

Pardes Yehuda

Weekly Torah Journal By Yehuda Z. Klitnick

Rosh Hashana 5786

כתיבה וחתימה טובה

ראש השנה תשפ"ו

When is the exact time of judgment time in Rosh Hashanah?

אתם נצבים היום כלכם לפני ה' אלקיכם ראשיכם שבטיכם וקניכם ושמריכם כל איש ישראל: מפקדם נשיכם וגו' לעברך בבית ה' אלקיך: (כט ט-י"א)

You are all standing this day before the Lord, your God the leaders of your tribes, your elders and your officers, every man of Israel, your young children, your women, and your convert who is within your camp both your woodcutters and your water drawers, that you may enter the covenant of the Lord, your God, and His oath, which the Lord, your God, is making with you this day. (29: 9-11)

Most commentaries ask since the Posuk says You are all standing this day before the Lord, this means that everyone is standing before Hashem. why did the Posuk have to list each type of person: ראשיכם שבטיכם וקניכם ושמריכם נשיכם the leaders of your tribes, your elders and your officers, your young children, your women, and your convert? Another difficulty is, Why does the Posuk have to repeat again כל איש ישראל "every man of Israel", when the Posuk states already אתם נצבים היום כלכם "You are all standing this day before the Lord"?

To understand our Pesukim we have to see a Gemarra (Rosh Hashanah 18a) ברש השנה כל באי העולם עוברין לפניו The Mishna teaches: On Rosh Hashanah all creatures pass before Him like a flock of sheep. The Gemara continues וכולן נסקרין בסקירה אחת And they are all scanned in a single scan. The Posuk (Tehilim 33:15) states: "היוצר יחד לבם המבין אל כל מעשיהם." "He who fashions their hearts alike, who considers all their deeds". This is interesting, since Hashem Scans the whole world in a single scan, Why does He judge each person separately "who considers all their deeds"?

The holy Arizal says a powerful insight. Hashem scan the whole world in a single scan. However, Hashem has mercy and in Rosh Hashanah. He sends a person the urge to do Teshuva, and if the person feels he wants to cry, that is a sign that Hashem is looking judge that person. If the person reacts and does teshuva then, Hashem judges him with his Teshuva, and would give a positive decree. Hence, this is a tremendous Chesed from Hashem.

Based on this we can understand our Posuk. אתם נצבים We are talking on Rosh Hashanah, where Hashem is judging the whole world in one scan, and sees all the acts of the people in the world. That is why it says אתם נצבים היום כלכם "You are all standing this day before the Lord. This is the scanning of the whole

world. However, Hashem has mercy and judges "the leaders of your tribes, your elders and your officers, your young children, your women, and your convert", each one separate, by instilling the urge to do Teshuvah and cry, to know that at that moment they are being judged, as Hashem wants them to do do Teshuva and have a good decree.

Therefore, it states again כל איש ישראל "every man of Israel", which means each person separate. Then the Torah concludes the reason for this is, לעברך בבית ה' אלקיך that you may enter the covenant of Hashem which is repenting, and become connected again to Hashem. By doing this, Hashem would write you down in the Sefer Hachaim, the book of life, and a Kesiva ViChasima Tova. We can go a bit deeper. This idea is also found in Sefer Baal Shem Tov. He brings the Zohar (Naso page 126): "בכל יום יוצאת בת קול ומכרית שובו בני שובבים" "Every day a voice goes forth and proclaims my children please do Teshuva." Asks the Baal Shem Tov, if the voice is intended so that people may hear it, then why don't we hear it, and if it is not so that we may hear it, then why does a voice go forth at all? And He explains that every Yid, in whatever situation he may be, experiences within him everyday a split second of an inner awakening of repentance during the day. This split second comes to a person through the voice that comes forth every day, and it is up to the person to implement this awakening of repentance and bring it to fruition.

