Theme 1: Malchuyot (Sovereignty)

*Source Sheet by* [*Andrew Shoyer*](https://www.sefaria.org/profile/andrew-shoyer)

The first of three themes that the Rabbis added to the Rosh Hashanah Musaf Amidah was Malchuyot or Sovereignty.  The core of the section consists of three verses each from the Five Books of Moses, Psalms, and the Prophets.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

A.  The Malchuyot section emphasizes the Jewish people's acknowledgment and acceptance of God as sovereign.  What external forces have "ruled" you over the past year?  Looking ahead to the new year, if you were to choose a new "sovereign," what might that be?

B.   In selecting these verses, what were the Rabbis trying to teach us about God's sovereignty?  What are the attributes of God's sovereignty?  Are these attributes the same as the attributes that you would look for in a human leader?

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| [**Exodus 15:18**](https://www.sefaria.org/Exodus.15.18)(18) The LORD will reign for ever and ever! | [**שמות ט״ו:י״ח**](https://www.sefaria.org/Exodus.15.18)(יח) יְהוָ֥ה ׀ יִמְלֹ֖ךְ לְעֹלָ֥ם וָעֶֽד׃ |

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| [**Numbers 23:21**](https://www.sefaria.org/Numbers.23.21)(21) No harm is in sight for Jacob, No woe in view for Israel. The LORD their God is with them, And their King’s acclaim in their midst. | [**במדבר כ״ג:כ״א**](https://www.sefaria.org/Numbers.23.21)(כא) לֹֽא־הִבִּ֥יט אָ֙וֶן֙ בְּיַעֲקֹ֔ב וְלֹא־רָאָ֥ה עָמָ֖ל בְּיִשְׂרָאֵ֑ל יְהוָ֤ה אֱלֹהָיו֙ עִמּ֔וֹ וּתְרוּעַ֥ת מֶ֖לֶךְ בּֽוֹ׃ |

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| [**Deuteronomy 33:5**](https://www.sefaria.org/Deuteronomy.33.5)(5) Then He became King in Jeshurun, When the heads of the people assembled, The tribes of Israel together. | [**דברים ל״ג:ה׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Deuteronomy.33.5)(ה) וַיְהִ֥י בִישֻׁר֖וּן מֶ֑לֶךְ בְּהִתְאַסֵּף֙ רָ֣אשֵׁי עָ֔ם יַ֖חַד שִׁבְטֵ֥י יִשְׂרָאֵֽל׃ |

As the editors of Mahzor Lev Shalem point out on p. 156, "these three verses are the only verses in the entire Five Books of Moses that expressly connect God to kingship."

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| [**Psalms 22:29**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.22.29)(29) for kingship is the LORD’s and He rules the nations. | [**תהילים כ״ב:כ״ט**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.22.29)(כט) כִּ֣י לַ֭יהוָה הַמְּלוּכָ֑ה וּ֝מֹשֵׁ֗ל בַּגּוֹיִֽם׃ |

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| [**Psalms 93:1**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.93.1)(1) The LORD is king, He is robed in grandeur; the LORD is robed, He is girded with strength. The world stands firm; it cannot be shaken. | [**תהילים צ״ג:א׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.93.1)(א) יְהוָ֣ה מָלָךְ֮ גֵּא֪וּת לָ֫בֵ֥שׁ לָבֵ֣שׁ יְ֭הוָה עֹ֣ז הִתְאַזָּ֑ר אַף־תִּכּ֥וֹן תֵּ֝בֵ֗ל בַּל־תִּמּֽוֹט׃ |

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| [**Psalms 24:7-10**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.24.7-10)(7) O gates, lift up your heads! Up high, you everlasting doors, so the King of glory may come in! (8) Who is the King of glory?— the LORD, mighty and valiant, the LORD, valiant in battle. (9) O gates, lift up your heads! Lift them up, you everlasting doors, so the King of glory may come in! (10) Who is the King of glory?— the LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!Selah. | [**תהילים כ״ד:ז׳-י׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.24.7-10)(ז) שְׂא֤וּ שְׁעָרִ֨ים ׀ רָֽאשֵׁיכֶ֗ם וְֽ֭הִנָּשְׂאוּ פִּתְחֵ֣י עוֹלָ֑ם וְ֝יָב֗וֹא מֶ֣לֶךְ הַכָּבֽוֹד׃ (ח) מִ֥י זֶה֮ מֶ֤לֶךְ הַכָּ֫ב֥וֹד יְ֭הוָה עִזּ֣וּז וְגִבּ֑וֹר יְ֝הוָ֗ה גִּבּ֥וֹר מִלְחָמָֽה׃ (ט) שְׂא֤וּ שְׁעָרִ֨ים ׀ רָֽאשֵׁיכֶ֗ם וּ֭שְׂאוּ פִּתְחֵ֣י עוֹלָ֑ם וְ֝יָבֹא מֶ֣לֶךְ הַכָּבֽוֹד׃ (י) מִ֤י ה֣וּא זֶה֮ מֶ֤לֶךְ הַכָּ֫ב֥וֹד יְהוָ֥ה צְבָא֑וֹת ה֤וּא מֶ֖לֶךְ הַכָּב֣וֹד סֶֽלָה׃ |

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| [**Isaiah 44:6**](https://www.sefaria.org/Isaiah.44.6)(6) Thus said the LORD, the King of Israel, Their Redeemer, the LORD of Hosts: I am the first and I am the last, And there is no god but Me. | [**ישעיהו מ״ד:ו׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Isaiah.44.6)(ו) כֹּֽה־אָמַ֨ר יְהוָ֧ה מֶֽלֶךְ־יִשְׂרָאֵ֛ל וְגֹאֲל֖וֹ יְהוָ֣ה צְבָא֑וֹת אֲנִ֤י רִאשׁוֹן֙ וַאֲנִ֣י אַחֲר֔וֹן וּמִבַּלְעָדַ֖י אֵ֥ין אֱלֹהִֽים׃ |

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| [**Obadiah 1:21**](https://www.sefaria.org/Obadiah.1.21)(21) For liberators shall march up on Mount Zion to wreak judgment on Mount Esau; and dominion shall be the LORD’s. | [**עובדיה א׳:כ״א**](https://www.sefaria.org/Obadiah.1.21)(כא) וְעָל֤וּ מֽוֹשִׁעִים֙ בְּהַ֣ר צִיּ֔וֹן לִשְׁפֹּ֖ט אֶת־הַ֣ר עֵשָׂ֑ו וְהָיְתָ֥ה לַֽיהוָ֖ה הַמְּלוּכָֽה׃ |

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| [**Zechariah 14:9**](https://www.sefaria.org/Zechariah.14.9)(9) And the LORD shall be king over all the earth; in that day there shall be one LORD with one name. | [**זכריה י״ד:ט׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Zechariah.14.9)(ט) וְהָיָ֧ה יְהוָ֛ה לְמֶ֖לֶךְ עַל־כָּל־הָאָ֑רֶץ בַּיּ֣וֹם הַה֗וּא יִהְיֶ֧ה יְהוָ֛ה אֶחָ֖ד וּשְׁמ֥וֹ אֶחָֽד׃ |

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