

B'Rosh Ha'Shanah Yikateivun

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בְּרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה יִכְתְּבוּן וּבְיוֹם כְּפֹוֹר יִחְתְּמוּן

B'Rosh ha-Shanah yikateivun, u'v'Yom tzom Kippur ye'chateimun

On Rosh Ha-Shanah their destiny is inscribed, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed.

These words are repeated several times across the High Holyday period. They speak of the two High Holyday themes of "inscribing" and "sealing", where God "inscribes" our fate on Rosh Hashanah, but the final decree is not "sealed" until Yom Kippur. Thus the 10 days of repentance take on an urgency, this is our last time to make a positive difference to what has been decreed for us.... It thereby reminds us of the constant human possibility to change, to live better lives, to treat others better, and to return to a Godly way of living.