



Rosh Hashana Message 5786

As Rosh Hashanah nears once more, I would like to focus on one of the most famous sayings we have for this time of the year. We wish people a "Shanah Tovah Umetukah", which translates to have a good and sweet new year.

The question that many ask is why it is necessary to wish people a good and sweet new year. Why wouldn't it be enough to say have a good new year and this will automatically be sweet?

To answer this question, we need to look at our lives and how different situations develop at times. Some things happened to us that are unquestionably good. These things bring with them blessings and happiness and are pleasurable experiences to go through.

However, some things happen in our lives that are not necessarily filled with goodness but, in the end, have a meaningful purpose to them. For example, a person might try to do business in a certain industry. He tries to sell and makes several connections but he realises that there isn't a real market in this field and he needs to pivot to do something else. The work that he has done in this particular industry has not been wasted because, through this effort, he found a better source of livelihood. There were, however, months of hard work that brought no money and might have been extremely frustrating for the individual going through this trial. In this instance, the ending was good, but the journey through this ordeal was certainly tough.

When we wish others that they should have a happy and sweet new year, what we are trying to say is that we wish them a year where the blessings will be obvious throughout the journey and not just in hindsight.

Ultimately, everything that happens to us in our lives is orchestrated by G-d and for our good, but not everything is obvious to the onlookers or the individuals going through it. May we merit this year to have a year that brings with it blessings that are visibly good from beginning to end.

Wishing you a Shanah Tovah Umetukah,

Rabbi Dovid Eisenberg