

# 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  
בסג הספות; בבוא כל ישראל...

הקהל את העם  
האנשים והנשים  
והטרף

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

## HAKHEL INSIGHT LONG-TERM PREPARATION

Being that the [main] mitzvah of Hakhel can only be implemented in the *Beis Hamikdash*, therefore the entire time spent waiting and preparing for its rebuilding are all part of the preparation for Hakhel. The seven year construction phase of the first *Beis Hamikdash*, the decades of construction for the second *Beis Hamikdash*, and all the more so in the nearly 2,000 years we've been anticipating and demanding the third *Mikdash*, crying out “*ad mosai*.” All the *kitzin*—end dates—have passed, and we have even concluded the metaphorical “polishing our buttons,” of which the Frierdiker Rebbe spoke, yet [the *Mikdash* has not yet been rebuilt, and] Moshiach still hasn't come! We are therefore still preparing for the real Hakhel with the coming of Moshiach, speedily in our days.

(*Shabbos Lech Lecha 5748. Hisvaaduyos 5748 vol 1, p. 432*)

לזכות  
החייל בצבאות ה' מנחם מענדל שיחי'  
לרגל יום הולדתו ביום כ"ג תמוז  
להצלחה רבה, ושהוריו ירוו ממנו  
רוב נחת חסידי  
נדפס ע"י הוריו  
הרה"ת ר' יוסף שלמה  
וזוגתו מרת מרים שיחיו גרינולד



## A TIMELY CONNECTION

### SUMMATION OF THE HAKHEL YEAR

As in every year, this [month of Elul] is the time of year for introspection. As we approach Rosh Hashanah, and with it the complete authority of the Creator and King of the world, we must take stock of our deeds over the past year.

Hakhel—to gather—means not only to physically gather other people together, it also means spiritually to gather one's thoughts, speech and action, bringing them to the personal *Mikdash* within himself, directing and devoting them to the King.

This year, as a year of Hakhel, this stock-taking takes on an even greater importance. Introspection is not an end in and of itself, rather these thoughts should lead to commitments for improvement in the future, in:

- Making changes in day-to-day conduct, wherever necessary.
- Improve whatever conduct needs improvement.
- Even in areas that the conduct is impeccable, and achieved with excitement appropriate for the rest of the year, however for the eve of the King's coronation, it must be taken to a whole new level.
- A complete revelation and realization of Hashem's authority in your personal life, community life, and in the whole world.

As we say in the *machzor*, "Rule over the entire world... and they will know... and they will understand... and every living thing will exclaim, Hashem, L-rd of the Jews, rules, and His kingship governs over everything."

(*Likkutei Sichos vol 9, p. 449*)

## WHAT CAN I DO? HACHNASAS ORCHIM

The main point of Hakhel is that people gather in a holy place and are inspired to increase in *yiras Shamayim*. This can be accomplished in every Jewish home, being that the home is a "*mikdash me'at*," and when one welcomes guests into his home he is gathering them in a holy place. In addition, the host will certainly speak with his guests and inspire them to increase in their observance of Torah and mitzvos, starting with the mitzvos of *hachnasas orchim* and *tzedakah*—which they learn from the host's personal example—as well as other mitzvos. As the *posuk* states regarding Hakhel, "They will observe to do all the words of this Torah."

(*First eve of Sukkos 5748. Hisvaaduyos 5748 vol 1, p. 182*)

