



A TIME FOR TURNING AND RETURNING: PREPARING FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

A three-session mini-course exploring the themes of the High Holy Days. Though study, discussion and reflective meditations we shall renew our own spiritual resources in preparation for the season of the *Yamim Noraim*, the Awesome days of *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*.



CLASSES HELD TUESDAYS 10:00-11:30 AM

AUGUST 25, 2020

1. Illuminating the High Holy Daze:
Understanding Themes of Rosh HaShanah

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

2. Isaac on the Altar:
Mythic Wisdom of Rosh HaShanah Torah

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

3. The History and Mystery of Yizkor

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ILLUMINATING THE HIGH HOLY DAZE: MYTHIC THEMES OF ROSH HASHANAH

SACRED TIME AND RHYTHMS OF RENEWAL -

We do strange things to time. Commodity time is good for industries, banking, business and television, but it's not good for living life. In order to survive the regimen of nine-to-five time, we need to the counter regimen of organic time, which changes texture with the turning of the planet. Corporate convenience cannot set the clock by which life is lived. Life is lived in organic time; it runs on ebb and tide of forces which exist in the universe. Time as commodity is out of phase with time as it flows in nature.

The Jewish notion is to bring these two aspects of time in sync with each other. Judaism says: Sunrise....sunset. Six days and the Shabbat. New moon, full moon. Equinox and solstice. The full moon of the autumnal equinox is Passover. The full moon of the vernal equinox Sukkot...The Jewish holidays come at their organic time, coinciding with the realities in nature. Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, *The First Step*, pp. 17-18

NAMES OF ROSH HASHANAH

I. YOM TERUAH - DAY OF SHOFAR SOUNDING (NUM. 29:1)

And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy gathering; you shall do no labor; it is a day of blowing the horn for you.

יֹם תְּרוּעָה יִהְיֶה לָכֶם (Num. 29:1)

Adonai said to Moses, Say to the Israelites: 'On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with shofar blasts. שְׁבִתוֹן זִכְרוֹן תְּרוּעָה מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ: Do no regular work, but present an offering made to the Lord by fire.' (Lev 23:23-25)

II. YOM HA-DIN - DAY OF JUDGMENT (RABBINICAL TERM)

When God judges the world, the divine angel takes out the scroll box in which the book of records is kept, and brings to the Holy Blessed who One, the records concerning the inhabitants of the earth found in the books of the living and the books of the dead. (3 Enoch 27:2; 18:19; 28:7).

Three books are completely opened on Rosh Hashana, one for the completely righteous, one for the completely wicked, and one for average persons. The completely righteous are immediately inscribed in the book of life. The completely wicked are immediately inscribed in the book of death. The average persons are kept in suspension from Rosh Hashana to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. If they deserve well, they are inscribed in the book of life. (BT Rosh Hashana, 16b)

3. YOM HA-ZIKKARON - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Speak unto the Israel people, saying: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of Shabbat rest, a memorial proclaimed with the blast of horns, a holy convocation. (Lev. 23:24) שְׁבִתוֹן זִכְרוֹן תְּרוּעָה מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ:

You remembered the deeds of the world and You are mindful of Your creatures since the beginning of time.

Did you not lovingly remember Noah, when you brought the flood waters, destroying all flesh because of their evil deeds? Did You not assume him with words of salvation and compassion?

Traditional Musaf liturgy, *Mahzor Lev Shalem*, p. 133

4. YOM HARAT OLAM - DAY OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Today the world stands as at birth. **היום הרת עולם**

Traditional Musaf liturgy, *Mahzor Lev Shalem*, p. 159

TESHUVAH - THE PROCESS OF REALIGNMENT

On Rosh HaShana it is written, and on the Fast Day of Yom Kippur it is sealed: who shall live and who shall die... and teshuva, tefilah and tzedakkah—repentance, prayer and acts of charity—avert the evil decree.

Traditional Musaf liturgy, *Mahzor Lev Shalem*, p. 159

Based on J. Taanit 2:I

Seven things were created be Cloud before the beginning of the world: Torah, Teshuva, Gan Eden, Gehenna, Temple, of Glory, name of Messiah. (BT Pes.7a)

THREE TYPES OF TESHUVA

1) BEN ADAM L'ATZMO - BETWEEN A PERSON AND THEMSELVES

Rabbi Jonah of Gerona said: “One must ask oneself: “What have I done? What have I become?”

2) BEN ADAM L'HAVERO - BETWEEN PEOPLE

For transgressions against God, the Day of Atonement atones; but for transgressions of one human being against another, the Day of Atonement does not atone until they have made peace with one another. (M. Yoma 8:9)

The stages of Teshuva are four in number: i) the renunciation of sin; ii) remorse; iii) the quest for forgiveness; iv) and assumption of the obligation not to relapse into sin.

Saadia Gaon, *Book of Beliefs and Opinions* 5:5

3) BEN ADAM LA-MAKOM - BETWEEN PERSON AND GOD

“When I go forth looking for You, I find You seeking me.” (Judah HaLevi)

