

# **ROSH HA-SHANNAH HA-TORAH SIDDUR**

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# **ROSH HA-SHANNAH HA-TORAH**

## **THE TORAH NEW YEAR**

Rosh haShannah haTorah occurs on the first day of the New Moon. Celebrating the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month of Aviv as the Scriptural New Year is a Torah command. The Scriptural command for Rosh haShannah haTorah is found in Shemoth (Exodus) 12:2.

*“This month (Aviv) shall be for you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year for you.”*

Notice the words *“the first month of the year for you.”* Confirmation of this practice being the Scriptural New Year comes from Devarim (Deuteronomy) 16:9. In this passage, we are commanded to start the counting of the omer *“when the sickle hits the standing grain”* or, in other words, when the barley is ripe, which places the start of the year in the month of Aviv. The word “Aviv” means “ripe or young ears,” and it directly references the barley harvest that is harvested in this month.

You will need the following things for this ceremony.

- A bottle of grape juice since grape juice is the biblical choice, and if not available, another fruit juice will suffice.
- A goblet or cup.
- A cup or glass for each participant.
- Two small to medium-sized candles or lamps.
- Two loaves of *challah*, a specially baked braided bread.
- A plate of honey.
- A plate of apple pieces or, if unavailable, another fruit mixed with honey.
- A shofar or horn.

Set these items out over the table on a white table cloth or the best that you have. Pour the grape juice into the goblet and place it in front of the person performing the ceremony, as well as the plate of honey and sweet apple mixture. Place a cup in front of each participant. You are now ready!

## THE OPENING

**At sunset**

### THE EVENING OF ROSH CHODESH

The feast starts on the night in which the first crescent of the new moon is observed.

### HADLEKAT NEIROT

**The sanctification prayer for lighting the candles**

**The Mother or Daughter or Leader lights the candles and says:**

*Barukh Atah יהוה, Eloheinu Melech haOlam, Asher kid'shanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu (v'tzivunu - for a male) l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat veh shel Yom Tov.*

Praised are You YHWH, our Elohim King of the Universe, Who sanctified us with mitzvot, and commands us to kindle the lights of Shabbat and the festival lights.

Once the candles are lit, it is customary to leave it alight until it naturally runs out.

### BIRKAT ROSH HA-SHANNAH HA-TORAH

**The blessing of the new month and the New Year**

### HALLELUYAH

**The exaltation**

**The Father or Leader reads:**

Tehillim (Psalm) 148:1-5.

*Hal'luyah,  
Hal'lu et יהוה min hashamayim,  
Hal'luhu bam'romeen,  
Hal'luhu khol-mal'akhav,  
Hal'luhu khol-tz'va'av,  
Hal'luhu shemesh v'yaray-ach,  
Hal'luhu kol-kokh vay or,  
Hal'luhu sh'may hashamayim,  
V'hamayim asher may'al hashamayim,  
Y'hal'lu et-shaym יהוה,  
Ki hu tzivah v'nivra'u,  
Vayameedaym la'ad l'olam,  
Chok-nathan v'lo ya'avor.*

Halleluyah,  
Hallel (Praise) YHWH from the heavens,  
Hallel Him in the heights,  
Hallel Him, all His hosts,  
Hallel Him Sun and Moon,

Hallel Him, all ye stars of light,  
Hallel Him, ye heavens of heavens, and waters that are around the heavens,  
Let them hallel the name of YHWH, for He commanded, and they were created.

It is a custom to look at the moon to remember YHWH's great creative ability then praise Him by saying:

*Barukh Atah יהוה, Eloheinu Melech haOlam, Asher b'ma'amaro bara sh'chakim uv'ruach peev kol Tz'va'am chok uz'man lahem shelo y'shanu et taf'kiram. Shashim us'maychim la'asot r'tzon konam, pol'ay emet shep'ulato emet, v'lal'vana amar shetit'chadash ateret tif'eret, al'amusay vaten shehaym atidim li'hit'chadaysh k'motah ul'fa'ayr l'yotz'ram al shaym k'vod mal'khuto.*  
*Barukh Atah יהוה, M'chadaysh chadashim.*

Praised are You YHWH, our Elohim King of the Universe. By thy word thou didst create the heavens, and by thy whisper their entire host. Thou hast subjected them to their periodic laws so that they should be constant in their functioning, rejoicing in gladness to fulfill the will of their Creator. As true as is their Maker, so faithful is His work. He ordained that the moon should each month be renewed, shining as a glorious diadem, to men bearing the burdens of life a symbol of hope that they also may be reborn to new life, to proclaim the esteem of their Creator's dominion. We praise You YHWH Who renews the months.

**All present recite this three times:**

*Barukh Yotzraykh,  
Barukh Osaykh,  
Barukh Konaykh,  
Barukh Bor'aykh.*

Praised is our Moulder,  
Praised is our Maker,  
Praised is our Owner,  
Praised is our Creator.

**All present recite this three times:**

*Ben Dawid haMelech Yisra'el chai v'khai'am.*

The Son of Dawid, the King of Yisra'el, is alive and enduring.

## **KIDDUSH CHODESH**

### **The sanctification prayer for the new month**

The Kiddush is recited while holding a full cup in one's right hand, and when the blessing is finished, everyone drinks from the goblet or their own individual glass or cup. It is customary to stand during Kiddush, although others decide to sit.

**The Father or Leader reads:**

*Barukh Atah יהוה Eloheinu Melekh haOlam shehecheya v'kiymanu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh.*

*Praised are You, YHWH our Elohim, King of the Universe, Who has given us life, sustained us, and helped us reach this moment.*

*Barukh Atah יהוה, Eloheinu Melech haOlam, Asher M'chadaysh lanu et-hachodash.*

Praised are You YHWH, our Elohim King of the Universe, Who sanctifies the new month for us.

