

the Momentous Gathering and its message today,

Insights into the
mitzvah of Hakhel
and its relevance today,
collected from the Rebbe's
sichos and letters

מקץ שבע שנים במעד שנת השמיטה
בְּחַג הַסִּפּוֹת; בְּבוֹא כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל...

הַקְהֵל אֶת הָעָם
הָאֲנָשִׁים וְהַנְּשִׁים
וְהַטָּרְף

וְגֵרָד אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעֲרֵיךָ לְמַעַן יִשְׁמְעוּ
וְלְמַעַן יִלְמְדוּ וְיִרְאוּ אֶת ה' אֱלֹהֶיכֶם
וְשִׁמְרוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת כָּל דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת
(ויקרא, י"ב).

HAKHEL INSIGHT

LIKE THE DAY TORAH WAS GIVEN

Our sages say that, "*Hakhel* was like the day the Torah was given at Har Sinai."
"Like" seems to imply that *Hakhel* isn't as great as *matan Torah*. Another perspective can be achieved, however, upon examining a famous saying of Chazal. "In matters of holiness we must constantly go upwards," says the Gemara. So, because *Hakhel* was after *matan Torah*, it has to be greater. Similarly, regarding the coming of Moshiach, where it is written "I will show you wonders, *like* I did during the days that you went out of Egypt," the word "like" means *Mitzrayim* and Moshiach are similar but the compared is greater than it's counterpart.

(Adapted from *Toras Menachem Hisvaaduyos 5747 vol. 4, p. 208 fn. 117*)

לזכרון הרבנית הצדקנית מרת ח'י' מושקא נ"ע ז"ע
בקשר עם יום ההילולא כ"ב שבט
נדפס ע"י הרה"ת ר' אברהם וזוגתו מרת סימא רבקה שיחיו יפה
מנשטער, אנגלי'



A TIMELY CONNECTION THE INNER MOSHE

Part 1 - Rosh Chodesh Shevat

As a true leader, shortly before his passing, Moshe Rabbeinu “began to explicate this Torah.” The first of Shevat, one month before he was *nistalek*, was the day he gathered the nation and delivered this parting address. The Moshe inside us all replicates this event each year. We have the special ability to relate the Torah’s teachings to ourselves and to others. And here is where *Hakhel* comes in. This is an opportune time to gather everyone, even the “children,” those immature in their Torah observance, and influence them—beginning with the simple mitzvos and moving steadily forward. As the *possuk* comments when speaking of *Hakhel*, “They will observe all the words of this Torah.”

(Adapted from sichas Rosh Chodesh Shevat 5741, Sichos Kodesh 5741 vol. 2, p. 109)

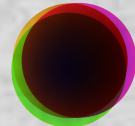
TO SING AS ONE

Part 2- Shabbos Shirah

The Jews, a newly emancipated people, witnessed an open miracle at the Yam Suf. The waters parted for them, allowing their escape, and drowned the Egyptians, Israel’s enemy. As soon as they emerged from the walls of water, all began to sing Hashem’s praises. The men extolled, led by Moshe, and the women were led by Miriam with her tambourine; and even the fetuses in the womb joined in chanting “*Ashira lashem*.” Ultimate unity. We commemorate this occurrence on Shabbos Shirah, during the month of Shevat. The connection to *Hakhel* is obvious.

(Adapted from sichas parshas Beshalach 5748, Toras Menachem Hisvaaduyos 5748 vol. 2, pgs. 299-300)

WHAT CAN I DO? GATHERING ON 15 SHEVAT



The moon waxes until the fifteenth of every month, and once it reaches its fullness, begins to wane. A full moon signifies wholeness and therefore represents the completeness of the month. It is on that day that all events of the month are most powerful and revealed.

In Shevat we observe the *yom hilula* of the Frierdiker Rebbe, and we should therefore utilize the 15th of Shevat, the month’s highest point, accordingly. In addition, the fifteenth of Shevat is also the Rosh Hashanah for trees. People are likened to trees; just as these plants bear fruit, we do good deeds. Observing the 15th of Shevat in a spiritual way is therefore about strengthening our commitment to Torah and mitzvos.

So on this special day, let us gather “the men, women and children,” to encourage their growth in areas of Torah observance. A special emphasis shall be placed on the teachings of the Frierdiker Rebbe, who promoted *ahavas Yisrael* and *achdus Yisrael*, giving tzedaka, etc. Because we want these gatherings to be well attended, it is up to every community to determine the best venue and hour during this 24-hour period.

(Adapted from sichas Shabbos parshas Beshalach 5748, Toras Menachem Hisvaaduyos 5748 vol. 2, p. 309)