

YOM KIPPUR

GM The Torah reading for Yom Kippur is from Parshat Acharei - perek 16 of Vayikra in the morning and perek 18 for Mincha. The opening pasuk of Acharei (Vayikra 16:1) is:

וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אַחֲרֵי מוֹת שְׁנֵי בְנֵי אַהֲרֹן בְּקָרְבָּתָם לִפְנֵי־ה' וַיָּמָתוּ:

"God spoke to Moshe right after the death of Aharon's two sons, who brought an [unauthorized] offering before God and died."

In Parshat Sh'mini, when the Torah tells us about the deaths of Aharon's two sons, Moshe calls upon Misha'el and Eltzafan, sons of Uziel, uncle of Aharon (and Moshe) to take care of the bodies, because Aharon and his remaining two sons had the status of Kohein Gadol (since Aharon and his sons were all anointed with the special oil - giving them KG status). Moshe then tells Aharon and his sons not to abstain from cutting their hair (a kohen must take a haircut at least once a month; if not, he cannot serve (or even enter) the Mikdash. Nor should they rend their garments. This, of course is an allusion to the prohibition of a Kohein Gadol mourning his close relatives. This mitzva is spelled out in Parshat Emor, Vayikra 21:12 -

וּבִמְקוֹדֶשׁ לֹא יֵצֵא וְלֹא יוֹחֵל אֶת מִקְדָּשׁ אֱלֹהֵיו
כִּי נֹר שֶׁבֶן מִשְׁחַת אֱלֹהֵיו עָלָיו אֲנִי ה':

"[In such a case - of the death of a close relative] he may not [even] leave the Sanctuary. He will then not profane his God's sanctuary, since his God's anointing oil is upon him. I am God."

These two p'sukim - the one from the beginning of the Yom Kippur laying, and the pasuk in the beginning of Emor, are Gimatriya Matches (3369).



A pasuk from the morning Torah reading of Yom Kippur (Vayikra 16:30 in Parshat Acharei) is well-known, as it is found in the Yom Kippur davening and it is an encapsulation of the essence of Yom Kippur -

כִּי־בַיּוֹם הַזֶּה יִכָּפֵר עֲלֵיכֶם לְטַהֵר אֶתְכֶם מִכָּל וְטִמְאַתֵּיכֶם לִפְנֵי ה' תִּטְהָרוּ:

*For on this day He shall effect atonement for you to cleanse you.
Before HaShem, you shall be cleansed from all your sins.*

The gimatriya of this pasuk is 2684. There are two other p'sukim with the same gimatriya that are relevant to Yom Kippur. Let's start with B'reishit 30:22 (in Parshat Vayeitzei) -

וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־רָחֵל וַיִּשְׁמַע אֵלֶיהָ אֱלֹהִים וַיִּפְתּוּ אֶת־רִוְחָהּ:

*And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her,
and He opened her womb.*

This pasuk epitomizes RACHAMIM, mercy. (Interesting connection between RACHAMIM and RECHEM, the womb.) We recalled Rachel on Rosh HaShana (haftara of the second day). The essence of Yom Kippur is atonement and purification - certainly, a manifestation of HaShem's RACHAMIM for His people.

And here is the other pasuk, Mishlei 7:2 -

שְׁמֹר מִצְוֹתַי וְחַיֶּה וְתוֹרָתִי כְּאִשּׁוֹן עֵינֶיךָ:

Keep my commandments and live, and my instruction like the apple of your eyes.

No doubt, this pasuk hits the right note: Our greatest goal, our greatest claim before HKB"H for His atonement, His purification of us, His exercise of Rachamim - is our observance and love of His Torah and mitzvot.