



upon the world, it coincides with the Jewish month "Cheshvan" which has sometimes been nicknamed "Mar Cheshvan" (=the bitter month of Cheshvan).

The rabbis explain that the month of Cheshvan is personified as bitter and jealous, because it has no holidays (the month before is full of holidays, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah and Shemini Atzeret...the month after will have Chanukkah). But this month, there are no traditional Jewish holidays. It also coincides with the darkening of our part of the earth, where days begin to

this month is the only Jewish month without a single holiday is that this is the month when a future salvation will come...this is the time of redemption, of a messianic era that has not yet happened. We conclude the previous month of joyful celebration with Shemini Atzeret with prayers for rain...and this month is the beginning of the rainy season. We may recognize that we need rain in order for flowers to grow, but it is hard to remember the beauty of future flowers when it is dark, cold and rainy.

Indeed, the rabbis teach that the High Holy Days can be likened to a wedding