

Laws of Pruzbol for Shemita

This upcoming year of 5768, is a shemita year. There are two aspects to a shemita year. First, it is a *shemita karka*, meaning that the soil in the land of Israel must lay fallow for the duration of the year. It should be understood that this aspect of shemita applies only to land in the Land of Israel (it is relevant to us if one either visits Eretz Yisroel during this year, *or* if you buy something produced in the land of Israel).

The second aspect is *shemita ke'safim* – shemita of money. During the shemita year, all outstanding loans are nullified. This law, as well as the laws of shemita karka, applies from the Torah only when a majority of Jews live in the land of Israel. Unfortunately, until that happens speedily in our days, the laws of shemita, both agriculturally and monetarily, apply “only” rabbinically. Therefore, the Rabbis (Hillel) established that if someone who has outstanding loans submits those loans to a Beis Din, then the loan is *not* nullified and remains in effect.

The procedure for issuance of a pruzbol is testimony to the fact that one has “given over” his/her loan(s) to a Beis Din. In order to effectuate a pruzbol, the lender should appear before a Beis Din, or submit the Pruzbol Transfer Form (see below) through a Beis Din. A pruzbol document is written in his/her name as testament that the loans are still collectable.

Therefore if you have any outstanding loans that you want to collect after shemita, fill out the Pruzbol Transfer Form and return it to:

Anshe Emes
1490 South Robertson Blvd.
Los Angeles CA 90035

In order for the pruzbul to be valid, this must be done during the coming year, before Erev Rosh HaShanah, 5769, September 29th, 2008.

NOTE: One should own real estate in order to have a pruzbol written for them. If this is not the case, contact Rabbi Summers (310) 275-5640.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year,
Rabbi Yitzchok Summers
Anshe Emes Synagogue

Pruzbol Transfer Form

I, the undersigned, desire to make a "Pruzbol" document as prescribed by Jewish Law. Therefore, I transfer to the Beis Din of Anshe Emes Synagogue, all debts owed to me, so that I may collect them at will. I also declare that any loans that I grant from now until next Rosh HaShanah of the year 5769 (commencing evening of September 29th 2008), will not be payable until after that Rosh HaShanah.

Sign Name

Print Name

Date

Hebrew Name (with Fathers name)