

**D'var Torah by Rabbi M. Jaroslawicz for Rosh Hashana 5775 (2014)**

Rosh Hashanah in the Hebrew month of Tishrei. In Tehillim (Psalm 81) the Passuk says, "Tikku Ba'Chodesh Shofar BaKeseh Lyom Chagainu," "Blow the Shofar at the moon's renewal at the time appointed for the day of our festivals." Many commentators translate the word 'BaKeseh' to mean "Hidden," and not 'at the time appointed.'

Hidden? Hidden from what? They go on to explain that Rosh Hashanah, unlike any other Jewish holiday, is the only one that comes out at the very beginning of the month, and therefore the moon is still 'Hidden', not yet visible in the sky, because of its position in relation to the sun in the lunar cycle.

Many explain this Passuk to mean that by having Rosh Hashana at the beginning of the month, in addition to the fact that we do not bless the new moon the Shabbos prior to Rosh Hashanah, the holiday remains hidden from the Satan, confuses him, and makes it much more difficult for him to carry out his evil doings against us.

One would think that the Satan, as smart as he is, would have figured out this "trick" by now, and be waiting for us regardless???

The Chidah quotes a meaning that is slightly different and makes it easier to understand how we manage to put the Satan off, year after year.

When Hashem created the world, he put in place a condition for its continued survival. That condition was that the Jewish nation would accept the Torah and heed its commandments. At the time, G-d called upon two witnesses who would always be around to attest to the fulfillment or lack of fulfillment of this condition. Those witnesses were the Sun and the Moon. Always there, always available, seeing and knowing all that is occurring on planet Earth.

On Rosh Hashanah, the day of judgement, Satan goes out of his way to bring negative reports about the Jewish people in order to try and extract punishment from G-d upon the B'nai Yisroel.

It is for this reason that Hashem made Rosh Hashanah on the first day of the month. The moon is nowhere to be found. Try as hard as he can, Satan can only bring one witness to testify on his behalf, the Sun. The moon is "Hidden." Halacha dictates that it requires TWO witnesses to find someone guilty. Satan is useless in his attempts, and the Jewish people are saved by the grace of G-d.

May Hashem watch over His children, utilize every trick and loophole available to be able to grant us a healthy and sweet year. And in return, we should push ourselves to perform in a manner that will enable us to find Hashem's grace for our actions and good deeds, and we should not have to depend on His tricks and loopholes.

Ke'Sivah Va'Chasimah Tovah, and...

Have a Great Shabbos.