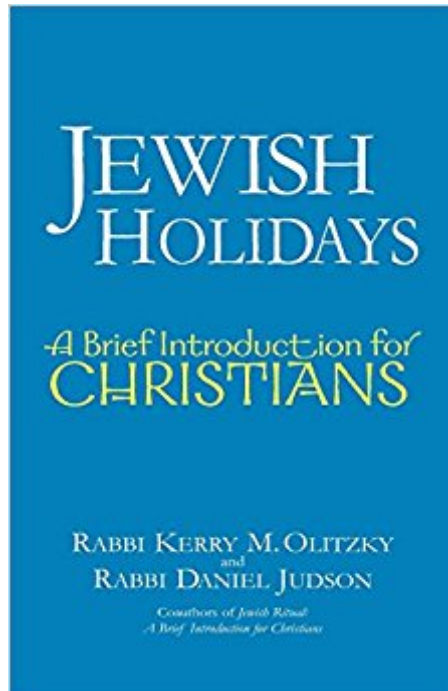




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Jewish Holidays: A Brief Introduction For Christians



Synopsis

A window into Judaism's sacred days—throughout history and today. Written especially for Christians. Holy days and holidays provide the peak experiences of Jewish life. These moments speak deeply to the Jewish soul and animate Judaism's culture. They encourage Jews to participate in their shared historical experience, which reflects their covenantal relationship with God, and articulate Jewish values that have allowed for the survival of the Jewish people. But what can they mean to Christians seeking to understand their own faith? In this special book, Rabbis Olitzky and Judson guide you through the major Jewish holidays and what they mean for the Jewish people. Each chapter explores a different holiday and explains the origin, historical background, customs and rituals that are part of observance and the holiday's Christian parallels. Examining observance in both home and synagogue—and in all Jewish denominations—this easy-to-use guide to the Jewish holidays will be a valuable resource for your own understanding of Jewish sacred time throughout the year. And by linking the Jewish holidays to familiar Christian holidays and practices, you will be better able to appreciate the roots of Christianity and how the fundamentals of Judaism relate to and reflect your own spiritual foundation. Rosh Hashanah—New Year Yom Kippur—Day of Atonement Sukkot—Feast of Booths (Fall Harvest Festival) Simchat Torah—Rejoicing in the Torah Hanukkah—Rededication Purim—(Festival of Survival) Pesach—Passover Shavuot—(Receiving the Torah) Tisha B'Av—(Mourning and Commemoration) and Other Special Days Shabbat (Day of Rest)

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Customer Reviews

In this sequel to *Jewish Rituals*, rabbis Olitzky and Judson aim for a very specific audience: Christians who want to learn more about Judaism. The authors lay out the basics of each major holiday, explaining why Jews blow a shofar (ram's horn) on Rosh Hashanah, fast on Yom Kippur, refrain from eating leaven during Passover and commemorate the agricultural calendar during Sukkot. The authors also point out parallels between Christian and Jewish observances, discussions that help distinguish this book from introductory guides to Jewish holidays written for a broader readership. They note, for example, that the carnival atmosphere of Purim is similar to Shrove Tuesday, and they point out the relationship between Pentecost and Shavuot. In the chapter on Passover, Olitzky and Judson thoughtfully and delicately address why "historically Christian-Jewish tensions were exacerbated around Passover and Easter, making this a time of heightened danger for Jews." Curiously, they overlook some obvious parallels (for example, they don't connect Simchat Torah with the first day of Advent, when liturgical Christians start a new year's lectionary readings). All in all, the book could be a little longer and more fully fleshed out. Still, it is a helpful guide, and will be especially useful for interfaith families. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Clear and concise. Offers Christian readers insight into the wisdom and beauty of Judaism." — Mary C. Boys, coauthor, *Christians and Jews in Dialogue: Learning in the Presence of the Other* — "Marvelous." — [Name redacted]. Displays sensitivity to Christian readers. Regardless of Christian denomination, this is a book that speaks to the heart and the soul of the believer. — [Name redacted] — Rt. Rev. Kirk Steven Smith, PhD, bishop, Episcopal diocese of Arizona — "Indispensable for anyone who wants to be at home in the Jewish world." — [Name redacted]. This treasure house could serve, by itself, as an introduction to Judaism. — [Name redacted] — Rabbi Neil Gillman, author, *The Jewish Approach to God: A Brief Introduction for Christians* — "Does Christians and Christian-Jewish dialogue a great service. With straightforward explanations, invites the reader to 'walk the walk' with Judaism and find in such a pilgrimage a deeper insight into one's own beliefs. A valuable resource to promote intelligent dialogue between Christians and Jews." — [Name redacted] — David L. Coppola, PhD, associate executive director, Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding, Sacred Heart University — "Demystifies Jewish holidays without dumbing-down; paints richly satisfying pictures and invites the reader into home, hearth and temple with warmth and respect. Will make Christian devotees with Jewish friends and partners feel more confident in participating in religious celebrations together, eager to delve more deeply into

their own religious heritage and grateful for the roots of our common history and spirituality. — Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette, MDiv, coauthor, *Remembering My Grandparent: A Kid's Own Grief Workbook in the Christian Tradition*

I purchased this book for a book report my son was doing on Cultures/Traditions for a 6th grade book report. It was excellently written and easy to understand for a 6th grader as well as any layman. After he had finished reading it, I read just out of curiosity. Now, there is nothing anyone can ask me about Jewish Holidays that I can't answer. By the way, my son got an A+ on his report.

Looks like a good read.

The info given is to compare judiasm and christianity. It compares judiasm and catholicism only. No protestant comparison. Not what I need

A little deep in places, but I learned a lot from this book.

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