

ROSH HA SHANAH FEATURE

IN HONOR OF ROSH HASHANA, JEWISH NEW YEAR OF 5730, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF STORIES TO COMMEMORATE THE HOLIDAY WHICH FALLS ON THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH OF TISHRI, SAT., SEPT. 13 AND SUNDAY, SEPT. 14. ROSH HASHANA MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE 10 DAYS OF REPENTANCE, AWE-INSPIRING DAYS, CULMINATING AT YOM KIPPUR, ON SEPT. 22.

are impressed with the doctrine of "Zekhut Avot" (merit of our ancestors) -- the faith and piety of the Patriarchs. We say of Abraham that he observed in minutest detail Jewish laws which were enacted many centuries later. Our greatest glory rests in the past. Whenever we read a selection of the Torah in public worship, we exclaim "Renew our days as of old". We want to turn back the clock. Utopia is behind us.

Again, Judaism casts its gaze into the future. The Messianic era will bring to realization the ideal situation for mankind. Universal peace of which we dream and for which we hope will be achieved in the "End of days" when "They shall beat their swords into plowshares.... nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Even the wild animals will overcome their ferocious instincts, and "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb". Man's blissful existence lies ahead. The great philosopher Ecclesiastes expressed it when he stated that it is foolish to say that the past was better than the present, and he asserted that the end of a thing is better than the beginning. Look to the future; the best days are yet to come.

Our High Holidays, however, bring us the message of the importance of the present. The Hebrew term is "Hayom" -- today. In fact, this word occurs more than 130 times in the Bible, whereas references to tomorrow or the end of days, some 65 times, and to the past, about 12 times. In our liturgy of Rosh Hashanah, we repeat three times, "This is the day the world came into being." We close our services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with a prayer expressed tersely in eight lines, each beginning with "Hayom." Life is too short to neglect even one day of the time allotted to us. The English clergyman Charles Stanford tells us

Count that day lost
Whose low descending sun
Views from thy hand
No worthy action done.

The time is now to derive the greatest spiritual and meaningful experience from our Judaism. Now is the time to enjoy the feeling of "togetherness" with your fellow Jews. This is the day to pursue the study of our heritage, and to give our children a maximum Jewish education. Let no day pass without making some contribution to the survival of the Jew and the perpetuation of Jewish life. The end result is bound to bring greater happiness to ourselves, our families, our communities and all mankind. L'SHANAH TOVA TIKATEVU! MAY THE NEW YEAR 5730 BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD!

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Israeli Finance Minister Zeev Sharef opened the fall phase of the 1969 Israel Bond campaign with a nationwide telephone call to more than 2,700 Jewish leaders. The Las Vegas Israel Bond Committee was among those who heard the message.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The armed forces are using a new 567-page mahzor High Holy Days prayer book which contains the liturgy in Hebrew and English for all the holidays' service. The new book, published by the Department of Defense, was edited by Dr. Sidney B. Hoenig for the National Jewish Welfare Board's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a message for the High Holidays which you may insert in your Rosh Hashanah issue of the Las Vegas Israelite. I am doing this in appreciation of receiving your paper regularly. I enjoy reading it.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,
Rabbi Herman M. Cohen,
(Tucson, Ariz.)

The Time is Now

by RABBI HERMAN M. COHEN

Rabbi Emeritus, Temple of Aaron Congregation, St. Paul, Minnesota

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Arthur Luban, M.D.

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