

Zoom21: ROSH HASHANAH - New Year?

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Special Zoom Study Session
with Rabbi Shmuel Veffter

ROSH HASHANAH

Is it really the New Year?

Exodus 12:2 says that the month of Nissan in the spring
"shall be the first of the months of the year for you."

Numbers 29:1 says that seven months later in the autumn
You shall observe it as a day when the shofar is sounded.

Why do the Jews call it Rosh HaShanah (New Year)?
And is it just for the Jews or for all mankind?

Wednesday September 9, 2020

Eastern (EDT)..... 12 Noon

Pacific (PDT)..... 9:00 am

London..... 5:00 pm

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Exodus 12:2

(2) This month shall mark **for you** the beginning of the months; it shall be the **first of the months of the year for you.**

שמות י"ב:ב'

(ב) הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה לָכֶם רִאשׁ חֳדָשִׁים **רִאשׁוֹן הוּא לָכֶם לַחֲדָשֵׁי הַשָּׁנָה:**

Numbers 29:1

(1) In the **seventh month, on the first day of the month**, you shall observe a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations. You shall observe it as **a day when the horn is sounded.**

במדבר כ"ט:א'

(א) **וּבַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ** מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה לָכֶם כָּל-מְלָאכָת עֲבֹדָה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ **יוֹם תְּרוּעָה יִהְיֶה לָכֶם:**

My English Hebrew Dictionary - Jewish Calendar 1/2

calendar	lû'ach shanâ	לוּחַ שָׁנָה
1st month	Nissan	נִיסָן
2nd month	Iyar	אֵיָר
3rd month	Sivan	סִיּוֹן
4th month	Tammuz	תַּמְמוּז
5th month	Av	אָב
6th month	Elul	אֶלּוּל
7th month	Tishrei	תִּשְׁרֵי
8th month	Heshvan	חֶשְׁוֹן
9th month	Kislev	כֶּסֶלֶו
10th month	Tevet	טֵבֵת
11th month	Shevat	שֶׁבֶט
12th month	Adar	אֲדָר

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There are four new years in the Torah calendar

Mishnah, Rosh HaShanah 1:1



Authentic, right, held off 3-5 favorite Tiz the Law down the stretch to give trainer Bob Baffert his record-tying sixth victory in the Kentucky Derby. Jamie Squire/Getty Images

How do you decide that a horse is 3 years old?

No matter what month a Thoroughbred is born, its **birthday** falls on January 1. (The universal **birthday** is **August 1** in the Southern Hemisphere.) This makes it easier to keep track of Thoroughbred **horses'** bloodlines; the rule was created by the organizations dedicated to regulating the Thoroughbred breed.

How old is the USA?

244 years old, counting from July 4, 1776

Four New Years in the USA

1. American New Year is July 4
2. Fiscal Year is January 1
3. Academic Year is September 1
4. Thoroughbred Year is January 1 (August 1 in southern hemisphere)

Four New Years in the Torah for the Nation of Israel

Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 1:1

(1) There are four new years:

The first of Nisan is the new year for kings (of Israel) and for festivals.

משנה ראש השנה א' א'

(א) ארבעה ראשי שנים הם.

באחד בניסן ראש השנה למלכים ולרגלים.

The first of Elul (August) is the new year for the tithe of animals. Rabbi Elazar and Rabbi Shimon say: the first of Tishri.

The first of Tishri is the new year for years, for shmitta and jubilee years, for planting and for [tithe of] vegetables.

The first of Shevat is the new year for trees, according to the words of Bet Shammai. Bet Hillel says: on the fifteenth of that month.

בְּאֶחָד בְּאֵלוּל רִאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה לְמַעֲשֵׂר בְּהֵמָה. רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר וְרַבִּי שִׁמְעוֹן אוֹמְרִים, בְּאֶחָד בְּתִשְׁרִי.

בְּאֶחָד בְּתִשְׁרִי רִאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה לְשָׁנִים וְלִשְׁמִטָּה וְלִיּוֹבְלוֹת, לְנִטְעָה וְלִירְקוֹת.

