



Kids Parsha Packet

פ"ש לילדים

Rosh Hashana

Are you ready to hear the sound of the shofar in shul? If you listen closely, you will hear that in between the shofar blowing the Chazan says many verses that are connected to the three main themes of Rosh Hashana. Do you know what those themes are? Let's review them together:

Malchuyot (Kingship)

There are no kings in Israel but let's imagine what happens when a new king is appointed. Everyone wears special clothing, the houses and neighborhoods are cleaned, festive food is prepared for the special occasion, trumpets are blown and there is a general sense of happiness and excitement. Rosh Hashana is a festive day. We crown Hashem as king over our nation and over the entire world. We wear new festive clothing, we prepare lots of delicious food, we blow the shofar in shul, and we read many verses from the bible that describe Hashem as king of the world. Hashem is not like any other human king who rules for only a few years and only over a particular area. Hashem is the king of the whole world, he always

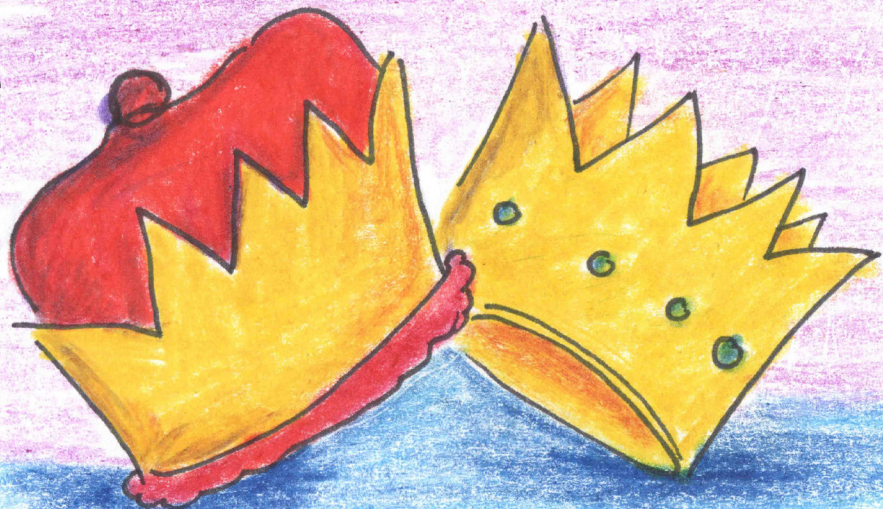
was king and always will be.

In our Rosh Hashana prayers we want to reinforce Hashem as king over the world and to give his rule a place in our personal lives.

"ה' יג'לך לעלם ועד"

(שמות ט"ו, י"ח)

"Hashem shall reign for all eternity!" (Shemot 16,18)



What are your new year's wishes for yourself?

Zichronot – Remembrance

What is better to remember, good things that happened or things that were not so good? There is value in remembering both. Why? Isn't it better to forget the bad things? Of course, we prefer to forget things that were unpleasant and to focus primarily on the good, but it is very important to learn from our mistakes, to know what to avoid and what to do differently. If we forget that, how can we be sure not to make the same mistakes again? In our Rosh Hashana prayers we also remember the moments that Bnei Yisrael did not behave properly, but Hashem remembers the good things that happened in Bnei Yisrael's past and forgives us. On Rosh Hashana, we pray that Hashem will remember our good and bad deeds from the past year, but we also pray that he will forgive us and focus on the positive. We hope to learn from what we do and to make good and better choices in the future.

"God remembered his
covenant with Abraham, with
Isaac, and with Jacob."
(Shemot 2, 24)

"וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת בְּרִיתוֹ
אֶת אַבְרָהָם אֶת יִצְחָק
וְאֶת יַעֲקֹב"
(שְׁמוֹת ב', כ"ד)



What is your earliest memory?

Activity

Rosh Hashana is a good opportunity to play memory games, and to check your memory...

Shofarot

What do you think about when you hear the sound of the shofar? Many times when we hear the sound of the shofar, the sound seems to penetrate our body and really shake us up. Have you ever felt this? The shofar has several purposes on Rosh Hashana. First, the shofar blasts appoint Hashem as king over us and over the whole world. There are many verses in the Torah that describe the presence of Hashem, and these verses explain that we blow the shofar to emphasize his presence. Hashem's presence in the world reached its peak at Mount Sinai. Hashem gave the Torah to Am Yisrael, and the sound of the shofar was heard. Similarly, the sound of the shofar reminds us of the times that Hashem remembered Am Yisrael favorably. Finally, the sound of the shofar makes our hearts tremble. It remind us that we all really want to be good people, that we know how to ask forgiveness for things that we unfortunately do wrong, and it helps give us the strength to try improve during the coming year.

"ויהי קול השפיר
הולך וחזק מאד"
(שמות י"ט, י"ט)



"The sound of the shofar grew continually much stronger" (Shemot 19,19)



Do you like the sound of the shofar?

Activity

"Recognizing sounds" - make the sounds of different instruments with your mouths (without using anything else). Anyone who is listening must identify the instrument that is being "played" (You can also play this game by acting out how you play an instrument, and everyone else tries to guess your instrument).

Simanim (symbols) of Rosh Hashana

Have you noticed that during the Rosh Hashana meals there are things that are different from a regular Shabbat meal? Have you noticed there are small plates with different colored foods? Before we eat the regular soup, chicken and rice, we have a Rosh Hashana “seder”. We eat different kinds of special foods during the evening meals on Rosh Hashana. We call them “simanim”. What are simanim? These are various foods, and we use the names of the food or their flavors to make wishes and requests from Hashem for the New Year. On Rosh Hashana Hashem decides what will happen to us during the next year, and we want to wish as many good things as possible for ourselves and for the entire nation. For example: we eat an apple in honey so that we will have a good and sweet new year, we eat carrots (in Hebrew, גזר) so that Hashem will decree (יגזר) a good year for us, we eat beets (in Hebrew, סלק) in order to remove (יסתלק) our enemies, and many more.



Activity

Make up new simanim just for fun. They can be in English or in Hebrew.

שנה טובה וכתיבה וחתימה טובה!

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 Pashut for kids



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