

Yah is King!

The Rabbinic Literature (*Mishnah*) paints a vivid picture of Adam's understanding of his *Divine Creator* as *King of the Universe*: "It was late on the sixth day when God began the creation of man, when Adam opened his eyes and saw the beautiful world around him. Adam knew at once that God had created the world and him. His first words were: 'The Lord is King forever and ever' (Ex. 15:18 '*Adonai Yimloch Leolam Vaed*'). The echo of his voice rang throughout the world. 'Now the whole world will know that I am King,' God said and He was very pleased." Thus, on the moment man's creation we have the recognition of *Adonai* as King of the World (*The Coronation @ Creation*).

Today, in *Yom Teruah* morning services in synagogues around the world, when the Ark with the *Torah Scroll(s)* is opened, the congregation chants with the cantor (*chazzan*) the *Supreme King (Melech Elyon)* verses – the most important single theme of the *Yom Teruah* service (pp. 366-373 of the *Artscroll Machzor*). Can you responsively repeat with me: *Adonai Yimloch Leolam Vaed*. Earlier in today's service the second poem's response was: *Adonai is King! Adonai was King! Forever Shall Adonai be King!* Last night immediately after the *Shema* we also proclaimed with a loud voice: *Adonai is King! Adonai was King! Forever Shall Adonai be King!*

The blasts of the *shofar* remind us that the King (*HaMelech*) is coming back. The apostle Paul in describing the 2nd coming of the Messiah, which is also called the Blessed Hope, tells us in *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*: "13Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest who have no hope. 14For if we believe that Yeshua died and rose again, so with Him God will also bring those who have fallen asleep in Yeshua. 15For this we tell you, by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall in no way precede those who are asleep. 16For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the blast of God's shofar, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left behind, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air—and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words."

The *commanding shout (Tekiah G'dolah)* mentioned by the apostle Paul above is associated with the day and season of *Yom Teruah*. This will also be the time of the proclamation and coronation of Messiah as King (the sons of new man Adam then will also say *Adonai Yimloch Leolam Vaed*). In the Hebrew Scriptures (*Tanakh*) it is written: "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (*Daniel 7:9-14*). The Son of Man is returning in the clouds and these are His witnesses (Believers in the Messiah) as it is written: "So then, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us, too, put aside every impediment—that is, the sin which easily hampers our forward movement—and keep running with endurance in the contest set before us" (*Heb. 12:1*). We can compare the account in Daniel above: "13I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" with what John saw in Revelation: "After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things.' Instantly I was in the Spirit, and there before me in heaven stood a throne, and on the throne someone was sitting" (*Rev. 4:1-2*). The trumpet John heard was the sound of the *shofar*, the trumpet, *Yom Teruah* was speaking with him. On the day of the Awakening and the loud shout (*Teruah*), similar to the experience of the Children of Israel before Mount Sinai: "18Now the entire

Mount Sinai was in smoke, because Adonai had descended upon it in fire. The smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace. The whole mountain quaked greatly. ¹⁹When the sound of the shofar grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him with a thunderous sound” (Ex. 19:18-19).

It is not surprising that the *Conference of American Rabbis* holds fervently that the gates of heaven are opened on *Yom Teruah*: *“Open the gates, that the righteous nation may enter, the one that remains faithful. (Isa 26:2). Adonai has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness; I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to Adonai: This is the gate of Adonai; the righteous will enter through it” (Ps 118:18-20). “Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up, you everlasting doors: that the King of glory may come in” (Psalm 24:7) ♪ Open up you ancient doors, fling wide you gates, and let the King of Glory come in and take His place ♪* (from the song we just sang, *King of Glory* by Andrew Gudgeon).

In the *Hebrew Scriptures* kings are enthroned in a four-part ceremony:

First by the giving of a decree (“*6I have set up My king upon Zion, My holy mountain.*” ⁷*I will declare the decree of Adonai. He said to me: “You are My Son—today I have become Your Father” Psalm 2:6-7*) and the giving of a rod/scepter, which is the emblem of a king. Can you remember that Scripture mentions the scepter and rod of Messiah?

Secondly the ceremony of the taking of the throne: the king sits on his throne and is anointed as king. *Yeshua* came in the office of a prophet as *Messiah Ben Yosef*, resurrected and is currently exercising continually the office of *Cohen HaGadol* (the *High Priest of Heaven*) and will return in the office of King of Kings as *Messiah Ben David*.

Thirdly there was an acclamation/proclamation: ‘Long Live the King!’ This is followed by the clapping of hands: *“1For the music director, a psalm for the sons of Korah. 2Clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of joy! 3For Adonai Elyon is awesome, a great King over all the earth. 4He subdues peoples under us, and nations under our feet. 5He chooses our inheritance for us, the glory of Jacob whom He loved. Selah! 6God is gone up amidst shouting, Adonai amidst the sound of the shofar. 7Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! 8For God is the King of all the earth. Sing praises with a skillful song.” (Psalm 47:1-8).* Last night we shared that *Psalm 47* is the coronation Psalm. Verse 6 is the *shout and shofar* of *Yom Teruah* and verse 7-8 is the shouting and proclamation of the king with song!

Fourthly the kingdom subjects come and visit the monarch after he has taken the throne: *“16Then all the survivors from all the nations that attacked Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, Adonai-Tzva’ot, and to celebrate Sukkot. 17Furthermore, if any of the nations on earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Adonai-Tzva’ot, they will have no rain. 18If the Egyptians do not go up and celebrate, they will have no rain. Instead, there will be the plague that Adonai will inflict on the nations that do not go up to celebrate Sukkot. 19This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate Sukkot” (Zechariah 14:16-19).* Thus, all the inhabitants of the earth must come every year and visit the King of Kings during *Sukkot* after *Yom Teruah*: *“‘For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me,’ declares Adonai, ‘So your offspring and your name will endure.’ And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me,’ says Adonai” (Isa. 66:22-23).* Is there anything left to be said/added?

In Jewish thought the books are opened on the Day of Judgment (*Yom HaDin*, another name associated with *Yom Teruah*) are the Book of the Righteous (*Tzadik*), the Book of the Wicked and the Book of Life and Remembrance (*Sefer Zikkaron*). Thus we greet one another on *Yom Teruah* with *“May you be inscribed in the Book of Life – LeShanah Tovah Tikatevu.”* The Full blessing is: *“L’eShanah Tovah Tikatevu V’eTichatemu L’eAltar L’eChaim Tovim UL’eShalom – May you be inscribed and sealed immediately for a good and sweet year, a good life and for peace!”* L’Shanah Tovah v’Metukah and Chag Yom Teruah Sameach!