

ROSH HASHANAH

...is the Jewish New Year, the birthday of mankind, when we ask the Almighty to write us in the Book of Life.



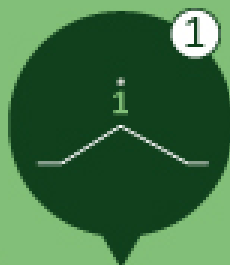
THE SHOFAR



On Rosh Hashanah it is a mitzvah to hear the shofar – a curved ram's horn.



The shofar is blown with **three distinct sounds**:



♦ **TEKIAH** ♦
One long, straight blast – the coronation of God as King.



♦ **SHEVARIM** ♦
3 wailing sounds – the sobbing heart yearning to connect.



♦ **TERUAH** ♦
9 quick blasts – a spiritual alarm clock.



The shofar is not blown when **Rosh Hashanah** falls on Shabbat.



100

The custom is to blow a total of 100 blasts.



PREPARATIONS

To begin the year with a clean slate, before Rosh Hashanah we:



Ask forgiveness
from anyone we
may have wronged
during the year



Perform "Hatarat
Nedarim" annulling
of vows



Do a "spiritual
accounting"

• 1 •

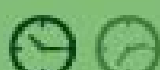
Achievements



What did I
accomplish
this past
year?

• 2 •

Efficiency



Am I careful
not to waste
precious
time?

• 3 •

Community



Am I involved
in contributing
to bettering
the world?

• 4 •

Forward



What are my goals
and aspirations
for the coming
year?

FESTIVE FOODS



A round challah is
used – symbolizing
fullness and
completion.



We dip an apple
in honey –
symbolizing our
prayer for a sweet
new year.



We eat other
foods that
symbolize our
hope for in the
coming year.



For example, eat a
pomegranate and say:
*"May it be Your will, God,
that our merits increase
as the seeds of a
pomegranate."* (see the
machzor for a full listing)

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES



On Rosh Hashanah, we use a special prayer book called a "*machzor*."



The curtain on the ark is changed to a white one, to symbolize cleansing of our mistakes.



In the "*Amidah*" prayer of Musaf, we say three special blessings:



MALCHIOT (KINGSHIP):

Recognizing God as the ultimate source of everything.



ZICHRONOT (REMEMBRANCE):

God is aware of all our actions.



SHOFROT:

God is the King, to whom we connect from the depths of our soul.

The "*Tashlich*" prayer – the symbolic casting away of our mistakes – is said on the afternoon of Rosh Hashanah by a pool of water that preferably contains fish.



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