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[HaShem](hashem.html)'s Rehearsals

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In this [study](study.html) I would like to examine the [festivals](festivals.html) of the Torah from a different perspective. In previous studies we have noted that the [festivals](festivals.html) are [appointments](appointm.html) with [HaShem](hashem.html), in a [study](study.html) titled: Settimes. We also [studied](study.html) the [festivals](festivals.html) as they picture the courtship, [wedding](wedding.html), and honeymoon of Israel and [HaShem](hashem.html), in a [study](study.html) titled: Appointm. In this [study](study.html) we will be studying the [festivals](festivals.html) as *rehearsals*.

# Introduction

[HaShem](hashem.html)'s [festivals](festivals.html) are rehearsals. A rehearsal with [HaShem](hashem.html) is like a rehearsal for a play. This suggests that the [festivals](festivals.html) are a [teaching](teacher.html) tool to prepare us to celebrate the fulfillment of the [festival](festival.html), at some [time](time.html) in the [future](future.html).

To rehearse properly we need to [know](daat.html):

1. The correct words of the script.
2. The correct actions and props.
3. The correct costume.
4. The correct date and [time](time.html).

A rehearsal is practice for the real thing. By celebrating the [festivals](festivals.html) dictated by [HaShem](hashem.html), on Mount [Sinai](stages.html), and as detailed by Chazal in the [Oral Torah](orallaw.html): We will be in the right place, at the right [time](time.html), wearing the right clothes, saying the right words, and doing the right things. Thus even if we were not highly Torah educated, or were distracted by the task that [HaShem](hashem.html) gave us, even then we would be perfectly positioned to fulfill His will.

To begin to understand the rehearsals of [HaShem](hashem.html) will entail looking at the [Hebrew](hebrew.html) word that means “rehearse”. The [Hebrew](hebrew.html) word "miqra" is translated as "sacred assemblies" or “holy convocation” depending on which translation [one](one.html) uses.

Strong's defines the [Hebrew](hebrew.html) word "miqra" as:

4744 miqra', mik-raw'; from 7121; something called out, i.e. a public meeting (the act, the persons, or the place); also a rehearsal:-assembly, calling, convocation, reading.

Thus we see that *mikra* defines an assembly of people for the purposes of rehearsing. The [first](one.html) use of *miqra* is found in:

***Shemot (***[***Exodus***](exodus.html)***) 12:16*** *And in the* [*first*](one.html) *day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them,* [*save*](salvation.html) *that which every man must* [*eat*](eating.html)*, that only may be done of you.*

In this pasuk, [HaShem](hashem.html) is [speaking](mashal.html) about the [first](one.html) [festival](festival.html) that we celebrate in each year, the [festival](festival.html) of [Pesach](passover.html).

The rehearsals, the [festivals](festivals.html), of [HaShem](hashem.html), are spelled out in Vayikra chapter 23. The [first](one.html) verse to [speak](mashal.html) of these rehearsals is:

***Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:2*** *"*[*Speak*](mashal.html) *to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my* [*appointed*](settimes.html)[*feasts*](feasts.html)*, the* [*appointed*](settimes.html)[*feasts*](feasts.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.*

***Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:4*** *"'These are* [HaShem](hashem.html)’s[*appointed*](settimes.html)[*feasts*](feasts.html)*, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their* [*appointed*](settimes.html) *times:*

Vayikra chapter 23 describes the rehearsals, the [festivals](festivals.html), of [HaShem](hashem.html). Notice that these are [HaShem](hashem.html)’s [appointments](appointm.html), which the Sanhedrin (those who sit in the seat of Moses) was to proclaim and sanctify. The Sanhedrin determined the date for these rehearsals based on their determination and sanctification of the [new](new.html) moons. Because they had the [authority](authority.html) to determine when to sanctify a [new](new.html) [moon](chodesh.html), they had the ability to change the date for the [festivals](festivals.html).

# The [Appointed](settimes.html) Times

Each of the following [festivals](festivals.html) is a rehearsal. These [festivals](festivals.html) represent the times [appointed](settimes.html) by [HaShem](hashem.html) to rehearse. This also suggests that these are the times for the fulfillment of these rehearsals:

## [Shabbat](sabbath.html)

***Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:2-3*** *"*[*Speak*](mashal.html) *to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my* [*appointed*](settimes.html)[*feasts*](feasts.html)*, the* [*appointed*](settimes.html)[*feasts*](feasts.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies. "'There are* [*six*](six.html) *days when you may work, but the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *day is a* [*Sabbath*](sabbath.html) *of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a* [*Sabbath*](sabbath.html) *to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.*

