

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

ROSH HASHANAH

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The Shofar's Message to Humanity



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Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is a time of reflection, repentance and renewal. It marks the beginning of the High Holy Days, a ten-day period of repentance and prayer culminating in Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Central to Rosh Hashanah is the blowing of the shofar, a deep cry calling us to repent. Interestingly, the preferred animal horn to use for the shofar is the ram's horn. Why is this? The rabbis explain that the ram's horn serves to remind us of *Akeidat Yitzchak*, the binding of Isaac. In this story, God tests Abraham's faith by commanding

him to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. An angel stops him, and a ram is sacrificed instead. The ram's horn commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son, a demonstration of unwavering faith in God.

One might wonder that the ram is an odd choice to symbolise the *Akeidah*, as the ram does not seem to play a central part in the story. Something more central, such as a knife, would more appropriately commemorate this sacrificial act.

The answer is that we are not merely commemorating Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son. The shofar in fact draws attention to the opposite; that the ram was offered up instead of Isaac, signifying that God does not want human sacrifice. The shofar represents God's message to humanity: true worship is not

through terror or strength, but through peace and goodness. Our God is a God of mercy, who desires life and peace.

At this time of year, it is crucial to remember that we are a nation of peace. As we reflect on the past year, we must ask ourselves if we have spread peace through our actions and words. We must seek to strengthen our internal unity as a nation, as only by uniting can we hope to overcome those who seek to destroy us. Let the sound of the shofar inspire us to higher ideals, reminding us that our faith is built on principles of compassion and mercy. May we enter the new year with a renewed dedication to these values, creating a world that reflects the true essence of our faith.

Shana Tova!

Rosh Hashanah Wordsearch

Find the words in the puzzle. Words can go in any direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.



**APPLE
HONEY
PRAYER
REPENT
SHEVARIM
SHOFAR
TASHLICH
TEKIAH
TERUAH**

Y	I	I	R	E	Q	W	U	D	L	U	Y
P	E	T	A	S	H	L	I	C	H	U	Q
A	X	N	F	Z	U	P	L	J	R	A	Q
E	K	E	O	N	E	A	U	O	B	V	M
B	T	P	H	H	R	P	V	E	V	I	U
X	J	E	S	Z	S	E	N	F	U	M	X
Q	R	R	K	T	P	X	I	X	J	Z	A
V	P	H	M	I	R	A	V	E	H	S	I
J	E	L	P	P	A	Y	E	B	F	E	D
E	Y	V	T	D	Y	H	A	U	R	E	T
K	B	J	G	Y	E	U	V	O	L	B	S
A	X	E	H	R	R	F	W	T	R	E	K