According to this insight, the Posuk is saying: אתם נצבים היום, "You are all standing this day before the Lord" Thus the Posuk "היום", is refering to the words of the Baal Shem Tov. Not only on Rosh Hashanah, but everyday in a person's lifetime, Hashem wants the person to do Teshuva, and lets out that Bas Kol, the voice of Hashem. Hashem is asking us to listen to His message and do Teshuva everyday. The Sefas Emes of Gur says that HaShem calls out to everyone. It is just that the Tzaddikim are the only ones listening! the only one who was listening. Let us work towards a spiritual core and fulfil our spiritual role and potential in life. This voice is Hashem 'calling out' to every one of us. Let's listen to the message, and we will be Zoche to become elevated and be closer to Hashem. (Yehuda Z. Klitnick)

We are close to the King: make the most of it!

אתם נצבים היום בלפני ה' אלקיכם: (כ"ט ט')

You are all standing this day before Hashem, your G-d. (29:9) The Zohar Hakadosh explains "this day" as Rosh Hashanah. All that was unfolding that day refers to the day of reckoning when all creatures pass through Hashem, and He decrees who will live and prosper. The terrifying of Tefilas Unesane Tokef which details how the angels are petrified and running back and forth from fear. Which of course the angels don't really sin, yet they are afraid. This should be enough for a simple creature, who cannot say that he is clean from sin. Therefore, Hashem with his great kindness gives us a chance to do Teshuva, and pray, and give tzedaka, and these three acts will override any harsh decrees.

A unique event in human history took place when this posuk was delivered by Moshe: the entire membership of Klal Yisroel were assembled before the Creator. But just what did this act of "standing" entail, beyond confirming and binding them to the Covenant? The Toldos Yaakov Yosef, by way of a parable which he himself heard from the mouth of the Holy Ba'al Shem Tov, his Rebbe, commented on a posuk from Tehillim (102:1) *הַפֶּלֶה לְעֵנִי* *A prayer for a poor man when he enwraps himself and pours out his speech before Hashem.* A King once made a celebration and promised his subjects that they each could request one favour from him, and it would be granted. One very wise man stood out from the others; he asked that he be able to converse with the king three times a day. This astute request pleased the king so much that not only did he grant the request, but went beyond it and gave the wise man gifts which he had not even requested. So it is with Hashem and the Yidden: Hashem listens to the prayer of the humble Yid *הַפֶּלֶה לְעֵנִי*, standing "enwrapped in his tallis", when he is standing upright before Hashem, pouring out his heartfelt needs, "three times a day" *לפני ה' ישפך שיחו*. These are the

words of the Holy Ba'al Shem Tov. Now to our posuk: How does a Yid become נָצִיב upright? By having his prayers answered! This accomplishment is only *לפני ה' אלקיכם* when he sees himself always standing in Hashem's presence, graciously allowed to make any request. (תולדות יעקב יוסף) The Chovas Halevavos elaborates on the subject of being close to Hashem. Since Hashem has the traits and abilities beyond what one can imagine, in His wealth or strength, by being close to Hashem there is an open door to anything one would want. Loving a fellow Yid is a connection to loving Hashem and getting close to Him.

Two angels accompany a Yid Rosh Hashana by night

On the night of Rosh Hashanah, the custom is to go around the shul and wish your fellow congregants "לשנה טובה תכתב ותחתם", "May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year." Let it be known that two angels accompany a Yid and they listen in as he wishes his friends warm hearted with friendship and they see unity among Klal Yisroel, this inspires them to ascend to Heaven and plead for a good and sweet year for Klal Yisroel. This should prod one to have Ahavas Yisrael and wish all full hearted. By doing so it is a cinch to have a good and prosperous year. (Tzemach Tzedek third Rebbe of Lubavitch) We can comment on this insight a step further as David Hamelech states in Tehilim 91:11 *כִּי מַלְאָכָיו יִצְוֶה לָךְ לְשָׁמְרָךְ בְּכֹל דְּרָכֶיךָ*: *For He will command His angels on your behalf to guard you in all your ways.* The angels are for our benefit and are also our prosecutors. They also benefit from our good deeds. However on the day of Judgement, these angels that guarded you all along will attest to your behavior. By doing good deeds and helping a fellow Yid and praying for their good welfare, the angels will guard you on this world as well at the time of need at the Heavenly court.