בְּאֶחָד בְּשֵׁבֶט, רִאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה לָאֵילָן, כְּדַבְּרֵי בֵּית שַׁמַּי. בֵּית הַלֵּל אוֹמְרִים, בְּחִמְשָׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ:



What happens on Rosh HaShanah?

Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 1:2

At four set times the world is judged:

1. On Pesah in respect to the produce.
2. On Shavuot in respect to the fruit of the tree.

3. On Rosh Hashanah all the people of the world pass before Him like a division of soldiers,

4. And on Sukkot they are judged in respect of rain.

מִשְׁנַת רִאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה א':ב'

בְּאַרְבַּעַת פְּרָקִים הָעוֹלָם נִדּוֹן,

בְּפֶסַח עַל הַתְּבוּאָה,

בַּעֲצֶרֶת עַל פְּרוֹת הָאֵילָן,

בְּרִאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה כָּל בְּאֵי הָעוֹלָם עוֹבְרִין לְפָנָיו כְּבָנִי מִרוֹן,

וּבַחֹג גְּדוּנִין עַל הַמָּיִם:



Why is humanity judged on the First of Tishrei?

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
25 Elul	26 Elul	27 Elul	28 Elul	29 Elul	1 Tishrei	2 Tishrei
Light Dark	Sky Waters	Dry Land Vegetation	Sun Moon Stars	Fish Birds	Mankind Animals	Shabbat

Rosh HaShanah

Adam & Eve are created on the sixth day of Creation

Sin of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was on this day

Themes of the Day

1. Day of Judgement
2. Inscribed in the "Book of Life"
3. Day of Coronating God as King
4. Day of Remembrance
5. Day of sounding the Shofar
6. First day of the 10 Days of Repentance
7. We celebrate judgment because it means we have free-will and life therefore has meaning.
8. In every festival we personally re-live the day. The day Adam and Eve were created.



Re-living Adam & Eve's First Day

Genesis 2:8-9

(8) The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the man whom He had formed. (9) And from the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that was pleasing to the sight and good for food, **with the tree of life in the middle of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and bad.**

בראשית ב':ח'-ט'

(ח) וַיִּטֵּעַ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים גֶּן-עֵדֶן מִקֶּדֶם נִישָׁם שָׁם
אֶת-הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר יָצָר: (ט) וַיַּצְמַח יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים
מִן-הָאֲדָמָה כָּל-עֵץ נֹחֵם לַמֶּרְאֶה וְטוֹב לַמֶּאֱכֹל
וְעֵץ הַחַיִּים בְּתוֹךְ הָעֵץ וְעֵץ הַדַּעַת טוֹב וָרָע:

Genesis 2:16-17

(16) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, **"Of every tree** of the garden you are free to eat; (17) but as for **the tree of knowledge of good and bad, you must not eat of it; for as soon as you eat of it, you shall die."**

בראשית ב':ט"ז-י"ז

(טז) וַיֹּצֵר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים עַל-הָאָדָם לֵאמֹר **מִכָּל**
עֵץ-הָעֵדֶן אָכַל תֹּאכְל: (יז) וּמִעֵץ הַדַּעַת טוֹב וָרָע
לֹא תֹאכַל מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי בְיוֹם אֲכָלְךָ מִמֶּנּוּ מוֹת תָּמוּת:



Forbidden Fruit

Genesis 3:1-3

(1) Now the serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild beasts that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say: You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?”

(2) The woman replied to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the other trees of the garden.

(3) It is only about fruit of **the tree in the middle of the garden** that God said: ‘You shall not eat of it or touch it, lest you die.’”

בראשית ג':א'-ג'

(א) והנחש היה ערום מפל תית השלד אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָאִשָּׁה אַף כִּי־אָמַר אֱלֹהִים לֹא תֹאכְלוּ מִכָּל עֵץ הַגָּן:

(ב) וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה אֶל־הַנָּחַשׁ מִכָּרִי עֵץ־הַגָּן נֹאכָל:

(ג) וּמִכָּרִי הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר בְּתוֹר־הַגָּן אָמַר אֱלֹהִים לֹא תֹאכְלוּ מִמֶּנּוּ וְלֹא תִגְעוּ בּוֹ פֶּן־תָּמוּתוּן:



Doubt - Physical and Spiritual Payoff

Genesis 3:4-6

(4) And the serpent said to the woman, “You are not going to die, (5) but God knows that as soon as you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be **like divine beings who know good and bad.**”

(6) When the woman saw that the tree was good for eating and a delight to the eyes, and that **the tree was desirable as a source of wisdom**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband, and he ate.