## [Pesach](passover.html) / Hag HaMatza

***Shemot (***[***Exodus***](exodus.html)***) 12:14-17*** *"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the* [*generations*](toldot.html) *to come you shall celebrate it as a* [*festival*](festival.html) *to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*--a lasting ordinance. For* [*seven*](seven.html) *days you are to* [*eat*](eating.html) *bread made without* [*yeast*](chametz.html)*. On the* [*first*](one.html) *day remove the* [*yeast*](chametz.html) *from your houses, for whoever* [*eats*](eating.html) *anything with* [*yeast*](chametz.html) *in it from the* [*first*](one.html) *day through the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *must be cut off from Israel. On the* [*first*](one.html) *day hold a sacred assembly, and another* [*one*](one.html) *on the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare* [*food*](food.html) *for everyone to* [*eat*](eating.html)*--that is all you may do. "Celebrate the Feast of* [*Unleavened*](chametz.html) *Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions* [*out of Egypt*](thebirth.html)*. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the* [*generations*](toldot.html) *to come.*

***Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:6-8*** *On the* [*fifteenth*](fifteen.html) *day of that month* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*'s Feast of* [*Unleavened*](chametz.html) *Bread begins; for* [*seven*](seven.html) *days you must* [*eat*](eating.html) *bread made without* [*yeast*](chametz.html)*. On the* [*first*](one.html) *day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. For* [*seven*](seven.html) *days present an* [*offering*](korbanot) *made to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *by* [*fire*](fire.html)*. And on the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work.'"*

***Bamidbar (***[***Numbers***](nchart.html)***) 28:16-25*** *"'On the* [*fourteenth*](fourteen.html) *day of the* [*first*](one.html) *month* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*'s* [*Passover*](passover.html) *is to be held. On the* [*fifteenth*](fifteen.html) *day of this month there is to be a* [*festival*](festival.html)*; for* [*seven*](seven.html) *days* [*eat*](eating.html) *bread made without* [*yeast*](chametz.html)*. On the* [*first*](one.html) *day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. Present to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *an* [*offering*](korbanot) *made by* [*fire*](fire.html)*, a* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *of* [*two*](two.html) *young bulls,* [*one*](one.html) *ram and* [*seven*](seven.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With each bull prepare a grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *of* [*three*](three.html)*-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil; with the ram,* [*two*](two.html)*-tenths; And with each of the* [*seven*](seven.html) *lambs,* [*one*](one.html)*-tenth. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot) *to make* [*atonement*](atonemen.html) *for you. Prepare these in addition to the regular morning* [*burnt offering*](korbanot)*. In this way prepare the* [*food*](food.html) *for the* [*offering*](korbanot) *made by* [*fire*](fire.html) *every day for* [*seven*](seven.html) *days as an aroma pleasing to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*; it is to be prepared in addition to the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *and its drink* [*offering*](korbanot)*. On the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work.*

## Chag [Shavuot](shavuot.html) - Yom HaBikkurim

***Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:15-21*** *"'From the day after the* [*Sabbath*](sabbath.html)*, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave* [*offering*](korbanot)*, count off* [*seven*](seven.html) *full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the* [*seventh*](seven.html)[*Sabbath*](sabbath.html)*, and then present an* [*offering*](korbanot) *of* [*new*](new.html) *grain to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. From wherever you live, bring* [*two*](two.html) *loaves made of* [*two*](two.html)*-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with* [*yeast*](chametz.html)*, as a wave* [*offering*](korbanot) *of firstfruits to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. Present with this bread* [*seven*](seven.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs, each a year old and without defect,* [*one*](one.html) *young bull and* [*two*](two.html) *rams. They will be a* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings--an* [*offering*](korbanot) *made by* [*fire*](fire.html)*, an aroma pleasing to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. Then* [*sacrifice*](korbanot.html)[*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat for a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot) *and* [*two*](two.html) *lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship* [*offering*](korbanot)*. The* [*priest*](priests.html) *is to wave the* [*two*](two.html) *lambs before* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *as a wave* [*offering*](korbanot)*, together with the bread of the firstfruits. They are a sacred* [*offering*](korbanot) *to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *for the* [*priest*](priests.html)*. On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the* [*generations*](toldot.html) *to come, wherever you live.*

