

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 ישמעו
ולמען ילמדו ויראו את ה' אלוקיכם
ושמרו לעשות את כל דברי התורה הזאת
(ויקרא, י"ב).

HAKHEL INSIGHT IN TRUTH

When describing the goal that *Hakhel* is meant to achieve, the Rambam¹ uses a rare term: "It is a positive commandment to gather the entire Jewish people...so that they hear passages from the Torah that encourage them to perform mitzvos and strengthen them in **true faith** (דת האמת)." 

What significance does this uncommon phrase have?

The Rebbe looks to a well known Midrash² for the answer. "Hashem's seal (i.e. what He 'signs' His name with) is אמת. Why אמת? Because אמת is made up of a specific three letters. א is the first letter of the Aleph-Beis, ת is in the middle, and מ, at their end. [Hashem uses these letters] to signify that, 'I am first, I am last, and aside for Me there is no other G-d.'" 

The word אמת alludes to the unity within creation and to the fact that Hashem permeates every physical being. It now becomes obvious why the Rambam uses that term when speaking of *Hakhel*, the ceremony which celebrates and encourages togetherness.

*(Adapted from the sicha of the first night of Sukkos 5748.
Hisvaaduyos 5748 vol. 1, pg. 177)*

1. Hilchos Chagigah 3:1
2. Devarim Rabba 1:3



A TIMELY CONNECTION HAKHEL AT THE SEDER

As we gather round the table, prior to the *seder's* commencement, we invite all “those that are hungry” to come and eat and “all those in need” to come and join in the festivities. Hopefully, this invitation will yield many Jews, creating a miniature *Hakhel* within our homes. All events in the current year are infused with the spirit of *Hakhel*, especially the yomim tovim which influence the year as well. Pesach, being the first and head of the yomim tovim, has a unique connection to this year.

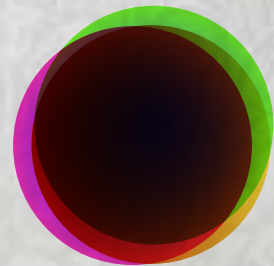
The unity at the *seder* table will ultimately lead—as the *Hei Lachma Anya* continues—to “next year we will be in Eretz Yisroel,” and then everyone will participate in *Hakhel*. Even in the times of the *Beis Hamikdash*, those maimed or handicapped were absolved from *aliya leregel*. However, with the curing of all ailments upon the coming of Moshiach, everyone will be present for the *Hakhel* ceremony.

*(Adapted from the farbrengen of the second night Pesach 5727.
Toras Menachem vol 49, pgs. 309-310)*

WHAT CAN I DO? IDEAS IN TORAH

There are many things we can gather and build a *Hakhel* out of. Ideas in Torah is one such example; we can collect them, store them in our minds, and create a *Hakhel* of information. It is also in this *Hakhel* that the Rebbe encourages us to get involved: To amass knowledge in all parts of Torah, essentially forging a *Hakhel* within all Torah's components. Rather than being a mere suggestion, the Rebbe explains that the Alter Rebbe³ considers this an obligation. We must therefore utilize the final moments in *galus* to complete a *Hakhel* in all areas of the Torah before the greatest *Hakhel*, when not even one Jew will be left behind, “ואתם תלוקטו לאחד אחד, בני ישראל” with the coming of the *geulah*.

*(Adapted from the farbrengen of Shabbos parshas Bereishis 5748.
Hisvaaduyos 5748 vol. 1, pgs. 345-346)*



3. Hilchos Talmud Torah 1:4