

ELUL

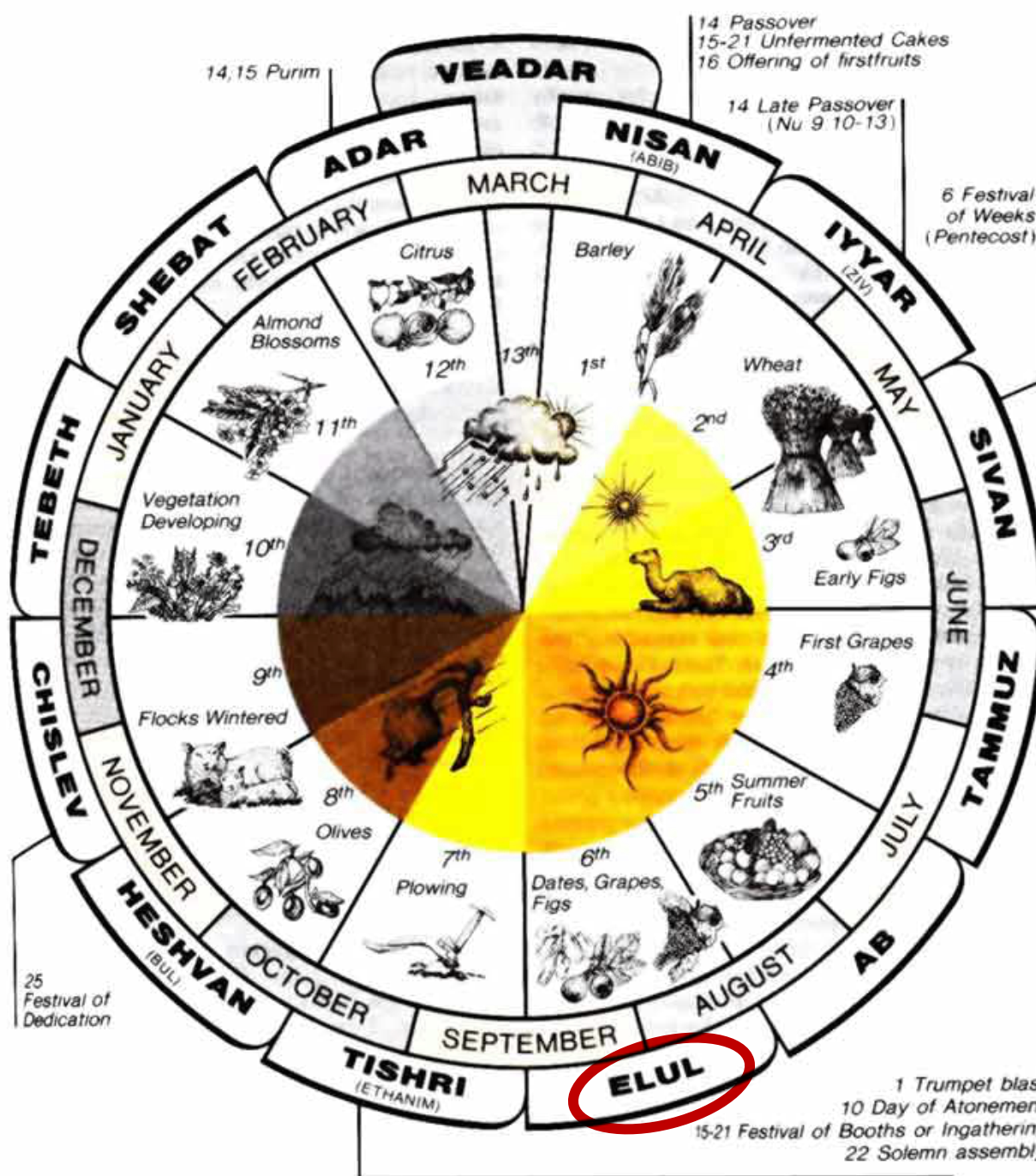
אֶלּוּל

Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li

אֲנִי לְדוֹדִי וְדוֹדִי לִי

"I am to my Beloved and my Beloved is to me."

Song 6:3



Elul - אלול

- Calendar: 6th (Sacred)/12th (Secular)
- Repentance or Teshuvah prior to Fall Feasts
 - 40 days from Elul 1 until Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
- Time to get one's spiritual house in order before the Days of Awe (time between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur)
- Time to come closer to God
- Days of Favor - *Yemei Ratzon* (ימי רצון)
 - Forgiven after sin of Golden Calf
 - 40 days for human fetus to be formed within the womb

Elul - אלול

- 40 speaks to time of judgment leading toward revival and renewal
 - 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai for 2nd set of Commandments after Golden Calf
- Time of Self-examination
 - Philippians 2:5-13
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

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PSALM 27

- The Lord is my light (vs. 1) – Rosh Ha Shanah
- And my Salvation (vs. 1)– Yom Kippur
- For He will hide me in His pavilion (vs. 5) --
Tabernacles

TESHUVAH תשובה

- Hebrew root “shoov” – to return
 - Turn from evil and turn toward good
- Steps to Teshuvah or Repentance (Jewish belief):
 - Recognize our sin
 - Show remorse and regret for our sin
 - Cease from sin
 - Resolve to live in a new way
- Isaiah 55:6-7; Romans 7:11 – 8:2

TESHUVAH תשובה

- Shofar and special prayers to call people to repent

Selichot

- Selichot – סליחות : (slichah) – excuse me
- God's offer of pardon and forgiveness of the repentant sinner (Psalm 130:1-4)
- Daily prayers during the month of Elul
- Focus on the 13 attributes of God's mercy
– Exodus 34:6-7

13 Attributes of Mercy

1. LORD – compassion before a person sins
2. LORD – compassion after a person has sinned
3. EL – I, the LORD, am God the Almighty and Omnipotent
4. Merciful
5. Gracious
6. Slow to anger/patient
7. Merciful
8. Truth
9. Keeping mercy unto thousands
10. Forgiving iniquity
11. Forgiving transgression
12. Forgiving sin
13. Pardon those who repent

Shofar

- 2nd day of Elul until the eve of Rosh HaShanah blow the Shofar every day.
- שׁוֹפָר (shofar): ram's horn
- Akedah – Binding of Isaac: Genesis 22:13
- Exodus 19:16 (Mount Sinai): 1st Trump (Pentecost)
- Leviticus 23:24 (Day of Trumpets): Last Trump
- Leviticus 25:9 (Day of Atonement): Great Trump
- Reminder to daily repentance

There are four primary types of shofar blasts:

- *Tekiah* (תְּקִיעָה) – A long single blast (the sound of the King's coronation)
- *Shevarim* (שְׁבָרִים) – Three short wail-like blasts (signifying repentance)
- *Teru'ah* (תְּרוּעָה) – Nine staccato blasts of alarm (to awaken the soul)
- *Tekiah ha-Gadol* (תְּקִיעָה הַגְּדוֹל) – A great long blast (for as long as you can)

TESHUVAH

The Blessing of Repentance

- Micah 7:18-20 *Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob And mercy to Abraham, which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old.*
- Foundation of Repentance: Hebrews 6:1-3
- Repent -- μετανοέω (metanoēō): to change one's mind or purpose
- 2 Corinthians 7:8-10 *-For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death (vs. 10)*

1 JOHN 1:5–2:2

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.