



The first window on the right depicts *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year, which is observed in the fall. The window features a *Shofar*, a ram's horn, which is blown repeatedly during the holiday.

The second window on the right depicts *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement. This is perhaps the most sacred day on the Jewish calendar. Jews believe that on the holiday God considers the life of every living thing; and all creation's destiny is written down in the book of life, as depicted in the window.

The third window from the right depicts the festival of *Sukkot* (the feast of Booths), which is celebrated a few days after *Yom Kippur*. This holiday is a harvest festival and also recalls how God caused the Children of Israel to dwell in *Sukkot* (Booths) during the Exodus from Egypt. The window features the *Lulav* (a collection of three species of plant life) and *Etrog* (Citron), which are used during the seven-day holiday.

Note the two windows at the center, above the Holy Ark. These represent The Sabbath and Torah (a scroll containing the five books of Moses). The observance of Shabbat consists in large part of a festival meal that features lit candles, sweet wine, and a challah (braided bread) each of which is depicted in the window, and reading of Torah during worship services. These two windows, displayed as they are, in the center of the group, demonstrate the centrality of these ideas and objects in Jewish life.

The first window on the left depicts the festival of *Pesakh* (Passover), which is celebrated in early spring. The window features perhaps the most familiar symbol from Passover, the *Seder* plate, the contents of which are utilized in retelling the story of the Exodus from Egypt during a festive meal.

The second window on the left depicts the festival of *Shavuot* (the Feast of Weeks), which is celebrated in early summer. *Shavuot* commemorates when the Children of Israel stood before God at Mount Sinai and received the Ten Commandments, which are shown in the window.

The third window from the left depicts *Hanukkah*, which is celebrated in early winter. In ancient times, God helped a Jewish army expel the Greeks from the Temple in Jerusalem. When the Temple was rededicated, one small pot of oil burned in the eternal light for eight days, a miracle which allowed enough new oil to be prepared. The window shows the *Hanukkiah*, a special type of *Menorah* (Candleabrum) used in our observances.

You will note a red ribbon flows throughout all the windows as you see them in the Temple from right to left, linking them in one long chain. Judaism believes very much in the cyclical nature of life, which is reflected in many of our holidays and observances. One holiday leads to another during the year; and when the year ends, the cycle immediately begins again. This demonstrates the ceaseless turning of the years even in the midst of an ever-changing world.

We invite you to contemplate the beauty and symbolism of our windows and hope they may enhance your spiritual experience.