

Mr. Ghassan N. Cohen
Hon. President
079 8938 7881
Ghassancohen@gmail.com

ק"ק אהל דוד

OHEL DAVID EASTERN SYNAGOGUE

Established 1959

4-14 Broad Walk Lane, London NW11 8HD

Rabbi Asher Sebbag — 07732 731786

Hazan: Jacob Oved - 07971 119865

Telephone: 020 8455 3491

Web site: www.oheldavid.org Email: info@oheldavid.org

Mr. David Gigi
Treasurer
Mr. Adil Darwish
Hon. Gubbay



Shabbat - Nitzavim,

Sat. 7 - 8 Sep. 2018 - 28th of Elul, 5778 -

כה אלול תשע"ח

שבת פ' ניצבים

Issue Number 862

Baal Koreh	Rabbi Asher Sebbag	(Page - 1086).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Mr Jacob Oved	(Page -1202).

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit. 18:30

Shabbat Candles. 19:18

Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 9:04). 08:30

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. 17:45

Mincha Shabbat - Followed by Seuda Shlishit (Sunset - 19:31). 18:45

Arbit Motzei Shabbat. 20:23

Selichot & Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday - 06:30). 05:30

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. 17:45

Mincha & Arbit 18:30

Next Friday: Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit. 18:30

Next Friday: Candles. **Shabbat. Vayeilech Shabbat Shuva** 19:02

Nitzavim 5778 (Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20)

Sep 2, 2018 | by [Rabbi Kalman Packouz](#)

GOOD MORNING! Rosh Hashana begins Sunday evening, September 9th! Many Jews all over the world are rushing to make sure that they have places reserved in their synagogues. I am reminded of the classic story of the person who had to deliver a very important message to a man in a synagogue on Rosh Hashana. The usher wouldn't let him in because he didn't have a ticket. "Please, I just need a moment to tell him the message!" "No way!" says the usher, "No ticket, no entrance!" "Please," begs the man, "I promise ... I won't pray!" If you need a place to pray and don't belong to a synagogue, call synagogues or your Federation and ask.

Q & A: WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF ROSH HASHANA AND HOW DO WE OBSERVE IT?

Rosh Hashana is the Jewish New Year. Unlike the secular New Year which is celebrated in many parts of the "civilized" world by partying, drinking to excess and watching a little ball descend a tower in Time Square, the Jewish New Year is celebrated by reflecting upon the past, correcting one's mistakes, planning for the future, praying for a healthy and sweet year and celebrating with holiday meals.

Rabbi Nachum Braverman writes, "On Rosh Hashana we make an accounting of our year and we pray repeatedly for life. How do we justify another year of life? What did we

do with the last year? Has it been a time of growth, of insight and of caring for others? Did we make use of our time, or did we squander it? Has it truly been a year of life, or merely one of mindless activity? This is the time for evaluation and rededication. The Jewish process is called "teshuva," coming home -- recognizing our mistakes between ourselves and God as well as between ourselves and our fellow man and then correcting them."

On Rosh Hashana we pray that we are inscribed in the Book of Life for life, for health, for sustenance. It is the Day of Judgment. Yet, we celebrate with festive meals with family and friends. How can we celebrate when our very lives hang in balance? Ultimately, we trust in the kindness and mercy of the Almighty ... that He knows our heart and our intentions and with love and knowledge of what is best for us, will accordingly grant us a good decree for the new year.

It would seem to make more sense to have the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) before the Day of Judgment (Rosh Hashana). However, until we recognize our Creator and internalize the magnitude and consequences of our actions, we cannot truly seek to change ourselves or to seek atonement. That is why the three essential themes of Rosh Hashana are: *Malchuyot* (Kingship), *Zichronot* (Providence) and *Shofrot* (Revelation). The musaf (additional) prayer service is structured around these three themes.

The Book of Our Heritage clarifies:

In the **Kingship** section we acknowledge God's creation of all

existence, His active supervision of the entire universe, and our acceptance of His eternal rule. It is our job on Rosh Hashana to make God our King.

In the **Providence** section we proclaim our understanding that: 1) the Creator has a one on one relationship with every human being 2) God cares about what we do with our lives and sees and remembers everything 3) there are Divine consequences for our actions.

In the **Revelation** section we accept the Torah as if it were given once again with thunder and lightning and mighty shofar blasts. We also await the final redemption which is to be heralded by the "shofar of the *mashiach* (messiah)."

At the festive meal both nights of Rosh Hashana it is customary to dip the *challah* (special round bread for Rosh Hashana) as well as an apple, into honey symbolizing our hopes for a sweet year. There is a custom to eat various Symbolic Foods -- primarily fruits and vegetables -- each one preceded by a request. For instance, before eating a pomegranate, "May it be Your will ... that our merits increase like (the seeds of) a pomegranate." Many of the requests are based on "plays on words" between the name of the food and the request. The "plays on words" are lost on many who don't know Hebrew, but there is a deep, kabbalistic power in these requests.

