

Rosh Ha-Shanah Text Bank

Topics

Rosh Ha-Shanah
Shofar
Tashlich
Repentance
Self-determination

Topic: Rosh Ha-Shanah
Source: Vayikra 23:23-25

כֹּד דַּבֵּר אֱלֹ-הִים בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, לֵאמֹר: בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּאֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ, יִהְיֶה
לְכֶם שַׁבָּתוֹן--זִכְרוֹן תְּרוּעָה, מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ כֹּה כָל-מְלֹאכֶת עֲבֹדָה, לֹא
תַעֲשׂוּ; וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם אֹשֶׁה, לַיהוָה. } ס

23 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

24 Speak to the children of Israel, saying: In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall be a solemn rest to you, a memorial proclaimed with the blast of horns, a holy convocation.

25 You shall do no manner of servile work; and you shall bring an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Topic: Shofar
Source: Tehilim 81:4-5

תִּקְעוּ בַחֹדֶשׁ שׁוֹפָר; בַּכֶּסֶה, לְיוֹם חַגְנוֹ.
כִּי חֵק לְיִשְׂרָאֵל הוּא; מִשְׁפָּט, לְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב

4 Blow the horn at the new moon, at the full moon for our feast-day. **5** For it is a statute for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob.

Topic: Tashlich

Source: Michah 7:18-20

מי אֵל כְּמוֹךָ, נִשְׂא עוֹן נִחַלְתּוֹ: לֹא הִחַזִּיק לְעַד אָפוֹ, כִּי חָפֵץ חֶסֶד הוּא
וְעֵבֵר עַל פְּשָׁע, לְשֹׂאֲרֵית
יִשׁוּב יִרְחַמְנוּ, יִכְבֹּשׁ עֲוֹנֵתֵינוּ; וְתִשְׁלִיךְ בַּמַּצְלוֹת יָם, כָּל חַטָּאוֹתֵם
..תִּתֵּן אֲמַת לִיעֶקֶב, חֶסֶד לְאַבְרָהָם, אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לְאַבְתְּיָנוּ, מִיַּמֵּי קֶדֶם

Who is a God like you, that pardons the iniquity, and passes by the transgression of the remnant of God's heritage? God does not stay angry forever, because God delights in mercy. God will again have compassion on us; God will subdue our iniquities; and you will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob, mercy to Abraham, as You have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

Topic: Repentance

Source: Bamidbar 5:5-7

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר
דַּבֵּר, אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אִישׁ אוֹ-אִשָּׁה כִּי יַעֲשׂוּ מִכֹּל- .הַנִּפְשׁ הַהוּא
חַטָּאת הָאֵדָם, לְמַעַל מֵעַל בִּיהוָה; וְאִשְׁמָה
וְהִתְוַדּוּ, אֶת-חַטָּאתָם אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ, וְהִשִּׁיב אֶת-אֲשָׁמוֹ בְּרֹאשׁוֹ, וְחִמֵּינִשְׁתּוּ
יֹסֵף עָלָיו; וְנָתַן, לְאִשֶּׁר אָשָׁם לוֹ

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the children of Israel: When a man or woman commits any sin that men commit, to commit a trespass against the LORD, and that soul will be guilty; then they shall confess their sin which they have done; and he shall make restitution for his guilt in full, and add to it the fifth part thereof, and give it to him in respect of whom he has been guilty.

Topic: Repentance

Source: Ezekiel 18:21-23 and 30-32

כא וְהִרְשָׁע, כִּי יָשׁוּב מִכָּל-חַטָּאתוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה, וְשָׁמַר אֶת-כָּל-חֻקֹּתַי, וְעָשָׂה מִצְוֹתַי וְצִדְקָה--חַיָּה יְחִיָּה, לֹא יָמוּת **כב** כָּל-פְּשָׁעָיו אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה, לֹא יִזְכְּרוּ לוֹ: בְּצִדְקָתוֹ אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה, יְחִיָּה **כג** הֶחֱפִיץ אֶחֱפִיץ מוֹת רָשָׁע, נְאֻם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה: הֲלוֹא בְּשׁוּבוֹ מִדְרָכָיו, וְחָיָה. {S}

But if the wicked turn from all his sins that he committed, and keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. **22** None of the transgressions that were committed shall be remembered against him; for his righteousness that he did, he shall live. } **23** Do I take any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? says the Lord GOD; and not rather that he should return from his ways, and live?

ל לָכֵן אֵינִי כֹדֶרְכִיּוֹ אֲשַׁפֵּט אֶתְכֶם, בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל--נְאֻם, אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה: שׁוּבוּ וְהִשִּׁיבוּ מִכָּל-פְּשָׁעֵיכֶם, וְלֹא-יְהִיָּה לָכֶם לְמַכְשׁוֹל עוֹן. **לא** הִשְׁלִיכוּ מֵעֲלֵיכֶם, אֶת-כָּל-פְּשָׁעֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר פָּשַׁעְתֶּם בָּם, וַעֲשׂוּ לָכֶם לֵב חֲדָשׁ, וְרוּחַ חֲדָשָׁה; וְלָמָּה תָּמַתוּ, בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל. **לב** כִּי לֹא אֶחֱפִיץ בְּמוֹת הַמֵּת, נְאֻם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה: וְהִשִּׁיבוּ, וְחָיוּ.

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord GOD. Return and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so they are not a stumbling block for you. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whatever you have transgressed; and make a new heart and a new spirit; for why will you die, house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of him that dies, says the Lord GOD; turn yourselves around, and live.

Topic: The righteous and the wicked

Source: Rosh Ha-Shanah 16b

א"ר כרוספדאי א"ר יוחנן שלשה ספרים נפתחין בר"ה אחד של
רשעים גמורין ואחד של צדיקים גמורין ואחד של בינוניים צדיקים
גמורין נכתבין ונחתמין לאלתר לחיים רשעים גמורין נכתבין ונחתמין
לאלתר למיתה בינוניים תלויין ועומדין מר"ה ועד יוה"כ זכו נכתבין
לחיים לא זכו נכתבין למיתה

Rav Kruspedai said in the name of Rav Johanan: "Three books are opened [in heaven] on New Year, one for the thoroughly wicked, one for the thoroughly righteous, and one for the intermediate. The thoroughly righteous are forthwith inscribed definitively in the book of life; the thoroughly wicked are forthwith inscribed in the book of death; the doom of the intermediate is suspended from New Year till the Day of Atonement; if they deserve well, they are inscribed in the book of life, if they do not deserve well, they are inscribed in the book of death.

Topic: Determining our lives

Source: Entering the High Holy Days

by Reuven Hammer pg 25

We take responsibility for those things we can determine: our own character, our own actions, and thus our own fate. Although we can't determine what will happen to us, we can control our reactions. For those we can blame no one but ourselves. As Viktor Frankl wrote 'Man's freedom is no freedom from conditions but rather freedom to take a stand on whatever conditions might confront him.' In this sense, judgement means taking responsibility and being accountable for our actions. There is ultimate meaning in what we do. God cares. We face not an unfathomable universe in which human striving meets with cosmic indifference, but a power concerned with human action and with moral meaning. The world is not an unformed, void place of chaos, not 'a tale...full of sound and fury signifying nothing,' as Shakespeare put it, but a place of meaning and responsibility. Belief in God offers us a sense that our lives matter-that God 'remembers.'