STORIES OF THE WEEK FOR ROSH HASHANNA (By Yehuda Z. Klitnick)

**** ***Yahrtzeit of the Stoliner Rebbe - Reb Yisrael Perlow and other stories*** ****

Harav Reb Yisrael Perlow was the son of Reb Asher the son of Reb Aharon the author of Bais Aharon of Karlin, the son of Reb Asher of Stolin, the son of Reb Ahaon Hagadol of Karlin. *זינק"ל* His father Reb Asher was niftar in *ט"ז אב תרל"ג*. His father told his wife that such a Neshama comes down to this world only once in 500 years. Reb Yisrael was a mere four-and-a-half years old, he had shown brilliancy at that young age and the elder Chassidim, even though broken-hearted at the passing of their Rebbe, found condolence in the young boy, and crowned him as Rebbe to continue the holy unbroken chain of Stolin-Karlin Rebbes. Thousands of people came to see a Tish headed by a

young boy. Hence he is known as the Yenuka, a young boy. However, in Stolin, he is known as the Frankfurtor, since he is buried there. The Rebbe was rather a young man in his late 40s when he became ill. Many attribute it to his suffering throughout World War 1 where he had to hide from the Bolsheviks, and he fled to Kiev during the war. But the war took a toll on him and the city of Stolin. When the Rebbe returned to Stolin after the war, he came to a city where destruction was all over and the Rebbe took it to heart. In 1921 he was taken to Warsaw to be treated by well-respected Doctors. However that summer the Rebbe came up with severe Bronchitis and eventually pneumonia, which is

treated today with antibiotics. The doctors and Askanim efforts scoured all over to get antibiotics to treat the Rebbe but to no avail. On the second day of Rosh Hashanah 5622, the Rebbe passed away in the hospital in Bodenheim at the young age of 51. He was buried in Frankfurt. That part of the cemetery was spared from the Nazi bombings, even though the cemetery was in the midst of the city. A clear miracle. His Kever is visited by thousands every year and countless people are helped with Yeshuos. He strove to conceal his greatness and it was only his followers and other tzaddikim themselves who recognized his high stature in Torah and *avodas Hashem* -- as well as his remarkably perceptive vision of human events.

The Stoliner Rebbe from Frankfurt saves a Yid from a catastrophe with wisdom

Reb Yisrael Yitzchok Meshi Zahav traveled to raise money for needy people in Jerusalem. Whenever he was to leave back to Jerusalem, he would visit the Stoliner Rebbe, Reb Yisrael, in Stolin to get a bracha for a safe trip home. The ship to Israel was in Odessa, and Reb Meshi Zahav would take a train, which had a stop in Horin, outside of Stolin, and see the Rebbe. This was in 1914 right before World War 1 broke out and he wanted to get on a ship from Odessa to Israel. Reb Meshi Zahav realized that it was a dangerous time in the world and made sure to make a stop in Stolin to get a bracha from the Rebbe.

The Rebbe greeted him warmly and got into an interesting discussion which took quite a while, but Reb Meshi Zahav didn't have the Chutzpah to tell the Rebbe, that he would miss his train to Odessa. After the discussion, the Rebbe asked Reb Meshi Zahav to stay overnight in Stolin, however, Reb Meshi Zahav told the Rebbe that if he missed the train he would lose 8 rubles which is a lot of money. The Rebbe pleaded with him to stay overnight, and if he decided to go, the Rebbe wouldn't give him a bracha and take upon him if anything happened!

