

Halachos for the month of Tishrei by Rabbi A. Z. Saunders

Rosh Hashanah

- 1- From Maariv on the first night until Neilah we change the end of the 3rd Brocho of the Amidah from 'HOKEIL HAKODOSH' to HAMELECH HAKODOSH. If this is not said you must repeat the Amidah.
 - 2- We also add in other statements into the first and last two Brochot of the Amidah. If omitted do not repeat the Amidah.
 - 3- It is customary to dip a piece of apple in honey and make a prayer for a happy and sweet new year. There are other customs regarding eating certain foods. These include; pomegranates, leeks, fish and fish heads. In all of these cases the blessing recited, is what counts.
 - 4- A man is obligated to hear 30 Shofar blasts on each of the days of Rosh Hashanah. Any man who can't get to shul and lives within 1.5 miles of the shul should call me (347 206 9853) and ask me to arrange someone to come and blow shofar for them at home.
 - 5- It is customary to go to a river or lake containing fish to perform 'Tashlich' (lit. 'Throwing'). This can be done up to and including Hoshanah Rabbah. So people can do this on a weekday when they can go by car.
- 10 days of Penitence
- 6- We substitute the ending of the 11th Brocho of the Amidah to 'Hamelech Hamishpot', if omitted do not repeat the Amidah.
 - 7- It is advisable to be extra vigilant with the keeping of Torah and Mitzvot in this period.

Yom Kippur

- 8- In addition to not performing work like on Shabbat, there are 5 additional pleasures that are forbidden on Yom Kippur. These are;
 - 9- Not eating or drinking
 - 10- Not anointing oneself with perfume, aftershave or makeup, (deodorant is permitted)
 - 11- Not washing oneself unless one is dirty
 - 12- Not wearing leather shoes
 - 13- Not having sexual intercourse or any sexual contact
 - 14- One should only wash from one's fingers till ones knuckles after using the toilet. However, if one is soiled or dirty one can wash even with soap.
- ANYONE WHO HAS ISSUES WITH FASTING OR NEEDS TO TAKE MEDICATION SHOULD EMAIL ME FOR HALACHIC GUIDELINES AT zevisaunders@gmail.com or call me directly.

Succot

- 15- Every male is obligated to eat in the Succoh on the first night of Succot.
- 16- A Succoh must have a minimum of 2 and a half walls with a minimum area of 60 cm by 60 cm.
- 17- The walls can be made of anything that will be able to withstand normal conditions for 7 days.

- 18- The Schach (the stuff we put on the roof) must be made from something that grows from the ground. The Rabbis have also instituted that it must be something that doesn't have a bad smell.
- 19- The Schach must also be loose fitting and not made into any permanent structure made for regular use e.g. a beam of wood.
- 20- The Schach must be directly under the sky with nothing overhanging the Schach. This is especially relevant for people living in flats. Balconies directly underneath another balcony are not a place for a Succoh. In this instance you should either make one on ground level or come and eat in the Shul Succoh.
- 21- **THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE SUCCOH IS THAT THERE MUST BE MORE SHADE THEN SUNLIGHT.** Therefore, one should ensure there is enough Schach to shade the Succoh. If there is more sunlight, then one must not eat in the Succoh until this has been rectified.
- 22- However, one must ensure the Schach is not thick enough to prevent heavy rain coming through otherwise it will be classed as a permanent roof and is invalid.
- 23- All bread, cakes and biscuits should be eaten in the Succoh and the Blessing 'Leyshev Ba- Succoh' should be made. If it is raining, one is excused from sitting in the Succoh.
- 24- If it is raining when one starts his meal, he may finish in the house even if the sun comes out.
- 25- On the first 2 nights one needs to wait till it stops raining as it is a Mitzvah to eat in the Succoh. If after a few hours it is still raining, one should make Kiddush and eat a Kzayis of bread in the Succoh without a Brocho and finish off in the house. If it stops raining before one falls asleep, then one should go back in and eat a Kzayis again.
- Lulov and Esrog
- 26- A lulov set should be bought from a competent source to ensure that it is Kosher. Then all one needs to do is ensure the Haddasim and Aravot (myrtles and willows) remain fresh and lifelike. It is not uncommon for the Willows to need replacing.
- 27- On the first 2 days of Succot the Lulov and Esrog must belong to you for the fulfilment of the Mitzvah. If you are a member of the Shul, it is better to use the Shuls which you have a part ownership of than borrow from a friend.
- 28- If you are not a member of the Shul you must ask someone to GIVE you theirs as a present so that you may fulfil the Mitzvah. You must return the ownership of the Lulov and Esrog back to the original owner after use.
- 29- Once you have lifted the Lulov and Esrog in the air you have fulfilled the Mitzvah. Therefore, in order to recite a blessing prior to fulfilling the Mitzvah, the Esrog must be picked up with the 'pitom' (small perturbing thing at the top) upside down i.e the stalk bit should be facing up right. It should be held like this for the duration of the Berocho and then revert it to the right way up.

30- The Rabbis instituted a Mitzvah to waive the Lulov and Esrog in all the 4 directions and then up and down.

31- It is customary to do so 8 times during Hallel at the times printed in the Machzor or Siddur. 32- This should be done regardless of whether one is in Shul or not.