בראשית ג':ד'-ו'

(ד) וַיֹּאמֶר הַנָּחַשׁ אֶל־הָאִשָּׁה לֹא־מוֹת תָּמוּתוּן: (ה) כִּי יָדַע אֱלֹהִים כִּי בְיוֹם אֲכַלְכֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ וְנִפְקְדוּ עֵינֵיכֶם וְהִיתֶם כַּאֲלֹהִים יֹדְעֵי טוֹב וָרָע:

(ו) וַתֵּרָא הָאִשָּׁה כִּי טוֹב הָעֵץ לְמַאֲכָל וְכִי תִאֲוָה־הִוא לְעֵינֶיהָ וְנִחְמַד הָעֵץ לְהַשְׁכִּיל וַתִּקַּח מִפְּרִיָּו וַתֹּאכַל וַתֵּתֶן גַּם־לְאִישָׁהּ עִמָּה וַיֹּאכַל:



Hiding from God

Genesis 3:7-13

(7) Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they perceived that they were naked; and they sewed together fig leaves and made themselves loincloths.

בראשית ג':ז'-י"ג

(ז) וַתִּפְקְדוּנָה עֵינֵי שְׁנֵיהֶם וַיֵּדְעוּ כִּי עֲרֻמִּם הֵם וַיִּתְפְּרוּ עֵלֶיהָ תֵּאֲוָה וַיַּעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם חִגְרֹת:

(8) They heard the sound of the LORD God moving about in the garden at the breezy time of day; and **the man and his wife hid from the LORD God** among the trees of the garden.

(ח) וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶת-קוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מְתַהַלֵּךְ בַּגֵּן לְרוּחַ הַיּוֹם וַיִּתְסַבּא הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים בְּתוֹךְ עֵץ הַגֵּן:

(9) The LORD God called out to the man and said to him, **"Where are you?"**

(ט) וַיִּקְרָא יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶל-הָאָדָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֵיפֹה:

(10) He replied, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

(י) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת-קוֹלְךָ שָׁמָעְתִּי בַּגֵּן וָאִירָא כִּי-עָרִם אֲנִי וָאֶחְבֵּאתִי:

(11) Then He asked, "Who told you that you were naked? **Did you eat of the tree from which I had forbidden you to eat?"**

(יא) וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הִגִּיד לִךָ כִּי עָרִם אָתָּה הַמֶּוֹהֵעַץ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִיךָ לֵבִלְתִּי אֲכָל-מִמֶּנּוּ אֲכָלְתִּי:

(12) The man said, "The woman You put at my side—she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

(יב) וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה עִמָּדִי הִוא נָתְנָה-לִּי מִן-הָעֵץ וָאֲכָלְתִּי:

(13) And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done!" The woman replied, "The serpent duped me, and I ate."

(יג) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לָאִשָּׁה מַה-נָּעַת עֲשָׂוִית וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה הַנָּחָשׁ הִשְׁיֵאֲנִי וָאֲכָלְתִּי:



The Mistake and its Consequences - Exile

Genesis 3:22-24

(22) And the LORD God said, "Now that the **man has become like one of us**, knowing good and bad, what if he should stretch out his hand and take **also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever!**"

(23) So the LORD God banished him from the garden of Eden, to till the soil from which he was taken.