Reb Meshi Zahav heard what the Rebbe said, but felt that he could not afford to lose 8 rubles, and if the Rebbe won't give him a bracha, so be it, and he left the room. It didn't take long when the Rebbe sent his Gabbay to have Reb Meshi Zahav come back to him as he needed to send something very important to Eretz Yisrael. This was stressful to Reb Meshi Zahav, but he figured it would only take a few minutes to go to the Rebbe and pick up what the Rebbe wanted to send, and he would still have enough time to catch the train to Odessa.

When Reb Meshi Zahav returned to the Rebbe, he was

received again very warmly. The Rebbe thanked him for coming back and told him he wanted to write a short letter to his Chassidim in Eretz Yisrael to give them Chizuk in this period. Reb Meshi Zahav reluctantly said he would wait until the Rebbe finished the letter. He sits down in the waiting room and waits, however, the door to the Rebbe stays closed and he realizes that he has no choice but to wait now! He looked at his watch and saw that he missed the train to Odessa and would have to catch the next train.

Finally, the Rebbe opened the door handed over the letter to Reb Meshi Zahav and gave him a warm bracha for a safe trip home. Reb Meshi Zahav was a bit upset that he lost 8 rubles but he arrived near the train station to wait for the next train, he saw that the station was closed and ambulances and police were at the station. He went to find out what happened, and he was told that as soon as the train left the station, it collided with an oncoming train and hundreds of people perished in the accident. The next train might only leave tomorrow afternoon. Reb Meshi Zahav realized that the Rebbe foresaw everything and he owed his life to the Rebbe. He returned to Stolin, and the Rebbe asked nonchalantly, why he returned so soon. Reb Meshi Zahav was in shock and told the Rebbe about the accident, and the Rebbe saved his life!

The Rebbe answered it was not a miracle! I saw on your forehead that you were destined to live, and I wanted to save you from going on the train and having agony and aggravation. Reb Meshi Zahav decided to stay a few days in Stolin. However, the next day right after davening the Rebbe calls over Reb Meshi Zahav and tells him to leave this minute and catch the train to Odessa! Reb Meshi Zahav understood that the Rebbe saw everything said goodbye and went as fast as could to catch the next train to Odessa. When Reb Meshi Zahav came to the port in Odessa he purchased a ticket and went onto the ship. Reb Meshi Zahav arrived in Eretz Yisrael and heard that his ship was the last one that was allowed to leave Odessa. If the Rebbe wouldn't have pushed him to go then and there, he would have had to stay in Russia until after the war! Reb Meshi Zahav was forever grateful to the Stoliner Rebbe for saving his life. This story was retold by his son Reb Chaim David Meshi Zahav of Jerusalem.

Respected by all

Many gentiles in Europe were believers in tzaddikim and until today the non-Jews in Ukraine and Poland go to the graves of Baal Shem Tov (in Mezhibuzh) and Reb Elimelech (in Lizensk), as well as in Vilednick. Reb Mendel Zeilingold, a Stoliner Chassid attached to three successive Rebbes, related that there was a tall, high-ranking General

in the Russian army who heard that the Stoliner Rebbe, Rav Yisrael Perlow was a "Wunderrabbiner" and that by merely gazing at his face one could be helped. The general needed a personal Yeshua (which he would have termed a "salvation") and journeyed to Stolin. But just when he arrived, a huge throng of hundreds of Chassidim was surrounding the Rebbe and he was not able to even glimpse the Rebbe's face. Yet, he was a firm believer and lifted and held his hands above the crowd, saying to one and all, "It is enough that my hands see the face of the Rebbe. Now I will surely be helped." This was attested at the times of Pogroms, that the city of Stolin was passed over, as many of the hoodloms respected the Rebbe

The great Gaon Reb Yitzchok Elchonon Spector (1817–ב"ה נחל יצחק 1896) author of many great seforim as נחל יצחק

had a very close relationship with the Rebbe. He was once at a gathering where one of the Rabbanim began casually repeating the slander that the Chassidic Rebbes don't know how to learn. Reb Yitzchok Elchonon let out the secret that Reb Yisrael of Stolin is well versed in all of Rambam and knows it by heart as well as any Yid reciting Ashrei!