***Bamidbar (***[***Numbers***](nchart.html)***) 28:26-31*** *"'On the day of firstfruits, when you present to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *an* [*offering*](korbanot) *of* [*new*](new.html) *grain during the* [*Feast of Weeks*](shavuot.html)*, hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. Present a* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *of* [*two*](two.html) *young bulls,* [*one*](one.html) *ram and* [*seven*](seven.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old as an aroma pleasing to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. With each bull there is to be a grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *of* [*three*](three.html)*-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil; with the ram,* [*two*](two.html)*-tenths; And with each of the* [*seven*](seven.html) *lambs,* [*one*](one.html)*-tenth. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat to make* [*atonement*](atonemen.html) *for you. Prepare these together with their drink offerings, in addition to the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *and its grain* [*offering*](korbanot)*. Be sure the animals are without defect.*

## [Yom Teruah](teruah.html)

***Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:23-25***[*HaShem*](hashem.html) *said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites: 'On the* [*first*](one.html) *day of the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *month you are to have a day of rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts. Do no regular work, but present an* [*offering*](korbanot) *made to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *by* [*fire*](fire.html)*.'"*

***Bamidbar (***[***Numbers***](nchart.html)***) 29:1-6*** *"'On the* [*first*](one.html) *day of the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *month hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets. As an aroma pleasing to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, prepare a* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *of* [*one*](one.html) *young bull,* [*one*](one.html) *ram and* [*seven*](seven.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With the bull prepare a grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *of* [*three*](three.html)*-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil; with the ram,* [*two*](two.html)*-tenths; And with each of the* [*seven*](seven.html) *lambs,* [*one*](one.html)*-tenth. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot) *to make* [*atonement*](atonemen.html) *for you. These are in addition to the monthly and daily* [*burnt offering*](korbanot)*s with their grain offerings and drink offerings as specified. They are offerings made to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *by* [*fire*](fire.html)*--a pleasing aroma.*

## Yom [HaKippurim](file:///D:\Word\DOC\kippur.html)

***Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:26-32***[*HaShem*](hashem.html) *said to Moses, "The tenth day of this* [*seventh*](seven.html) *month is the Day of* [*Atonement*](kippur.html)*. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present an* [*offering*](korbanot) *made to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *by* [*fire*](fire.html)*. Do no work on that day, because it is the Day of* [*Atonement*](kippur.html)*, when* [*atonement*](atonemen.html) *is made for you before* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God. Anyone who does not deny himself on that day must be cut off from his people. I will destroy from among his people anyone who does any work on that day. You shall do no work at all. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the* [*generations*](toldot.html) *to come, wherever you live. It is a* [*Sabbath*](sabbath.html) *of rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the* [*ninth*](nine.html) *day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your* [*Sabbath*](sabbath.html)*."*

***Bamidbar (***[***Numbers***](nchart.html)***) 29:7-11*** *"'On the tenth day of this* [*seventh*](seven.html) *month hold a sacred assembly. You must deny yourselves and do no work. Present as an aroma pleasing to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *a* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *of* [*one*](one.html) *young bull,* [*one*](one.html) *ram and* [*seven*](seven.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With the bull prepare a grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *of* [*three*](three.html)*-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil; with the ram,* [*two*](two.html)*-tenths; And with each of the* [*seven*](seven.html) *lambs,* [*one*](one.html)*-tenth. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot)*, in addition to the* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot) *for* [*atonement*](atonemen.html) *and the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *with its grain* [*offering*](korbanot)*, and their drink offerings.*

## Chag HaSuccoth and [Shemini Atzeret](shemini.html)

***Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:33-36***[*HaShem*](hashem.html) *said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites: 'On the* [*fifteenth*](fifteen.html) *day of the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *month* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*'s* [*Feast of Tabernacles*](succoth.html) *begins, and it lasts for* [*seven*](seven.html) *days. The* [*first*](one.html) *day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work. For* [*seven*](seven.html) *days present offerings made to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *by* [*fire*](fire.html)*, and on the* [*eighth*](eight.html) *day hold a sacred assembly and present an* [*offering*](korbanot) *made to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *by* [*fire*](fire.html)*. It is the closing assembly; do no regular work.*

