



the end & the beginning

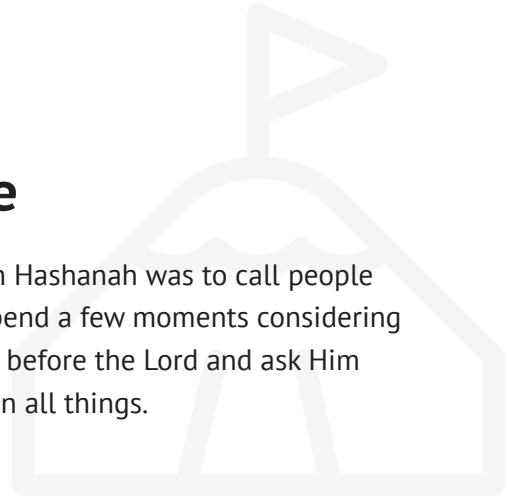
SUMMARY | Many of us have traditions for New Year's that are a significant part of how we mark the turning of the page and fresh start that it symbolizes. In Jewish culture, Rosh Hashanah (Jewish civil new year) is marked by the blowing of trumpets—an event preceded by the reading of [Psalm 47](#) no less than seven times! As we approach another year, let's consider [Psalm 47](#) and learn how it might help us prepare for a new beginning.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Do you have any New Year's traditions? What are they, and why are they important to you?
2. As you approach the new year, where is your focus—anticipation of the new year or reflection on the past year? How does [Psalm 47](#) look back, and how does the psalmist anticipate the future to come?
3. Why is it so hard to focus on the greatness of God instead of the size of the challenges we face? In [Psalm 47](#), the greatness of God is front and center. How can that reminder equip you to face the year ahead?
4. When we think of someone being worthy or unworthy of something, what are we saying (or thinking) about that person? I would suggest that this is the same idea that draws [Psalm 47](#) to a close—only it is about the worthiness of God because of His deeds on behalf of Israel. How has God blessed you in the past year? Give Him grateful praise.

Challenge

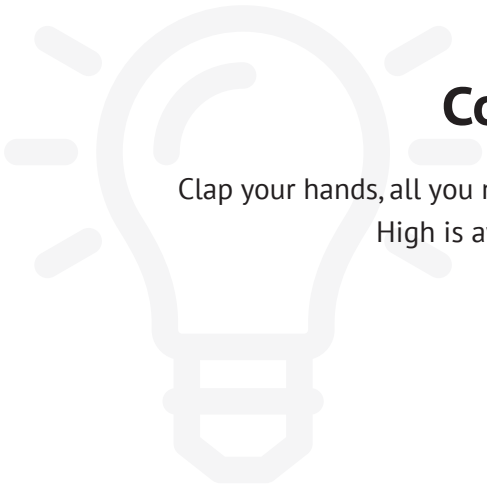
Part of the reason for blowing trumpets for Rosh Hashanah was to call people to “wake up” and repent of past failures and sin. Spend a few moments considering anything of which you should make confession before the Lord and ask Him to restore you and guide you in all things.



Commit To Memory

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth

[Psalm 47:1-2](#)



Prayer

Father, a new year can be both uncertain and filled with opportunity. Help me this coming year to walk with You, allow You to reign in my life, and seek your guidance through the unknowns that are ahead. Thank You for always being with me and for being my God. May my life in the year to come be pleasing to You. Amen.