(24) He drove the man out, and stationed east of the garden of Eden **the cherubim** and the fiery ever-turning sword, **to guard the way to the tree of life.**

בראשית ג': כ"ב-כ"ד

(כב) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים הֵן הָאָדָם הָיָה כְּאַחַד מִמֶּנּוּ לְדַעַת טוֹב וָרָע וְעַתָּה אִם-יִשְׁלַח יָדוֹ וְלָקַח גַּם מִעֵץ הַחַיִּים וָאֲכָל וַתִּי לְעֹלָם:

(כג) וַיִּשְׁלַחְהוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִגֶּן-עֵדֶן לְעַבְדֹּת אֶת-הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר לָקַח מִשָּׁם:

(כד) וַיִּגְרֹשׁ אֶת-הָאָדָם וַיִּשְׁכֹּן מִקֶּדֶם לְגִן-עֵדֶן אֶת-הַכְּרֻבִּים וְאֶת הַסֵּף הַמִּתְהַפֵּכַת לְשֹׁמֵר אֶת-דֶּרֶךְ עֵץ הַחַיִּים: (ס)

QUESTIONS

1. Why were Adam and Eve banished from the Garden?
2. What would have happened if they ate from the Tree of Life first, gaining eternity, and then eaten from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?

Tree of Life



Proverbs 3:18

(18) She is a **tree of life to those who grasp her**,
And whoever holds on to her is happy.

משלי ג': י"ח

(יח) עֵץ־חַיִּים הִיא לַמַּחֲזִיקִים בָּהּ וְתִמְכֶּנָּה
מֵאֲשֶׁר: (פ)

Leviticus 19:32

(32) You shall rise before the **aged** and show
deference to the **old**; you shall fear your God: I am
the LORD.

ויקרא י"ט: ל"ב

(לב) מִפְּנֵי שֵׁבִיבָה תִּקְוֶם וְהִדַּרְתָּ פָנֶיךָ זָקֵן וְיָרֵאתָ
מֵאֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲנִי יְהוָה: (פ)

There are two ways to achieve wisdom

Sforno on Leviticus 19:32

ספורנו על ויקרא י"ט: ל"ב

(1) מפני שיבה תקום, while it is in order to show respect and deference to someone whose **(wisdom gained from) experience in life** is based on his age, this does not compare to the respect and deference that we must show to

(א) **מפני שיבה תקום** אבל תהדרו קדושי עליון ומהם השיבה ברוב כאמרו עטרת תפארת שיבה בדרך צדקה תמצא:

(2) פני זקן, the elder who has achieved his rank in society **due to his Torah knowledge**, his constant striving to **become more closely attached to G'd.**

(ב) **והדרת פני זקן** והם תופשי התורה כמו שאמרו רבותינו ז"ל. אין זקן אלא מי שקנה חכמה ואחר שהזהיר על כבוד הקדושים הזהיר מלבזות את השפלים,



What was the essence of Adam and Eve's mistake on that first day?

1. They chose the "Tree of Knowledge (Experience)" instead of the "Tree of Life (Torah Wisdom)."
2. They effectively were crowning themselves as "King" to live by their own rules and rejected God as their King and ruler.
3. By not choosing the "Tree of Life" (Eternity and attaching to God) they were choosing the "Tree of Death" and human mortality.
4. God did not banish them because they ate from the Tree of Knowledge, but because they didn't repent after making the mistake.
5. They thought they could "hide" from God and there would not be a remembrance of their actions nor consequences.
6. They misused their free-will ability to choose God to be their King and chose themselves to be their own King instead.
7. God did want us to eat from "every tree." But eat first from the "Tree of Life" before eating from the "Tree of Experience."



Summary: On Rosh HaShanah we can repair the mistake of Adam & Eve by...

1. Crowning God as our King and committing to live by His rules.
2. Using our Free-Will to choose to make His Will, our Will.
3. Choosing to be inscribed and attached to the "Book of Life" by dedicating ourselves to "Eat" (be nourished) by the "Tree of Life" (Torah wisdom) before going out into the world and "eating" from the "Tree of Knowledge" (experiences gained from the world).
4. Realizing that we cannot "hide" from God... everything we do is "remembered" and factored into the "Judgement" of how intimate our relationship is with Him.
5. Blasting the Shofar to wake us up out of our slumber and realize we've been living much of our life according to our own rules... and that the Shofar blast should be used instead as part of a Coronation Ceremony to give honor to the King of Kings.
6. Choosing to accept responsibility for our mistakes and not deflect blame and commit to repent - do teshuva.

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