The Rav of Karlin has Emunah in the Rebbe

The Tzaddik Rav Avrohom Elimelech of Karlin, the fifth son of the Rebbe, was martyred for Kiddush Hashem in the Holocaust י"ד מר השון תש"ג הי"ד. He used to speak about the Rav of Karlin, HaGaon Rav Dovid Friedman (author of many volumes of responsa in Halacha אבן העזר), who was a close associate of the Rebbe, Reb Yisrael, whom he honored highly. [It was known that the Karliner Rav, Reb Dovid, was very strict about granting Semicha for Rabbanus. He would test the candidates thoroughly and they would have to wait in Karlin many months to get their certificate of semicha. However when Reb Yisrael sent a letter of recommendation that the candidate was being considered for a rabbinical post, the Rav speeded up the process.] The Gaon once became seriously ill and a famous professor of medicine from Warsaw was summoned at great expense. The prognosis was dire, and Rav Dovid's life hung in the balance. The doctor prescribed drinking large amounts of fluids but at the same time strictly forbade alcoholic beverages of any kind. A chosid named Yosef Dovid from Telechan happened to be visiting the Rebbe at that time. The Rebbe dispatched him to visit Rav Dovid and sent along a bottle of wine for the patient to drink. When he arrived at Rav Dovid's sickroom, the children, who had been acting as liaison with the doctor, were reluctant to admit him. But when Rav Dovid heard that Yosef Dovid was bearing

greetings from the Stoliner Rebbe, he overrode the children's instructions and the two men began conversing. The chosid delivered the bottle of wine from the Rebbe, and the Gaon Rav Dovid asked him to pour him a large cup of it. The children were aghast, since this directly countermanded the doctor's strict ban on alcohol for the patient. Rav Dovid put them at ease, saying that if the Holy Rebbe sent him this wine it was for a good reason, and certainly would not harm him in any way. He made a "*borei pri hagefen*" and drank the wine. As Rav Avrohom Elimelech put it, "From then on, it was obvious to all that the Rav would be totally healed. The solid faith that he had in the tzaddik was all that he needed for a full recovery -- Warsaw doctor or no Warsaw doctor. What was more amazing, though, was that such a distinguished Gaon would be subdued and have such total *emunah* in my father." ויע"א

He sets a bochur on his feet in Yiddishkeit

The Rebbe concentrated on being "mekarev", bringing young Jews closer to Yiddishkeit -- not an easy task in that time of rising assimilation. One young fellow in particular, an older bochur, used to sell ritual objects ("tashmishei kedusha) from a table in front of the Rebbe's shul. One day the Rebbe passed by and bought a gartel for which he put down a 20-ruble coin -- far, far more than the usual price. The bochur, being basically honest, tried to return the "change" to the Rebbe, but he had already gone to his place in shul. So he waited for the Rebbe to emerge after davening, but was greeted by an unexpected query. "Have you put on tefillin yet today?" Shamefacedly, the honest boy replied, "Not only have I not put on tefillin today, Rebbe, but neither have I done so ever since becoming Bar Mitzvah!" "Let's go for a little stroll together," said the Rebbe. The boy readily seized the chance to spend some quality personal time with a personage as distinguished as the Stoliner Rebbe. Starting with light conversation about current affairs, which he thought would forge a bond with the boy on his level, the Rebbe soon repositioned to his situation in Torah and Yiddishkeit, specifically focusing on his failure to lay tefillin, as every Yid is obliged to do daily. "Rebbe, tefillin are expensive and I have no money to buy them. I am an orphan, and no one stepped forward to buy tefillin for me when I became Bar Mitzvah. So, no tefillin for me to put on -- even if I had wanted to all these years." The Rebbe ignited the boy's heart with the flame of Yiddishkeit until he burst into tears. "Rebbe, I want to become a ba'al teshuvah but what about tefillin?" The Rebbe reminded him: "You have a 20-ruble coin in your pocket which I gave you for that gartel this