Another custom is *Tashlich*, a symbolic casting off of transgressions. It is done after the Mincha, the afternoon prayers, on the first day of Rosh Hashana -- and on the second day when the first day of Rosh Hashana falls out on Shabbat. Remember -- these symbolic

acts help you relate to what you need to do in life, to awaken your emotions and passions; they are not an end in themselves. It is worthwhile to get a copy of the [Rosh Hashana Yom Kippur Survival Kit](#) to get a better understanding of the holiday, the prayers, the prayer services and the opportunity that is afforded to you to grow in spirituality, to come closer to the Almighty, to perfect yourself and to perfect the world! It is available at your local Jewish bookstore, at JudaicaEnterprises.com or by calling toll-free 877-758-3242. For more insights --aish.com/holidays.

Thoughts to Ponder Before Rosh Hashana

Thought 1: There is a *Midrash* (a commentary on the Five Books of Moses in the form of a parable) about a successful businessman who meets a former colleague down on his luck. The colleague begs the successful business man for a substantial loan to turn around his circumstances. Eventually, the businessman agrees to a 6 month loan and gives his former colleague the money. At the end of the 6 months, the businessman goes to collect his loan. The former colleague gives him every last penny. However, the businessman notices that the money is the exact same coins he loaned the man. He was furious! "How dare you borrow such a huge amount and not even use it? I gave this to you to better your life!" The man was speechless.

Likewise, the Almighty gives each of us a soul. He doesn't want us to return it to Him at the end of our days in the same condition that we received it. He

wants us to better ourselves, to enhance our souls by doing the *mitzvot* (613 commandments). It is up to us to sit down before Rosh Hashana and make a list of what we need to correct in our lives between us and our fellow beings, us and God and us and ourselves!

Thought 2: The story is told of an elderly sage named Reb Zusia who lay on his deathbed surrounded by his students and disciples. He was crying and no one could comfort him.

One student asked his Rebbe, "Why do you cry? You were almost as wise as Moses and as kind as Abraham." Reb Zusia answered, "When I pass from this world and appear before the Heavenly Tribunal, they won't ask me, 'Zusia, why weren't you as wise as Moses or as kind as Abraham,' rather, they will ask me, 'Zusia, why weren't you Zusia?' Why didn't I fulfill my potential, why didn't I follow the path that could have been mine."

On Rosh Hashana we confront our potential as human beings, but even more so, as Jews. Let each of us use the opportunity to reevaluate our lives, our potentials, and our commitment to our God, our Torah, our People and ourselves.

A sweet year to you and yours!



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Nitzavim, Deuteronomy 29:9 - 30:20

On the day of Moshe's death he assembles the whole Jewish people and creates a Covenant confirming the Jewish people as the Almighty's Chosen People for all future generations. Moshe

makes clear the consequences of rejecting God and His Torah as well as the possibility of repentance. He reiterates that Torah is readily available to everyone. He warns us against idolatry (thinking anything other than God has power) and assures us that eventually the Jewish people will do teshuva (repent) and will be redeemed and brought back to the land of Israel -- and those who hate the Jewish people and pursue us will get their just recompense.

Nitzavim concludes with perhaps the clearest and most powerful statement in the Torah about the purpose of life and the existence of freewill: "I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil ... the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life that you may live, you and your descendants." (Now that's a real Quote of the Week!)



Shabbat Shalom,
Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

Timetable High Holiday 5779

Cemetery visit:

Edgwarebury cemetery

Sun. 16th September 2018

Please assemble in the prayer hall at 10:00

Cemetery visit:

Hoop Lane cemetery

Sun. 16th September 2018

Please assemble in the prayer hall at 12:00

Kolel every Sunday: We are still having a Kolel every Sunday at the Synagogue hall from 09.30am - 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Security Alert: Please be very vigilant when you leave the Synagogue. Do not stand in groups and chat, go home without gathering on the main road. Be safe and alert.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE" TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 09 Tishri Mr Naim Shmie | 19 Tishri Mr Solomon Judah |
| 10 Tishri Mr Charles Morris | 20 Tishri Mr Simon Jacob |
| 16 Tishri Mr M. Raymond | 26 Tishri Mr Ezekiel L. Ezekiel |
| 11 Tishri Mr Nissan Nissan | 27 Tishri Mr Frederick Spitz |
| 11 Tishri Mr Freddy Nissan | 27 Tishri Mr Simon Jacob |
| 11 Tishri Mr Salman Nissan | 29 Tishri Mr Sadka Blanche |
| 11 Tishri Mrs Farah Sheldon | |

“ Quote of the Week ”

People don't fail -- they give up