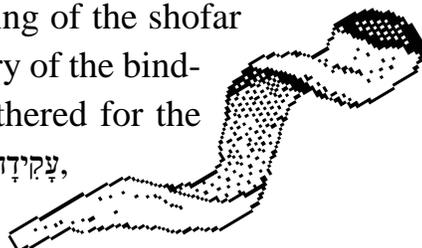


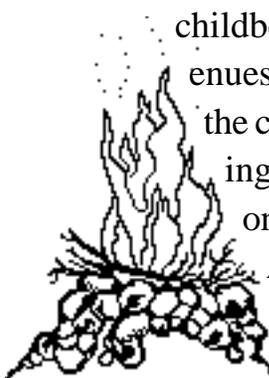
רֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה

Rosh HaShanah

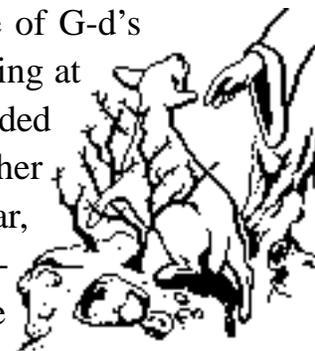
Rosh HaShanah is known for the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) and it is tradition to read the story of the binding of Yitzhak when the congregation is gathered for the festival. The word for binding (Heb-Akedah, עֲקִידָה, cf Gen 22:9) has become the name for the whole story we find in Genesis 22.



After many years Sarah and Avraham had finally been given a child by G-d. This child was a miracle since both parents were past the normal age of childbearing. While Avraham and Sarah had tried many other avenues to bring about G-d's will, Yitzhak was the child that fulfilled the covenant promise that G-d had made with Avraham. From seemingly nowhere G-d asked Avraham to take and sacrifice Yitzhak on a mountain that G-d would show him. How it must have pained Avraham to think about the possibility of killing the one son that he had waited for years to hold and love.



But Avraham was a man of faith who believed deeply in the faithfulness of G-d and the word of G-d. After being told to sacrifice Yitzhak, Avraham and Yitzhak proceeded to the place of G-d's choosing, and they went without hesitation. After arriving at the place where the sacrifice would be, Avraham commanded his servants to wait while he and the lad would go further and offer a sacrifice. After tying Yitzhak upon the altar, Avraham raised a knife and was ready to slay his beloved son. Then, out of heaven Avraham heard a voice that command him to stop. There in the thickets was a ram caught by its horn that could not free itself. The ram was taken by Avraham and became the sacrifice in Yitzhak's place.



Since both Rosh HaShanah and the binding of Yitzhak mention the ram's horn, the story of the binding of Yitzhak is retold every Rosh HaShanah for all to hear and marvel at the deliverance and providence of G-d. Who do you think is foreshadowed by the ram who took Yitzhak's place?