

# Yom Kippur

## The Day of Atonement

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- Atonement means making up for something you have done wrong.
- It is the holiest day of the year.

Yom Kippur is a **FASTING** day which last from sunset to sunset.



- During this 25 hours of fasting, Jews do not touch water or food and some Jews do not wear any symbols of luxury, such as leather shoes. They remember those who are suffering in the world.



# No-one is to risk their health by not eating or drinking.



- Saving life and being healthy is very important to Jewish people.
- Jews who are sick, weak or pregnant eat and drink normally on the day of Yom Kippur.

# White is a symbol of purity.

- In the synagogue the Ark and reading desk are covered in a white cloth.
- The people leading the service wear white too.



# The services are the longest in the Jewish year.



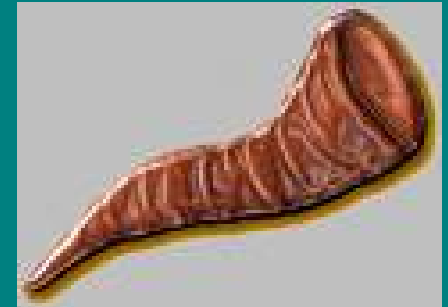
- They begin in the evening, start again in the morning and go on all day. There is an extra service just before sunset.



- Service 1: This begins with chanting a prayer. This asks God to release them from any vows which they can not keep.
- Service 2: In the morning the reading commands that people keep Yom Kippur. It also speaks about the sins of the people which were put onto a goat which was then driven away into the wilderness in the hope that it would carry the sins away.
- Service 3: later in the afternoon the story of Jonah is read.

# Service 4: The final service.

- The doors of the Ark are left open to symbolise that God is open to those that are sorry.
- At the end of the service the doors are closed to show that God has made his judgement.
- Finally the single blast from the shofar shows that the fasting is over and forgiveness has come.





Yom Kippur is serious but not sad. Some prayers are sung to very lively tunes because Jews feel that it is a privilege to be able to say sorry to a forgiving God.