

# Bilvavi Avodah Elul-Simchas Torah

The following is a very brief outline.

## Elul

“Ani L’Dodi V’Dodi Li”, “I am to my Beloved, and my Beloved is to me.”  
It is a time when we become beloved, like a kallah who finds grace by her chosson, in our relationship with Hashem.

## Days of Selichos

(for the Ashkenazim who have this custom)

is the time to feel pained for anything we have done that went against Hashem’s will, and to ask Hashem for forgiveness over the past and for the damages we have done.

## Rosh HaShanah

is to become close to Hashem - and thereby be deemed meritorious before Hashem.

## Aseres Y’mei Teshuvah

is a time to fix the past, do teshuvah, and make resolutions for the future.

## Yom Kippur

is a time of spiritual cleanliness and purity, so that there are no barriers between oneself and Hashem.

## Between Yom Kippur & Succos

are days of a result of a pure bond with Hashem which we have hopefully attained from the purity that we reached on Yom Kippur, and extending this pure bond with Hashem into the rest of the year as well.

## Succos

is the time to live in the material world under “Hashem’s shade”, to dwell with Hashem’s Presence in all aspects of our life.

## Hoshanah Rabbah

is the time to fuse this entire process [from Elul until now] into one unit [to bring us to a state of oneness with Hashem through all of the above points].

## Shemini Atzeres/Simchas Torah

is the day of joy that one can feel, in all of the above points fused together.