morning. It's enough to cover a nice pair of tefillin at the town sofer. The boy eagerly followed through on the Rebbe's advice, buying the tefillin and then learning hilchos tefillin so that he could wear them proudly, al pi halacha. One thing led to another (as we

know, "mitzvah goreres mitzvah") and the boy continued on his new path of living like an "ehrlicher Yid", launched by the Stoliner Rebbe's concern for him.

****** *The Mikva on Erev Rosh HaShana tips the scale in favor of the Yidden* ******

There was once a *shadchan*/matchmaker who suggested a match between Rav Pinchas of Koretz's daughter and one of the young men from the heilige *Rav Levi Yitzchak Barditchever*'s family. Rav Pinchas Koretzer was not so keen to the match and thought about it for some time, claiming that he did not think that the match was a good idea. After the Rav Pinchas sent word to call the *shadchan*. When the *shadchan* came he said that he agrees to the *shidduch* after all. He then explained what had brought about his change of heart: "Before the *Yamim No'raim* / Days of Awe, I saw a large wall erected in the Heavens between *Knesses Yisrael*/ the *Yidden* and Our Father in Heaven. This wall was a barrier that would have prevented our *tefillos* from ascending and being heard and accepted, Heaven forbid! Several *Tzaddikim* had tried their hands at canceling and annulling the decree – to no avail!

"However on *Erev Rosh HaShana*, when the heilige *Barditchever* entered the waters of the *Mikva* to purify himself for the oncoming heilige day, his *kavanos*/actions caused such a tumult, shaking the heavens, that this wall began to shake and fall apart! By the time he came out of the *Mikva*, the wall was almost totally collapsed and gone. I heard *Hashem* saying to the angels in Heaven, so to speak, 'Beware! Make sure that not a single brick or remnant of this wall remains. If Rav Levi Yitzchok sees this barrier, he will create a huge uproar in the Heavens, shaking them up and asking how anyone could even allow such a barrier to have been erected here in the first place!'

When I recognized his elevated level and ability to recede the harsh decree, I decided that It would be an honor to have my daughter join this family together through marriage!" (*Maamar Mordechai Nadvorna Rebbe*)

********Reb Zisha did Teshuva and caused a Yid to do teshuva********

There was once a Jew who heard about the great Rebbe Reb Zisha of Hanipoli, it was during the days of awe and repentance around Rosh HaShannah time and he traveled to meet the Rebb in person. When he arrived in the beis midrash he found Reb Zisha wrapped in Tallis and Tefillin reciting viduy, the confession while at the front of the shul an amazing spectacle was taking place: a man lay there on the floor wracking with sobs and crying out "O woe for me I am a sinner and a criminal and a good for nothing," as he sobbed and cried he banged his fists into the floor and writhed in sheer agony! Witnessing the newcomer's obvious bafflement, Reb Zisha turned to him and explained, "there was this man that was a grievous sinner, finally they caught him in the act and they brought him to Zisha, but he still

refused to confess and own up. Zisha tried to get him to repent to no avail, finally Zisha saw no choice so I bound and attached my soul to his and as Zisha recited viduy and confessed all of his terrible sins, the man became a baal teshuva." Eventually he became a true baal teshuva. (Siach Sarfei Kodesh) Tzaddikim were able to cause Yidden to do Teshuva standing in their place in shul. It is brought down that Rav Aharon Hagadol of Karlin made 84,000 Baalei Teshuva. The explanation given to this: Rav Aharon stood in front of the Aron Hakodesh and said a Drasha / sermon on Teshuva and thousands of people heard the Drasha and they all did Teshuva.

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