlations for Passover are about Yeshua's sacrifice not His birth.). Why celebrate on the wrong day when we know the approximate time of Yeshua's birth now? We just need to update our celebration to the proper time. I just tell people I celebrate Yeshua's birth on Yom Teruah and not in December. December is the time to celebrate the feast of Hanukkah (John 10) which came right after when Yeshua healed a man that was born blind (John 9). For those who celebrate Yeshua's birth in December, I just wish them a happy birth of Jesus (Yeshua) when they wish me a Merry Christmas. That is when they think Yeshua was born, but He really wasn't. Don't alienate others over the timing of Yeshua's birth. It is not a command in the Bible to celebrate Yeshua's birth.

Decorating for God's Feasts is Okay

Also, people often decorate for July 4th and birthdays etcetera in the United States. It is not wrong to decorate our houses.⁶ The Jews celebrated the feasts with decorations. Also, the Bible tells us to do symbolic acts like those for Sukkot; we are to take nice looking branches and fruit and rejoice before the Lord. So, if you want to decorate for Yom Teruah, Sukkot, or Chanukkah, it does not mean that has anything to do with a pagan activity. Do not use pagan symbols though for God's feasts.

We need to use our best judgment about how we decorate by not incorporating pagan decorations. In our home we have a festive Pesach table (Passover), and we decorate for Shavuot, Sukkot, and Chanukkah. We observe God's feasts. How ridiculous is it to refer to the resurrection of Yeshua as a celebration of a pagan God. We don't observe pagan activities and the pagan feast of Easter (Ishtar is the goddess of fertility). Instead of Easter, we celebrate resurrection weekend. It is the wording surrounding the celebration of Yeshua's resurrection that is the problem. When people wish me a happy Easter I wish them a Happy Resurrection Weekend. Christmas was originally a pagan holiday, but God still uses it to bring people to His Messiah. God can use things for His purposes the Bible says (even if they celebrate the birth of Yeshua on the wrong day).⁷

Why not Celebrate Yeshua's Birth at the Time He Came

The Fall feast of Yom Teruah would be the most likely time of Yeshua's birth and I encourage you to begin a new tradition in your home and celebrate Yeshua's birth closer to the time when He actually came. Some believe that Yeshua was born on Sukkot, but the correlations **clearly** point to Yom Teruah. Since the common name of Rosh Hashanah is also known as Yom Teruah, a Day of Shouting, Yom Teruah fits its name better.

⁶ I don't believe it is right to decorate for sinful activities, dark holidays, pagan holidays, or in pagan or dark ways. Use good judgment and your God given chutzpah (boldness) in regards to these things.

⁷ "We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with his purpose;" Romans 8:28 CJB. Also, God is able to work out any situation and turn that around for good. He is God; He can do what He wants.

Yom Teruah is a required feast, but Yeshua's birth is not a required celebration. God uses His feasts for His purposes. So, why not celebrate Yeshua's birth on Yom Teruah. Surely the coming of Yeshua was an important Jewish event. He is the Jewish Messiah who gave Himself as the Lamb of God so that all of mankind could live holy lives (which means to be a tzadiq, righteous; namely, to live right) and serve God. The Jews put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts so that they would be spared death. We believe in Yeshua, the Lamb of God who was born in a Sukkah (where they raised their Passover lambs), who gave Himself for us and rose from the dead so that we can be spared spiritual death through following Him.

Isaiah 53:5-7 CJB says:

But he was wounded because of our crimes, crushed because of our sins; the disciplining that makes us whole fell on him, and by his bruises we are healed. We all, like sheep, went astray; we turned, each one, to his own way; yet ADONAI laid on him the guilt of all of us. Though mistreated, he was submissive - he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to be slaughtered, like a sheep silent before its shearers, he did not open his mouth.

Some 600 years before Yeshua came, Isaiah wrote this about the Messiah Yeshua. It is amazing to think of God's timing and that He has chosen His feasts (moadim)⁸ to give us pictures and correlations for what He is doing. Yeshua came as our glorious King on Yom Teruah and He is a good and kind King. Yeshua said, "I have come so that they may have life, life in its fullest measure;" John 10:10 CJB. His coming is truly something to celebrate.

⁸ "Moed (מועד) ("festive season"), plural moadim (מועדים), refers to any of the Three Pilgrimage Festivals of Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot." – see Wikipedia under "Terminology used to describe holidays," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_holidays. Genesis 1:14 uses the word Moed and it is translated "seasons." The days are for determining when the moedim are to be celebrated, namely God's feasts.