

We shall describe the weightiness of the holiness of this day-- because it is great and awesome.

On [this day] You take up [the power of] Your **kingship: Your throne** is founded in *chesed*, and You sit upon it, truly worthy [of doing so]. Truly [worthy] because You are judge, advocate, expert, witness, scribe, notary, and clerk, recalling everything forgotten [by others]. You open the **Book of Records**, reading from it, and the signature of every person is in it [confirming their actions].

A great *shofar* is sounded; a Still, Small Voice is heard. The angels tremble, gripped by anxious shaking, and they say, "It is the day of judgment!" Because even the many dwellers of the Heavens are called to judgment, and are not [automatically] seen by You as innocent under the law. And all the inhabitants of the earth pass before You, like a flock; like a herdsman shepherding his flock, passing each sheep beneath his staff [as they enter the fold or pasture]-- even so do You cause all living things to pass before you, counted, marked off, and considered; You consider carefully what is to be granted to every creature, and You write the decree of decision [giving their verdict].

On Rosh Hashanah they are written, and on the fast of Yom Kippur they are sealed: how many shall leave [the world] and how many be created [into it]. Who shall live and who shall die, who after long life and who not after long life, who by fire and who by water, who by the sword and who by animal, who by hunger and who by thirst, who by earthquake and who by plague, who by hanging and who by stoning. Who shall be at rest, and who shall wander, who shall live in peace, and who shall be torn [by ordeals], who shall be well and who shall suffer, who shall become poor and who shall become rich, who shall fail and who shall succeed.

But *teshuvah*, *tefillah*, and *tzedakah* avert the **evilness** of the decree of decision.

VOCABULARY:

weightiness	greatness, solemnity, seriousness	notary	a clerk authorized to put an official seal on a document, which makes it binding
advocate	a lawyer	verdict	the decision, ruling, or sentence of the judge or jury in a case
scribe	one who writes down what is being said or done in a court of law or a king's court	avert	to prevent or to defend against

***Book of Records** In ancient times, kings had everything that happened during their reign recorded by their scribes in a journal, usually called the Book of Records, or the Chronicle of the King. This was so that he might always know what had gone on, who had served him well and who had turned against him, and so forth. This sort of Book of Records was the ancestor of modern government databases, police records, and newspapers.

***Still, Small Voice** see 1 Kings 19:8-13

וּנְתַנְהָה תִּקְוָה קִדְשֵׁת הַיּוֹם, כִּי הוּא נוֹרָא וְאִיוֹם:

וּבּו תִּנְשֵׂא מַלְכוּתְךָ, וְיִכּוֹן בְּחִסְדֵּךָ כִּסְאֲךָ, וְתִשָּׁב עָלָיו בְּאַמְתּוֹ. אַמְתּוֹ כִּי אַתָּה הוּא דִין וּמוֹכִיחַ, וְיֹדֵעַ וְעֹד, וְכוֹתֵב וְחוֹתֵם, וְסוֹפֵר וּמוֹנֵה, וְתוֹפֵר כָּל הַנְּשָׁכָחוֹת: וְתִפְתַּח אֶת סֵפֶר הַזְּכוּרוֹת, וּמֵאֱלֹו יִקְרָא, וְחוֹתֵם יָד כָּל אָדָם בּוֹ.

וּבְשׂוֹפֵר גָּדוֹל יִתְקַע, וְקוֹל דְּמָמָה יִדְקֶה יִשְׁמַע: וּמִלְאָכִים יִחַפְזוּן, וְחִיל וְרַעְדָה יִאֲחִזּוּן, וְיִאֲמְרוּ הִנֵּה יוֹם הַדִּין, לִפְקוּד עַל צְבֵא מְרוֹם בַּדִּין, כִּי לֹא יִזְכּוּ בְעֵינֶיךָ בַּדִּין. וְכָל בָּאֵי עוֹלָם יַעֲבְרוּן לִפְנֶיךָ כְּבָנֵי מְרוֹן. כְּבִקְרַת רוּעָה עֲדָרוֹ, מַעֲבִיר צֹאנוֹ תַּחַת שִׁבְטוֹ, כֵּן תַּעֲבִיר וְתִסְפֹּר וְתִמְנֶה, וְתִפְקוּד נִפְשׁ כָּל חַי, וְתִחַתּוֹף קִצְבָה לְכָל בְּרִיָה, וְתִכְתּוֹב אֶת גְּזַר דִּינֵם.

בְּרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה יִכְתְּבוּן, וּבַיּוֹם צוֹם כְּפוּר יִחַתְמוּן, כְּמָה יַעֲבְרוּן, וְכְמָה יִבְרֹאוּן: מִי יִחִיָה, וּמִי יָמוּת: מִי בְקִצּוֹ, וּמִי לֹא בְקִצּוֹ: מִי בְאַשׁ, וּמִי בַמַּיִם: מִי בַחֲרֵב, וּמִי בַחַיָּה: מִי בַמַּגְפָּה, מִי בַחֲנִיקָה, וּמִי בַסִּקִּילָה: מִי יָנוּחַ, וּמִי יָנוּעַ: מִי יִשְׁקֵט, וּמִי יִפְרוֹץ: מִי יִשְׁלֹו, וּמִי יִתִּיָסֵר: מִי יַעֲנִי, וּמִי יַעֲשֶׂר: מִי יִשְׁפֹּל, וּמִי יָרוּם.

וְתִשׁוּבָה וְתַפִּלָּה וְצְדָקָה
מַעֲבִירִין אֶת רַע הַגְּזֵרָה.