

Although Rosh Hashanah is the day of judgement, the primary focus of the davening is the proclamation of Hashem's Kingship and not advocating for ourselves. Our natural reliance on the greatest superpowers for economic, medical and general needs has been shaken by recent events. Yet this makes it easier to recognize Hashem's ultimate reign, and our belief and faith that He is the source of everything will enable us to ask with sincerity that He provide us a good year. With this belief firmly implanted we daven for all our needs, big and small, material and spiritual, while remembering to include our family, friends and Torah leaders.

## Erev Rosh Hashanah

Tachanun is omitted during Shacharis, although it is said at the end of Selichos before Shacharis

- The Shofar is not sounded during Shacharis
- Some have the custom to fast on Erev Rosh Hashanah until Chatzos
- Hataras Nedarim is recited following davening. One must understand what he is saying in order for the nullification to be effective. If one is aware of a specific Kabbalah/Neder he made, he should not rely on the general text of Hataras Nedarim, rather he should mention it separately to the participants
- There is a generally accepted minhag to immerse in a Mikvah on Erev Rosh Hashanah, preferably no earlier than an hour before Chatzos
- One should get a haircut and wear nice clothing in honor of Yom Tov and to display our confidence in Hashem's mercy. However, it is improper to wear exceedingly ornate and expensive clothes
- As the first day of Yom Tov is Shabbos, food preparation must be completed prior to the onset of Shabbos/Yom Tov.

## Rosh Hashanah

After Maariv on the first night of Rosh Hashanah we greet a man/woman by saying, "Leshana Tova Tikaseiv/ee Veseichaseim/ee"

- The Poskim rule against marital relations on Rosh Hashanah eve, unless it is the Leil Tevillah
- Tashlich, which is not said on Shabbos, is pushed off to the second day of Rosh Hashanah. It may also be said until Hoshana Rabbah
- One should try to avoid sleeping on Rosh Hashanah day and be exceedingly careful about his behavior. One should try to utilize the entire day in a meaningful way
- One may not prepare on the first day of Yom Tov for the second night of Rosh Hashanah. As such, preparations for the Seudah and candle lighting may not begin until after nightfall and after saying Baruch Hamavdil
- A new fruit should be present at candle lighting on the second night when the woman recites Shehecheyanu

**SEUDOS:** Shehecheyanu is recited on both nights of Rosh Hashanah. Due to the questionable status of the Shehecheyanu on the second night, there is a widespread minhag to have in mind a new fruit that is present when reciting the Shehecheyanu

- Kiddush on the second night includes Havdalah (Yakneha'z)
- There is a minhag to use round Challos for all the Yom Tov Seudos until and including Shemini Atzeres. The Challah is dipped in honey in addition to salt. There are those who do not dip in salt
- After making Kiddush and washing and eating Challah, various foods are eaten as Simanim for the new year. A Berachah of Ha'eitz should be made on the fruit. Even if one is unable to eat a Siman, he may say the Yehi Ratzon on any items at the table. Some eat Simanim on both nights of Rosh Hashanah; others, only on the first night. One should be cognizant of any Kashrus Organization advisories regarding bugs in certain fruits
- Many Poskim rule that a man who forgets to add Yaaleh V'Yavo in Birchas Hamazon needs to repeat Birchas Hamazon only by the evening meals (with the exception of Seudas Shelishis). A woman does not repeat.

## Rosh Hashanah Davening

The first day of Rosh Hashanah is Shabbos; the additions for Shabbos are added in Shemoneh Esrei. Avinu Malkeinu is omitted on Shabbos as well as the Yud Gimmel Middos before Kerias Hatorah and the prayers during Birchas Kohanim

- Through familiarizing oneself with the davening and understanding the meaning, one can elevate his/her prayers and entire davening experience

**MUSSAF:** The themes of the Mussaf prayer are: Malchiyos, Zichronos and Shofaros

- The Pesukim of Malchiyos - Kingship - highlight Hashem's existence and His complete and absolute control over all
- The Pesukim of Zichronos - Remembrance - highlight Hashem's attribute of justice, as He remembers every deed performed by all of mankind
- The Pesukim of Shofaros highlight Hashem's revelation at Har Sinai and in the upcoming days of Moshiach
- One who removes his Tallis while taking a break need not make a new Berachah when he puts his Tallis back on
- During the Kedushah of Mussaf, when the Chazan chants "Ayei," it as a special opportunity to recite a special prayer
- Especially on this auspicious day, one should concentrate during Birchas Kohanim