*Barukh Atah יהוה, Eloheinu Melech haOlam, Asher natan cha'yim bachodesh hazeh veehee ayt shalom v'ayt sava l'am kah Yisra'el.*

Praised are You YHWH, our Elohim King of the Universe, Who given us life in this month, and may it be a time of peace and prosperity to your people Yisra'el.

**All present reads or sings:**

*Barukh Atah יהוה, Eloheinu Melech haOlam, Boray pri hagafen. Amein.*

Praised are You YHWH, our Elohim King of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine. Amein.

Everyone takes a sip of their glass and returns it to its place.

## **HA-MOTZI**

### **The sanctification prayer for bread**

It is a custom to have two specially prepared uncut loaves of bread called challah to perform this part of the service; if it is not available, then use two medium-sized bread rolls. Place the two loaves inside a white sack or cloth. Many use a decorated cloth for this purpose. Uncover the two loaves, and as they are raised, the following blessing is recited.

**The Father or Leader reads or sings:**

*Barukh Atah יהוה, Eloheinu melech haOlam, haMotzi lechem min ha'aretz. Amein.*

Praised are You YHWH, our Elohim King of the Universe, You bring forth the bread from the earth. Amein.

After the blessing, the challah is cut or broken into pieces, and it is distributed to all present. It is a tradition to dip the first piece of challah into honey, comparing it to the sweetness of Promised Land.

## **SHANAH TOVAH UM'TUKHA**

### **A good year**

After the *challah* has been eaten, a piece of apple sweetened with honey is given to each participant, and then the blessing is recited. This is symbolic of the abundance of the Promised Land.

**All present reads or sings:**

*Barukh Atah יהוה, Eloheinu Melech haOlam, Boray pri ha'eytz.*

Praised are You YHWH, our Elohim King of the Universe, Who creates the fruits of the tree.

*Yi ratzon m'lifenekha יהוה Eloheinu vaylohem avoteinu sheetcharash aleinu shanah tovah um'tukha.*

May it be Your will, YHWH, our Elohim, and the Elohim of our forefather, that You renew for us a good and a sweet year.

**The Father or Leader reads:**

Tehillim (Psalm) 65.

*“Tehilla (praise) waits for You, O Elohim, in Tzion: and to You shall the vow be performed. O You that hears all tefillah (prayers), to You shall all flesh come. Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, You shall purge them away. Blessed is the man whom You choose, and whom You cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts: we shall be satisfied with the tov (good) of Your Bayit (House), even of Your kadosh Heka (Set-Apart Temple). By awesome deeds in tzedakah (righteousness) will You answer us, O Elohim of our Yahshua (Salvation); You are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are far off upon the sea: Who by His strength established the mountains; being clothed with power: Who stills the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the nations. They also that dwell in the farthest parts are afraid at Your signs: You make the outgoings of the morning and evening to gilah (rejoice). You visit the earth, and give mayim (water) to it: You greatly enrich it with the river of Elohim, which is full of mayim: You prepare grain for them, when You have so provided for it. You give mayim to the ridges of it abundantly: You deepen its furrows: You make it soft with showers: You bless its growth. You crown the year with Your tov (good); and Your paths drip with abundance. They drip upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills gilah (rejoice) on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with grain; they shout for simcha (joy), they also shir (sing).”*

You may now finish the rest of your grape juice.

**HALLELUYAH**

**The exaltation**

**All present read:** Tehillim (Psalm) 150:1-6.

*Hal'luyah!  
Hal'luyah El b'kod'sho,  
Hal'luhu bir'kia uzo,  
Hal'luhu big'vurotav,  
Hal'luhu k'rov gud'lo,  
Hal'luhu b'teika shofar,  
Hal'luhu b'nayvel v'khinor,  
Hal'luhu b'tof umachol,  
Hal'luhu b'minim v'ugav,  
Hal'luhu b'tzil'tzlay shama,  
Hal'luhu, b'tzil'tzlay t'rua,  
Kol han'shama t'halzel Ya,  
Hal'luyah, hal'luyah!*

Halleluyah!

Hallel (Praise) El in His Kadosh-Place (Set-Apart),  
Hallel Him in the expanse of His power,  
Hallel Him for His mighty acts,  
Hallel Him according to His excellent greatness,  
Hallel Him with the sound of the shofar,  
Hallel Him with the guitar and harp,  
Hallel Him with the tambourine and dance,  
Hallel Him with stringed instruments and flutes,  
Hallel Him with the loud cymbals,  
Hallel Him upon the high sounding cymbals,  
Let everything that has breath hallel-Yah,

Halleluyah, halleluyah!

A Shofar or a trumpet should be blown here with short to medium bursts.

## **L'SHANAH TOVAH**

### **The traditional well wishes for the year**

We finish Rosh haShanah haTorah with this declaration:

**All present say to one another:**

*L'Shanah Tovah!*

May you have a good year, a year of peace and success!

The meal is served.

## **BAREICH**

### **The blessing after the meal**

**All present read:**

*Barukh Harachman Mazon ha'acilah Hazot.*

Praised be the Merciful One, Provider of this food.

*Harachaman, Hu yishlach b'rakha m'ruba babayit hazeh v'al shulkhan zeh she'achalnu alav. Amein.*

May the Merciful One send abundant blessing upon this dwelling and the table at which we have eaten. Amein.

Note: Rosh haShannah haTorah does not have a closing; traditionally, we should take the rest of the day to wish family and friends and a prosperous New Year.

All Scripture reference is from the RSTNE version



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