



Jerusalem Acrylics by Michoel Michnik

**Av 20**

Rabbi Levi Yitzchak Schneerson, renowned scholar and father of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, passed away.

**The Month of Elul**

One of the major accusations often leveled at the CEO of the universe is inaccessibility. These charges are entirely unfounded. G-d is everywhere, and from there He awaits your call. And just to prove it, one month before Rosh Hashana, He devotes an entire month to being as approachable as an Al-mighty Creator can get.

Think of it as though the big boss took a stroll through the cubicles, happily chatting with anyone who approaches, giving each his full attention and a warm smile. That's what our sages mean when they call Elul the Month of Divine Compassion. During these days, you can repair all that went amiss from the entire year—with study, with charity and good deeds, with meditation and prayer. That is also why we blow the shofar every day of this month (except Shabbat), as a wake-up

call to prepare for the magnificent days to come. We also have our Mezuzot and Tefillin checked during this month.

**The Holy Temple**

The place where King Solomon built the altar of the Holy Temple was the same place where Abraham built an altar and bound his son Isaac, where Noah built an altar upon his departure from the ark, where Cain and Abel brought their offerings and where Adam brought his sacrifice after he was created. There too, Adam's creation took place.

Among the miracles associated with the Temple was the fact that, although hundreds of thousands of pilgrims would visit Jerusalem for the Festivals, no one ever lacked a place to stay.

Though the Temple is destroyed, one wall has remained intact throughout the centuries—the Western Wall. All over the world, Jews pray three times daily toward the site of the Temple, the gate through which all our prayers are heard and answered. As our sages tell us, "The Divine Presence never departs from the Western Wall".

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