

## The Tishrei Trilogy Part 1 - Is one Permitted to Be Happy on Rosh Hashanah ?

*based on the teachings of the Chalban*

1. **Vayikra 23, 24 - 25:** In the seventh month, on the first of the month, it shall be a Sabbath for you, a remembrance of [Israel through] the shofar blast a holy occasion. You shall not perform any work of labor, and you shall offer up a fire offering to the Lord.
2. **Vayikra 25,9:** You shall proclaim [with] the shofar blasts, in the seventh month, on the tenth of the month; on the Day of Atonement, you shall sound the shofar throughout your land.
3. **Talmud Rosh Hashanah 16a:** All are judged on New Year and their doom is sealed on the Day of Atonement... Also recite before Me on New Year [texts making mention of] kingship, remembrance, and the shofar-kingship, so that you may proclaim Me king over you; remembrance, so that your remembrance may rise favourably before Me; and through what? Through the shofar.
4. **Ramchal:** On this day, the Master, Blessed is He, stands, as it were, like an aspect of making Him King over his world. Therefore, it is fitting at the time to pray before Him that He should totally reveal His kingdom in the world.
5. **Talmud Bavli Rosh Hashanah 32b:** Since it says, 'on days when Hallel is not said.' we infer that on New Year Hallel is not said. What is the reason? — R. Abbahu replied: The ministering angels said in the Presence of the Holy One, blessed be He: Sovereign of the Universe, why should Israel not chant hymns of praise before You on New Year and the Day of Atonement? He replied to them: Is it possible that the King should be sitting on the throne of justice with the books of life and death open before Him, and Israel should chant hymns of praise?
6. **Shem Meshmuel Rosh Hashanah 5676:** Shira is an expression of cleaving because Hashem is close to us. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a time which is the opposite of closeness, and it is not similar to the song at the sea.
7. **Koheles 5,1:** Be not rash with your mouth, and let your heart not be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven, and you are on the earth; therefore, let your words be few.
8. **Siddur:** They (the angels) respond in awe and speak with fear.
9. **Jerusalem Talmud Rosh Hashanah 7b & Yalkut Shimoni:** Said R. Shimon: it is written "Or what great nation has laws and rules as perfect..." (Deut. 4: 8). R. Hama b. R. Hanina and R. Hoshayah. One said: What other nation is like this nation! Generally, when a man knows he faces judgment, he wears black [clothing], robes himself in black, and lets his beard grow, for he does not know the outcome of the judgment. But not so Israel, who wear white [clothing], robe themselves in white, shave their beards, and eat and drink and **are joyful**, knowing that God, blessed be He, **performs miracles for them** and will judge them favourably and tear up their decree.
10. **R' Hai Gaon:** 'Seek out Hashem when He is close' during the ten days of Teshuva does not require fasting - just the opposite - delighting in Shabbos is how you seek out Hashem.
11. **Talmud Rosh Hashanah 8a:** Blow the horn at the new moon, at the covered time [keseh] for our feastday. Which is the feast on which the moon is covered over [mithkaseh]? You must say that this is New Year...

- 12. Nechemiah 8,10:** Go eat rich foods and drink sweet drink, and send portions to any who lack, for today is holy to our Lord; and do not be sad, for rejoicing in the Lord is your might...
- 13. Tehilim 95, 1-3:** Come, let us *sing praises* to the Lord; let us shout to the rock of our salvation. Let us greet His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout to Him with songs. For the Lord is a great God and *a great King* over all divine powers.
- 14. Tehilim 96, 9-13:** Prostrate yourselves to the Lord in the majestic sanctuary; quake before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Lord has reigned." Also the inhabited world will be established so that it will not falter; He will judge peoples with equity. The heavens will rejoice and the earth will exult; the sea and the fullness thereof will roar. The field and all that is therein will jubilate; then all the forest trees will sing praises. Before the Lord, for He has come, for *He has come to judge the earth*; He will judge the inhabited world justly and the peoples with His faith.
- 15. Tehilim 97, 1-4:** The Lord has reigned, the earth *will exult*; many islands will rejoice. Cloud and thick darkness are around Him; righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne. Fire will go before Him and will burn His enemies all around. His lightnings illuminated the world; the earth saw and *quaked*.
- 16. Zohar:** One verse says 'serve Hashem with joy' and another verse says 'serve Hashem will fear, and rejoice with trepidation'? This verse refers to when the Jews are living in the holy land, and this verse refers to when the Jews are living in another land. Another answer: This verse refers to when the Jews are living among the nations. Rav Yehuda says that which the verse says, 'for the will leave joyfully' this is the congregation of Israel, when He says to go out of the exile, there is joy.
- 17. Nechemiah 8, 8 - 12:** And they read in the scroll, in the Law of God, distinctly, and gave sense, and they explained the reading to them. Then Nehemiah-he is Hattirshatha-and Ezra the priest, the scholar, and the Levites *who caused the people to understand*, said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; neither mourn nor weep" for all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the Law. And he said to them, "Go, eat fat foods and drink sweet drinks and send portions to whoever has nothing prepared, for the day is holy to our Lord, and do not be sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." And the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Hush, for the day is holy, and do not be sad." Then all the people went to eat and to drink and to send portions and to rejoice greatly, for *they understood the words that they informed them of*.
- 18. Chalban pg. 264 - 6 :** Galus is compared to death, while Geula is compared to the resurrection of the dead....during the era of Galus, our main preoccupation is with daily survival....in Galus we live within the fear of punishment...
- 19. Chesed L'Avraham:** Each and every Jew, at the moment he enters Eretz Yisroel, nullifies his *private soul* before his *general soul* that enters into him.
- 20. Melachim II, 4,13:** Can we speak on your behalf to the king or to the general of the army?" And she said, "I dwell in the midst of my people."
- 21. Zohar:** The main service on Rosh Hashanah is to include yourself in the general nation of Israel.
- 22. Chalban pg. 270:** It is a big rule: The great energy flows are only received by those who don't think about them and are not focused on them...don't think about yourself on Rosh Hashanah.