

9 When we really begin a new year it is decided, and when we actually repent it is determined:

who shall be truly alive and who shall merely exist;  
who shall be happy and who shall be miserable;

who shall attain fulfillment in their day and who shall not attain fulfillment in their day;

who shall be tormented by the fire of ambition and who shall be overcome by the waters of failure;

who shall be pierced by the sharp sword of envy and who shall be torn by the wild beast of resentment;  
who shall hunger for companionship and who shall thirst for approval;

who shall be shattered by the earthquake of social change and who shall be plagued by the pressures of conformity;

who shall be strangled by insecurity and who shall be stoned into submission;

who shall be content and who shall wander in search of satisfaction;

who shall be serene and who shall be distraught;

who shall be at ease and who shall be afflicted with anxiety;

who shall be poor in their own eyes and who shall be rich in tranquility;

who shall be brought low with futility and who shall be exalted through achievement.

But repentance, prayer, and good deeds have the power to change the character of our lives.

Let us resolve to repent, to pray, and to do good deeds so that we may begin a truly new year.

### Third B'rakhah: God's Holiness

May our sanctification ascend to You,  
for You are our Sovereign, God.

U-NETANEH TOKEF—THE SACRED POWER OF THE DAY  
*The ark is opened.*

Let us speak of the sacred power of this day—profound and awe-inspiring. On it, Your sovereignty is celebrated, and Your throne, from which You rule in truth, is established with love. Truly, You are Judge and Prosecutor, Expert, and Witness, completing the indictment, bringing the case, and enumerating the counts. You recall all that is forgotten, and will open the book of remembrance, which speaks for itself, for our own hands have signed the page.

The great shofar will be sounded and the still small voice will be heard.

Angels will be alarmed, seized with fear and trembling, declaring, "This very day is the Day of Judgment"—for even the hosts of heaven are judged; no one is innocent in Your sight. All that lives on earth will pass before You like a flock of sheep. As a shepherd examines the flock, making each sheep pass under the staff, so You will review and number and count, judging each living being, determining the fate of everything in creation, inscribing their destiny.

On Rosh Hashanah it is written, and on the Fast of the Day of Atonement it is sealed!—

*B'rosh ha-shanah yikkateivun, u-v'yom tzom kippur yehateimun.*

How many will pass on, and how many will be born;  
who will live and who will die;  
who will live a long life and who will come to an untimely end;  
who will perish by fire and who by water; who by sword and who by beast; who by hunger and who by thirst; who by earthquake and who by plague.

who will be strangled and who will be stoned;  
who will be at peace and who will be troubled;  
who will be serene and who will be disturbed;  
who will be tranquil and who will be tormented;  
who will be impoverished and who will be enriched;  
who will be brought low, and who will be raised up.