

א ב י ס כ ל ת ו ר ה !

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י' תשרי תשפ"ה · יום כיפור

Why do we blow the שופר on יום כיפור?

By Eyal Levin '26

The תורה describes that on the יובל year on כיפור there is a מצוה to blow the שופר: "וְהִעֲבַרְתָּ שׁוֹפָר תְּרוּעָה: שׁוֹפָר בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּעֶשְׂוֹר לַחֹדֶשׁ בְּיוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים תַּעֲבִירוּ שׁוֹפָר בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי, בְּכֹל-אֶרְצְכֶם", "Then you shall sound the horn loud; in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, the Day of Atonement, you shall have the horn sounded throughout your land". (כה:ט ויקרא). But what is the reason for blowing the שופר? While רש"י says that it is to remind everyone that it is יובל, according to the חזקוני, it is not meant for people to literally remember יובל, but rather that they feel happiness for the newly freed slaves, as well as the returned lands to everyone. One should not only remember all the obligations that one has to do, and all the profits that one will lose out on, but rejoice because of all the good that is happening, and all the מצוות one can perform.

However, considering that today, we don't count the יובל, nor do we fulfill its specific obligations, why do we blow the שופר after כיפור? According to a tradition quoted by תוספות, the reason is a זכר ליובל – a remembrance of יובל. According to this view, by blowing the שופר, we are reenacting the feeling of יובל.

However, תוספות rejects this opinion, noting that while when we had יובל we would only blow the שופר every 50 years, nowadays, we blow it annually. תוספות quotes the ר"י who offers yet another opinion – to remind us to eat our post כיפור meal. This seems to echo רש"י's opinion, that it is merely a reminder, (in

case it was for יובל, in the ר"י's case it is to eat food after כיפור). However, considering this is only a custom, why would we need to remind starving people to eat? Most people rush out of shul as soon as possible after יום כיפור (complaining why נעילה took too long) to eat. Rather, the ר"י is saying that we need to go from a holy and sinless state of fasting and carry over our perfect selves into our daily lives of eating and drinking. Therefore, the ר"י's reason actually seems to echo that of the חזקוני's, that we should be celebrating the spiritual aspect of the מצוה, rather than a mere proclamation, like רש"י.

There is a משל with a princess in a village, who the villagers always treated badly and even worse than a normal person. However whenever the king came, all the villagers acted nicely, and all the king saw was the princess being treated with utmost respect, the villagers constantly praised her, and gave her gifts. However, once the king left, the villagers continued to mistreat the princess. We should not be like those villagers! If the princess is our נשמה, and ה' is the king, then we should not only change our actions for יום כיפור, when we have the most power to influence the outcomes of our fate, but take our changed actions with us into the physical world in which we live, keeping our improvement forever.

May we be גמר to improve ourselves and have a חתימה טובה!

Why Do We Want to Emulate Angels on

יום כיפור?

By Tobie Ostroff '27

On יום כיפור, we do many things to make us like angels. We wear white, we don't eat, and we daven all day. But if what makes humans so special is that we have free will (we don't act on instinct like animals, and we aren't fully pure like angels), why are we trying to be like angels on the holiest day of the year? Why can't we be just like ourselves?

While we celebrate our ability to make choices and have free will, we strive to get to where the angels are in a way they never can: by CHOOSING to get there. The reason why free will is so important is because when we choose to do a מצווה, it's that much greater. After all, we could've chosen not to. We could've chosen to do the bad thing. By showing up to Shul, it shows Hashem that we are using His gift for מצווה. It shows we are thankful that we have free will, that we want to be better people, and that we are choosing to get better and closer to Him. We are saying "Look! I am choosing to be close to You like an angel is!"

Okay, so we understand why we want to act like angels, but why do we wear white? (There is an idea about how white and purity go hand-in-hand, but I will focus on another answer.) Imagine we are the candidate for a job, and ה' is the CEO. When you want the job, you dress for the part. So, when you want to be as close to ה' as an angel is, you act the part and dress that part. Think of what little kids dress up as for פורים: policemen, princesses, etc. They dress up like this because they admire those figures. So, too we dress up because we look up to angels as our role models. We really aspire to be like angels to climb our way there by choosing to get close to ה'. Therefore, we want to emulate angles because we are showing ה' that we are choosing to be close to Him. May we strive to come closer to ה' and become as close as angels, if not closer!



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