***Bamidbar (***[***Numbers***](nchart.html)***) 29:12-38*** *"'On the* [*fifteenth*](fifteen.html) *day of the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *month, hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. Celebrate a* [*festival*](festival.html) *to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *for* [*seven*](seven.html) *days. Present an* [*offering*](korbanot) *made by* [*fire*](fire.html) *as an aroma pleasing to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, a* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *of* [*thirteen*](thirteen.html) *young bulls,* [*two*](two.html) *rams and* [*fourteen*](fourteen.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With each of the* [*thirteen*](thirteen.html) *bulls prepare a grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *of* [*three*](three.html)*-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil; with each of the* [*two*](two.html) *rams,* [*two*](two.html)*-tenths; And with each of the* [*fourteen*](fourteen.html) *lambs,* [*one*](one.html)*-tenth. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot)*, in addition to the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *with its grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *and drink* [*offering*](korbanot)*. "'On the second day prepare* [*twelve*](twelve.html) *young bulls,* [*two*](two.html) *rams and* [*fourteen*](fourteen.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With the bulls, rams and lambs, prepare their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the* [*number*](nchart.html) *specified. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot)*, in addition to the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *with its grain* [*offering*](korbanot)*, and their drink offerings. "'On the* [*third*](three.html) *day prepare* [*eleven*](eleven.html) *bulls,* [*two*](two.html) *rams and* [*fourteen*](fourteen.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With the bulls, rams and lambs, prepare their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the* [*number*](nchart.html) *specified. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot)*, in addition to the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *with its grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *and drink* [*offering*](korbanot)*. "'On the* [*fourth*](four.html) *day prepare* [*ten*](ten.html) *bulls,* [*two*](two.html) *rams and* [*fourteen*](fourteen.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With the bulls, rams and lambs, prepare their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the* [*number*](nchart.html) *specified. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot)*, in addition to the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *with its grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *and drink* [*offering*](korbanot)*. "'On the* [*fifth*](five.html) *day prepare* [*nine*](nine.html) *bulls,* [*two*](two.html) *rams and* [*fourteen*](fourteen.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With the bulls, rams and lambs, prepare their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the* [*number*](nchart.html) *specified. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot)*, in addition to the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *with its grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *and drink* [*offering*](korbanot)*. "'On the* [*sixth*](six.html) *day prepare* [*eight*](eight.html) *bulls,* [*two*](two.html) *rams and* [*fourteen*](fourteen.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With the bulls, rams and lambs, prepare their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the* [*number*](nchart.html) *specified. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot)*, in addition to the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *with its grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *and drink* [*offering*](korbanot)*. "'On the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *day prepare* [*seven*](seven.html) *bulls,* [*two*](two.html) *rams and* [*fourteen*](fourteen.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With the bulls, rams and lambs, prepare their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the* [*number*](nchart.html) *specified. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot)*, in addition to the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *with its grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *and drink* [*offering*](korbanot)*. "'On the* [*eighth*](eight.html) *day hold an assembly and do no regular work. Present an* [*offering*](korbanot) *made by* [*fire*](fire.html) *as an aroma pleasing to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, a* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *of* [*one*](one.html) *bull,* [*one*](one.html) *ram and* [*seven*](seven.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *lambs a year old, all without defect. With the bull, the ram and the lambs, prepare their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the* [*number*](nchart.html) *specified. Include* [*one*](one.html)[*male*](male+female.html) *goat as a* [*sin*](sin.html)[*offering*](korbanot)*, in addition to the regular* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *with its grain* [*offering*](korbanot) *and drink* [*offering*](korbanot)*.*

***Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:37*** *("'These are* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*'s* [*appointed*](settimes.html)[*feasts*](feasts.html)*, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies for bringing offerings made to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *by* [*fire*](fire.html)*--the* [*burnt offering*](korbanot)*s and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day.*

***Ezra-Nechemiah 8:2-8*** *So on the* [*first*](one.html) *day of the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *month Ezra the* [*priest*](priests.html) *brought the* [*Law*](law.html) *before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the* [*Law*](law.html)*. Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah,* [*Shema*](shema.html)*, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam. Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was* [*standing*](mashal.html) *above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, the great God; and all the people lifted their* [*hands*](fourteen.html) *and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *with their faces to the ground. The Levites--Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah--instructed the people in the* [*Law*](law.html) *while the people were* [*standing*](mashal.html) *there. They read from the Book of the* [*Law*](law.html) *of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.*

# The Scripts

Now that we [know](daat.html) the proper times to rehearse, we now need to understand what scripts we should use at each of these rehearsals.

The Torah never [teaches](teacher.html) us how to fulfill the Torah [commands](cmds613.html). The [festivals](festivals.html) are no different. The manner of the fulfillment of the [festivals](festivals.html) is described in the [Oral Torah](orallaw.html). The [Oral Torah](orallaw.html) describes the rules that Chazal used to write the scripts for our rehearsals. These scripts are the [prayer](prayer.html) books, the siddur, and the [festival](festival.html) [prayer](prayer.html) books, the machzorim, that we use to guide our [prayers](prayer.html) on the [festivals](festivals.html).

