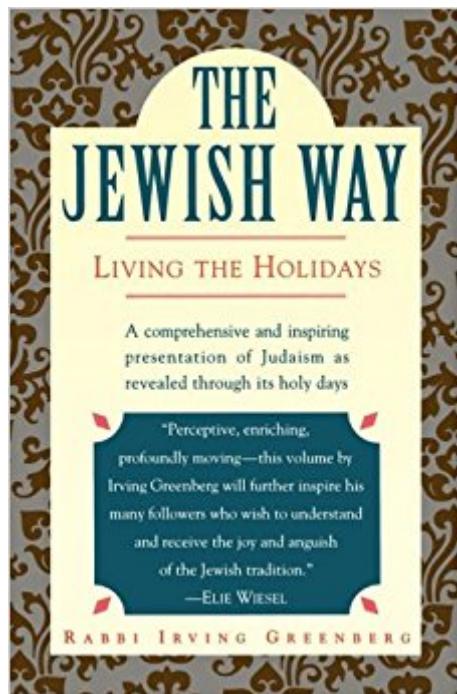


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# The Jewish Way: Living The Holidays



## **Synopsis**

Called "enriching" and "profoundly moving" by Elie Wiesel, this is a comprehensive and inspiring presentation of Judaism as revealed through its holy days. In thoughtful and engaging prose, Rabbi Irving Greenberg explains and interprets the origin, background, interconnections, ceremonial rituals, and religious significance of all the Jewish holidays, including Passover, Yom Kippur, Purim, Hanukkah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and Israeli Independence Day. Giving detailed instructions for observance—the rituals, prayers, foods, and songs—he shows how celebrating the holy days of the Jewish calendar not only relives Jewish history but puts one in touch with the basic ideals of Judaism and the fundamental experience of life. Insightful, original, and engrossing, this is an essential volume that should be in every Jewish home, library, and synagogue.

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## **Customer Reviews**

"An excellent practical introduction to the festivals...succeeds brilliantly in bringing fresh life to our thoughts about the Jewish year." -- Jewish Chronicle In thoughtful and engaging prose, Rabbi Irving Greenberg explains and interprets the origin, background, interconnections, ceremonial rituals, and

religious significance of all the Jewish holidays, including Passover, Yom Kippur, Purim, Hanukkah, Holocaust Remembrance Day and Israeli Independence Day. Giving detailed instructions for observance - the rituals, prayers, foods, and songs - he shows how celebrating the holy days of the Jewish calendar not only relives Jewish history but puts one in touch with the basic ideals of Judaism and the fundamental experience of life. Insightful, original, and engrossing, *The Jewish Way* is an essential volume that should be in every Jewish home, library, and synagogue. "An important book, one that should be read, discussed, critiqued, and then read over again." -- *The Jewish Review*

I am a Christian, and I read this book years ago. Since then it has become a standard on my shelf. If I want inspiration, especially the Jewish view of Sabbath, I pick up this book and read the parts I have highlighted. My heart continues to be stirred by its contents.

A wonderful overview of Shabbat and the Jewish holidays. I use it as a refresher before every holiday and recommend it as a resource for friends wanting to learn more.

This is a lovely, beautifully written introduction to Judaism that this Catholic found absolutely fascinating. I grew up in an overwhelmingly Jewish neighborhood and was well aware of the vastly different culture that was expressed around me. Rabbi Greenberg's explication of his faith is insightful, passionate, and, in places, just plain fun. He grounds the book in the weekly and yearly liturgical cycle. The book reads like a series of sermons on the meaning of the Sabbath, and the meaning of the greater and lesser feasts of the Jewish liturgical year. I was repeatedly struck by how similar to my own Catholic faith is the stance of the believer before God, even as to the changing nuances of the various feasts throughout the year. Highly recommended.

This is more than the usual guide to the holidays. It is written by one of the pre-eminent Jewish thinkers of our time, and therefore rich in insight and wisdom. Rabbi Greenberg's great love of the Jewish tradition and the Jewish people pervades the work. To read it is to learn and to be inspired to higher prayer and holier service of G-d on the holidays.

A sometimes eloquent, sometimes dry introduction to the Jewish holidays and how they fit in with broader Jewish theology. I especially liked Greenberg's chapter on Shabbos (in which he suggests that Shabbos is intended to be a play-acting of an utopian future, just as Passover is a play-acting of

the Exodus from Egypt). A minor quibble: Greenberg's discussion of differing streams of Judaism is inconsistent. Sometimes, he is punctilious in comparing Conservative and Reform views to traditional Judaism; other times, he doesn't bother -- not a problem for the more knowledgeable reader, but perhaps a trap for the unwary. Also, his apparent view that Zionism has triumphed and that anti-Semitism is not a huge problem is a bit dated -- but one could reasonably say the same about most books written by Jewish intellectuals after 1948 and before Sept. 11.

We have bought several copies of *The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays* and given them to our friends, it is one of the best resources for non-Jews to learn the 'heart' of the biblical feasts. We believe that the Body of Messiah is moving toward a reformation, more far reaching and thorough, than the one that was experienced during the time of Luther ("changing the understanding and expression of Christianity in one generation"). Jesus was not a 'Christian'.....He was/is a Jewish Man, and He is coming back for a Bride that is Jew and Gentile; One New Man.....and he is not coming back on a random day; He didn't come on just 'any day' the first time, but came during the former rain season (Passover; First Fruits; Shavuot [Pentecost])....He again is coming on His biblical appointment calendar; the latter rain (Trumpets; Yom Kippur; Feast of Tabernacles). Don't miss the 'time of His visitation', prepare your heart and begin to learn what the Savior feels about your Jewish Roots.....you have been grafted in! Another book that will thrill your heart is "The Sabbath" by Abraham Joshua Heschel; not just about the sabbath, but really a biblical, priestly view of life; a deeper understanding of time itself. God can't be encountered in things; thus 'build no idols before Me'; He can only be encountered in time, since time is eternal.....

I am not Jewish, but I started reading this book because I wanted to have a deeper understanding of the holidays my friends celebrate. It is so much more than a "how to" or history book. Each chapter is a profound and beautiful meditation on the deeper significance of each holiday to both the individual and the culture. I am nowhere near finished; this is definitely a book that you can't rush. After reading the chapter on Shabbat, I have started celebrating my own (single person's) Sabbath, and it has freed me up in a way that I can't explain. Such a thoughtful and lovely book.

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