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# The Koren Mesorat HaRav Kinot, The Complete Tisha B'Av Service With Commentary By Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik (Hebrew/English Edition) (Hebrew Edition)



## Synopsis

The Koren Masorat HaRav Kinot provides the complete Tisha B'Av Service and an exceptional commentary by seminal scholar and leader, The Rav, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik. Rabbi Soloveitchik's towering intellect shines through the commentary, which is based upon transcripts of his learning sessions. His exceptional insights and analyses of the themes and contemporary significance of Tisha B'Av are complemented by a new English translation of Kinot by Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb and Binyamin Shalom and an eloquent English translation of the tefilla by Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks. Edited by Rabbi Simon Poser; published in cooperation with the Orthodox Union.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I meant to buy two of these this year for Tisha B'av but ended up with only one and my husband borrowed it with much pleasure though he was at first put off by it. This edition of The Koren Mesorat HaRav Kinot, The Complete Tisha B'Av Service with Commentary by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik is dedicated to Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, a notable Modern Orthodox rabbi. I found the translation to be beautiful and smooth though my husband disagrees. He did, however, appreciate the commentary by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik intensely and was able to use it for a shiur on Tisha B'av.

This publication is noteworthy, and deserving of being added to ones collection for several reasons. In no special order, the reasons include that this is a beautifully printed volume, that helps make accurate reading of the Hebrew no problem. Second, and more important, it gives the reader

worthwhile information about the setting, and layers of meanings in these kinot. Rav Soloveitchik was a giant, and this volume gives us some of his insights and understandings of the kinot. It adds in helping to bring their impact to the reader of the 21st. century.

great book

I was looking for a siddur to help me relate emotionally to the day of Tisha B'Av. The complete service and moving kinnos were exactly right

This beautiful Sefer with the textual brilliance of Koren and the unparalleled commentary of the Rav are essential to the experience of Tisha B'av.

This is a very great addition to our Shul's Sedorim. Excellent font sizes and commentary. A must for every Synagogue.

I was unable to post this review where it belonged because has not opened a place for it yet. The Koren Rosh Hashana Mahzor is as splendid, informative, and easy to use as the highly acclaimed bestselling Koren Siddur published in 2009. Koren will publish a mahzor for the holiday of Yom Kippur in 2012. What is a siddur and a mahzor, how does the Koren edition differ from that of other publishers, and why is it better? The noun siddur is a Hebrew word meaning "order" and refers to the order of prayers. Mahzor means "cycle," and is used today, as we will explain, to refer to the services for the various holidays that reoccur each year. Both the siddur and mahzor are anthologies of widely divergent ideas that were composed by Jews - and non-Jews in some instances, like the ma tovu ohalekha prayer that is at the beginning of the siddur and mahzor - with different ideologies over a long period of time. The two books contains pieces from the Bible, such as Psalms, and poems written in the sixteenth century by mystics, such as the prayer welcoming the Sabbath called in Hebrew lecha dodi. Originally, the Jewish prayer book was called either siddur or mahzor and was a single volume containing the prayers recited on all occasions, the prayers said daily as well as those recited on the various holidays of the years, such as Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot. However, as time passed, more and more material was added to the services. It soon became impossible to include all of this material in a single volume. As a result, separate books were arranged for each holiday. In order to differentiate them, the books for the weekly services and the Sabbath were called siddur and those for the holidays were named

mahzors. This new edition is the mahzor for the holiday of Rosh Hashana. Many Jews use the siddur and mahzor to pray, but the Hebrew word for prayer is tefillah, which is based on a root that means "to judge oneself." Prayer in Judaism is more than a petition to God, the basic meaning of the Latin and Greek word upon which "prayer" is based. It is a time of reflection, of inner judgment, of considering change and improvement. By incorporating the wide spectrum of views into the siddur, the rational and the mystical, the old and relatively new, Jews are capable, if they understand the prayers, to reflect on what is being said, the history of their religion, the concerns of its adherents, see if and how the prayers relate to their lives, and ask themselves whether the prayer they are reading can help them develop themselves and improve society. Does this new Koren mahzor improve upon those that were previously published and give Jews a better understanding what they are reading? The answer is an emphatic "yes." Indeed this is one of the primary purposes of the new mahzor. It aids Jews in acquiring all of the above-mentioned benefits by its manner of presentation, its comprehensive introduction, its translations, and its commentaries. The following innovations of this new mahzor are a small sample of how it enhances its users' period of prayer and their understanding of Judaism.\* It is highly significant that the English translation and commentary is by Sir Jonathan Sacks, the chief rabbi of the British Empire. Rabbi Sacks introduces the mahzor with an instructive twenty-three page Introduction. He discusses, among other subjects, the ideas underlying the holiday prayers, individual responsibility, and what Rosh Hashana says to us. Rabbi Sacks' English is impeccable.\* Both the Hebrew and English are written with a beautiful font especially designed to enhance the mahzor, the same unique font used in the 2009 siddur.\* Both the Hebrew and English are generally written with poetic spacing that, unlike run-on sentences, prompts readers to think and consider the meaning of each phrase, as in the Yigdal ("Great") prayer on page 98: Great! Is the living God and praised. He exists, and His existence is beyond time. He is one, and there is no unity like His. Unfathomable, His Oneness is infinite. He has neither bodily form nor substance; His holiness is beyond compare.\* Many pages have comprehensive rational commentaries. On pages 358 and 359, for example, the commentary explains the prayer and offers the view of Maimonides about the existence of life after death.\* The mahzor includes a section containing the practices followed by some Jews of the annulment of vows, prozbul, and tashlikh with elaborate interesting explanations of these practices.\* There is, among many other inclusions, a 70 page section on additional piyutim, poem prayers, which some Jews like to say, with explanations; and a 16 page halakhic, legal, guide containing the laws of the Rosh Hashana holiday.\* Many synagogue attendees cannot read Hebrew and do not know how to navigate through a siddur, so the editors placed an English transliteration of the two types of

mourners' kaddish in the easily accessible last pages of the mahzor. These are just some of the many innovations introduced in the Koren Mahzor. Synagogues should replace their current mahzors and give their parishioners this magnificent more comprehensible and informative volume.

Rabbi Soloveitchik's oral discourses on the Tisha B'Av Kinot are here skillfully transcribed and edited for the first time. His parallels of the destruction of Jewish communities by Babylonians, Romans, Crusaders, Cossacks and the Holocaust and reactions to the establishment of Israel are striking. A major contribution to the study and understanding of the liturgy. Highly recommended.

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