The [prayers](prayer.html) we [pray](prayer.html) in the [synagogue](synagog.html) with the rest of the congregation are so much like a script that they even include the different parts that are used by the different participants. We have parts for the Hakham, for the [Priests](priests.html), for the Levites, for the other [Jews](gen-jew.html). We also have special parts for the cantor (the Sheliach Tzibur). Each of these different parts is designed to bring out each of the various parts which make up the [body](body.html) called Israel.

In addition, each major group has its own siddurim and machzorim which are ever so slightly different from the others. The different customs represent the different missions and roles that the various groups are to exercise.

The last part of the scripts are the special Torah, Haftorah, and [Psalms](psalms1.html) readings that are prescribed for the [festivals](festivals.html).

Whether we are following the [annual](annual.html) or the [septennial](shmita.html) / [triennial](shmita.html) Torah lectionary [cycles](cycles.html), we all interrupt our readings for special [festival](festival.html) readings. [HaShem](hashem.html) gave us these special readings. These readings are designed to bring to mind the requirements of the [festivals](festivals.html) and a bit of the background for these readings. To learn about the details of these readings, look at the following link: [Festivals](festivals.html).

# The Actions and the Props

The actions for each of the [festivals](festivals.html) are commanded in the Torah and detailed in the [Oral Torah](orallaw.html).

The weekly [Shabbat](sabbath.html) and each of the [festivals](festivals.html), in Vayikra chapter 23, are described as containing [festival](festival.html) Shabbats. These [festival](festival.html) Shabbats have the same actions and prohibitions as the weekly [Shabbat](sabbath.html). The only difference between the weekly [Shabbat](sabbath.html) and the [festival](festival.html) [Shabbat](sabbath.html) is that we are allowed to cook on the [festivals](festivals.html), if the [fire](fire.html) is lit before the [festival](festival.html).

The Torah describes the following [festival](festival.html) actions:

On [Pesach](passover.html) we are commanded to avoid [chametz](chametz.html) and to [eat](eating.html) [matza](chametz.html). We are commanded to tell our children about the [exodus](exodus.html) [from Egypt](thebirth.html). In addition, we are commanded to offer the prescribed offerings, which included the unique [Omer](omer.html) [offering](korbanot). Finally we are commanded to have a [festival](festival.html) meal to celebrate this [festival](festival.html).

On [Shavuot](shavuot.html) we were commanded to wave [two](two.html) [leavened](chametz.html) loaves before [HaShem](hashem.html) and to offer the prescribed offerings. On this day, [HaShem](hashem.html) gave us the Torah, both the written and the oral. Finally we are commanded to have a [festival](festival.html) meal to celebrate this [festival](festival.html).

On [Yom Teruah](teruah.html) ([Rosh HaShana](teruah.html)h) we are to sound the [shofar](shofar.html) a hundred times. In addition, we are commanded to offer the prescribed offerings. Finally we are commanded to have a [festival](festival.html) meal to celebrate this [festival](festival.html).

On Yom [HaKippurim](file:///D:\Word\DOC\kippur.html) we are required to fast and to deny ourselves. This includes no [sex](marriageact.html), not washing or anointing the [body](body.html), and no [eating](eating.html) or drinking. In addition, we are commanded to offer the prescribed offerings. Finally we are commanded to have a [festival](festival.html) meal, on the [ninth](nine.html) of [Tishri](feasts.html), to celebrate this [festival](festival.html).

On [Succoth](succoth.html) we are commanded to [dwell](dwelling.html) in a temporary [dwelling](dwelling.html) called a [succah](succoth.html). We are commanded to celebrate this [festival](festival.html) with the [four](four.html) species: The palm branch, willow branches, myrtle branches (the lulav), and the etrog. We are commanded to celebrate this [festival](festival.html) with great joy. In addition, we are commanded to offer the prescribed offerings. Finally we are commanded to have a [festival](festival.html) meal to celebrate this [festival](festival.html).

On [Shemini Atzeret](shemini.html) we are to spend [one](one.html) more day with [HaShem](hashem.html) after the [Gentiles](gen-jew.html) return to their homes. In addition, we are commanded to offer the prescribed offerings. Finally we are commanded to have a [festival](festival.html) meal to celebrate this [festival](festival.html).

# The Costumes

There are [two](two.html) pieces of clothing that constitute our costumes. We have the talit and the kittel.

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So, the next [time](time.html) you celebrate [HaShem](hashem.html)'s [festivals](festivals.html), think of them as a rehearsal for the [future](future.html). Remember that in the celebration of the [festival](festival.html) and the performance of the various [mitzvot](cmds613.html) associated with them, constitute a finely tuned rehearsal that will put us in the right place, at the right [time](time.html), with the right costume and props, and doing the right things. Isn’t that the place where we all long to be?

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