

Erev Rosh Hashanah

5783 Gematria

Gematria, for those who know Hebrew, is a fun way to find hidden meaning in numbers because each Hebrew letter has a specific numerical value and therefore every Hebrew word and every Hebrew phrase has a number associated with it. And so, tonight, as we begin the year 5783 I want to share with you seven different phrases each of which uses words with letters that add up to 783. Just like we refer to the year 2022 as the year 22 we refer to the Hebrew year that we begin this evening, as Tav, shin, peh, gimel, which are letters that add up to 783 without the 5,000 at the beginning.

The first phrase with the numerical value of 783 is:

Praised is God who is to be praised forever	Baruch Adonai Ham'vorach L'olam Va-ed	ברוך הוא המבורך לעולם ועד
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This phrase is the response to the Bar'chu, the call to prayer, that is at the beginning of each morning service and each evening service each and every day of the year. I pray that 5783 will be a year in which we respond to the blessings of life with gratitude and praising God who is to be praised.

The second phrase is:

In the fountain of Torah	B'ma-ayan HaTorah	בمعنى התורה
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May this be a year in which we will be nurtured by the wisdom and guidance of that which is found in the fountain of Torah.

The third phrase is:

On Shabbat and Holidays	B'Shabbat uv'Yom Tov	בשבת ובימים טוב
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May this be a year in which our souls are nurtured by the observance of Shabbat and holidays throughout the year.

With the 4th, 5th and 6th phrases we pray that 5783 will be a year in which

Peace and blessing will come upon us

HaBa-ah Aleinu Bracha v'Shalom

הבא עלינו ברכה ושלום

and there will be

Healthy and Flourishing children

Yeladim B'ri-im V'Rananim

ילדים בריאים ורעננים

In a Joyous time

L'zman Sason

לזמן שsson

The 7th phrase with words whose letters add up to 783, Tav, Shin, Peh Gimmel is:

His reward will be great

S'charo Harbei M'od

שכרו הרבה מואיד

We pray that this year will be a year in which each and every one of us receives a great reward from our response of gratitude to the blessings of our lives, the observance of Shabbat and Holidays, the study of Torah and all that we do as partners with God to bring goodness into the world.

For those who are here in the sanctuary, I have made copies of these phrases so that you can take them home with you and for those who are in our zoom room, you can get a copy of these phrases by going to the resource tab on our synagogue website and clicking 5783 Gematria.

L'shanah Tovah Tikateivu. May we all be inscribed for a good year 5783 in which all of the blessings of that its numerical value suggests and many more.

Please rise as we turn to page 58 in the mahzor.