**SHOFAR:** The Shofar is not blown on Shabbos, the first day of Rosh Hashanah

- There is a Mitzvas Asei Mid'orayso to hear the Shofar on Rosh Hashanah. Although women are not obligated to hear the Shofar, the prevalent minhag is for women to hear at least 30 Shofar blasts. There is a Mitzvah of Chinuch for a minor son who understands the significance of hearing the Shofar to do so. However, one should not bring to Shul a child who will disturb others
- One should not talk from the first Shofar blast until the final blasts at the end of Mussaf. One should preferably wait to recite Asher Yatzar until the end of davening. However, he should make the berachah immediately if it's possible that he will need to use the restroom again, as this would cause him to lose the opportunity to make the earlier Berachah.

## 10 Aseres Yemei Teshuvah

Beginning on Rosh Hashanah and throughout the Aseres Yemei Teshuvah, the Berachah "HaKeil HaKadosh" in Shemoneh Esrei becomes "HaMelech HaKadosh", and the Berachah "Melech Oheiv Tzedakah Umishpat" becomes

"HaMelech HaMishpat." If one forgets "Hamelech Hakadosh" he may correct his error if he remembers immediately. Once a few seconds have passed, or if he began the next berachah ("Ata"), he must restart his Shemoneh Esrei. According to Sefardim this applies to "HaMelech HaMishpat" as well and one must return to the Berachah of Hashivah Shofeteinu. If one is unsure what he said, we assume he said HaKeil Hakadosh/Melech Oheiv, as is his habit all year. However, on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, when the Berachah of Atah Kadosh includes the lengthy addition of U'vechein Tein, if one knows he said U'vechein then he may assume that he ended the Berachah correctly.

Zachreinu L'chaim, Mi Chamocha, Uch'sov Lechaim, and B'sefer Chaim are added into Shemoneh Esrei. Additionally, Oseh Shalom becomes Oseh HaShalom. If one forgot these additions but immediately remembered before saying Hashem's name at the end of the Berachah, he may go back and fix his error. Otherwise, one does not need to repeat Shemoneh Esrei.

In Kaddish, "Le'eila (u')le'eila Mikol" is said, as well as Oseh HaShalom. Many Shuls, particularly Nusach Sefard, have the custom to recite Shir Hamaalos (Tehillim 130) during Shacharis, after Yishtabach.

Avinu Malkeinu is said both by Shacharis and Minchah throughout the Aseres Yemei Teshuvah. During the Aseres Yemei Teshuvah, one should increase his involvement in charity, Mitzvos and Torah learning. The minhag is to refrain from eating Pas Palter as an added stringency.

Many avoid eating Egozim (nuts) as their gematria is the same as Chet (sin). Many avoid eating sour or bitter foods. Some say that spicy foods aren't included in this stringency.

## Tzom Gedaliah

During Shemoneh Esrei of Shacharis, only the Shaliach Tzibbur adds Aneinu. Chazaras Hashatz is followed by Avinu Malkeinu, Tachanun, and Kerias Hatorah (Vayechal Moshe). Minchah includes Kerias Hatorah followed by the Haftarah. Anyone fasting adds Aneinu in Shemoneh Esrei. Nusach Ashkenaz says Sim Shalom in place of Shalom Rav. The Shaliach Tzibbur adds Aneinu and Birchas Kohanim in Chazaras Hashatz; Avinu Malkeinu follows.

## For The Rosh Hashanah Table

**Leshana tova u'mesukah,** What is the explanation of a "good and sweet" year? Rabbi Zlotowitz zt"l explained that while we may be intellectually aware that all Hashem does for us is for the good, practicality speaking, the sweetness of any given situation may not be obvious. Thus we wish each other a year of goodness that we can easily experience as sweet.

Wishing you and your family a Shanah Tova Umesukah!