

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
בהג הספות; בבוא כל ישראל...

הקהל את העם
האנשים והנשים
והטרף

וגרד אשר בשעריה למען ושמעו
ולמען ילמדו ויראו את ה' אלוקיכם
ושמרו לעשות את כל דברי התורה הזאת
(ויקרא, י"ב).

HAKHEL INSIGHT STEP BY STEP

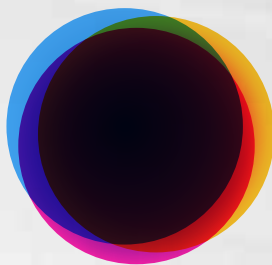
Studying the *possuk* most central to *Hakhel*, we discover an essential insight into our *avodas Hashem*. The Torah says, "Gather the nation, the men, the women, the children, and the converts within your gates." The *possuk* spells out each demographic individually, thus informing us that they weren't all assembled at once. As they entered the *Beis Hamikdash* for the great event, they didn't clamber all over each other. They entered in an orderly fashion, in the sequence that the *possuk* spells out. First the men, then the women, afterwards the children, and then, the converts.

This teaches us the importance of approaching important steps in our lives with discipline and order, starting with what's lightest first and progressing bit by bit. Hashem doesn't ask of us the impossible; indeed, transforming everything in an instant is infeasible. Instead, He instructs us to begin by enhancing the beauty of our mitzvah performance, and continuing to do more until we've accomplished all we can.

However, we must never be satisfied to the point of complacency. The *Hakhel* ceremony would not start until everyone was inside; unless all the people, even the smallest children, were taken into account. We cannot rest until we've literally gathered all the sparks and completely transformed the world. We have to start at the beginning, but in no way may we stop once we've completed the first task.

(Adapted from the *Farbrengen of Yud-Tes Kislev 5727*,
Toras Menachem Hisvaaduyos 5727 vol. 1, pgs. 343-344)

לזכות הילד החייל בצבאות ה' לוי יצחק שי'
לרגל ה"אפשערניש" ביום ט"ו בשבט ה'תשע"ו
שכ"ק אדמו"ר והוריו שי' ירוו ממנו נח"ר רב
נדפס ע"י הוריו
הרה"ת ר' שמואל זוגנתו מרת חנה שיחיו טייכטל



A TIMELY CONNECTION

7 ADAR: AN OPPORTUNE TIME

Zayin Adar is the day that Moshe Rabbeinu was born and passed away. Although among some Jews, the custom was to commemorate the day through a special observance, in Chabad tradition one does not find such a practice. In 5748, however, the Rebbe mentioned that today things may be different because, "In this age of darkness we should endeavor to use every opportunity to add in goodness and holiness."

Specifically, the Rebbe mentioned the idea of performing mitzvos and studying Torah joyfully in connection to that day, Zayin Adar. The Rebbe also highlighted that in this year of *Hakhel* we should utilize the day to gather people and inspire an increase in Torah and mitzvos.

*(Adapted from the sicha of Zayin Adar 5748,
Sefer Hasichos 5748 vol. 1, pg. 280)*



WHAT CAN I DO?

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE BOCHURIM

A *bochur's* job is first and foremost Torah study with dedication and diligence. This year, in addition to that, he should also get involved in promoting unity in line with *Hakhel*. In order for this project to succeed, organization is necessary. Ordinarily, if an authority figure is involved, the students will participate in a larger scale and it will be more structured. The head of the yeshiva or the *mashgiach* should therefore encourage the students in this regard, in a manner that is both gentle yet influential. As the saying goes, "*Taparu da plachu.*"

Sometimes the students need to remind their mentors to speak up and inspire them. The Mishna says, "A bashful person doesn't learn." The *bochurim* should not be ashamed to demand a word of encouragement from their teachers.

Obviously, the *rosh yeshiva* shouldn't feel slighted upon hearing the "reproach." To the contrary, he should give them a *yasher koach* for their enthusiasm. Like a father who is happy at his child's ingenuity and will to grow, an educator should view his disciples as children and be happy at their desire to add in Yiddishkeit.

*(Adapted from the Farbrengen of 13 Tishrei 5748,
Toras Menachem Hisvaadyos 5748 vol. 1, pgs. 163-164)*

