



Overview - Ha'azinu

Almost all of Ha'azinu is a song, written in the Torah in two parallel columns. Moshe summons the heavens and the earth to stand as eternal witnesses to what will happen if the Jewish People sin and do not obey the Torah. He reminds the people to examine the history of the world, and note how the Jewish People are rescued from obliteration in each generation - that G-d "pulls the strings" of world events so that Bnei Yisrael can fulfill their destiny as His messengers in the world. G-d's kindness is such that Israel should be eternally grateful, not just for sustaining them in the wilderness, but for bringing them to a land of amazing abundance, and for defeating their enemies. But, this physical bounty leads the people to become self-satisfied and over-indulged. Physical pleasures corrupt the morals of the people. They worship empty idols and powerless gods, and indulge in all kinds of depravity. G-d will then let nations with no moral worth subjugate Israel and scatter them across the world. However, their only purpose is as a rod to chastise the Jewish People. When these nations think that it is through their own power that they have dominated Israel, G-d will remind them that they are no more than a tool to do His will. The purpose of the Jewish People is fundamental - that man should know his Creator. Neither exile nor suffering can sever the bond between G-d and His people, and eventually, in the final redemption, this closeness will be restored. G-d will then turn His anger against the enemies of Israel, as though they were His enemies, showing no mercy to the tormentors of His people. G-d then gives His last commandment to Moshe: That he should ascend Mount Nevo and be gathered there to his people.

Transforming Trash into Love

My two year old daughter came over to me the other day, handed me a tea light candle and said, "Abba, open it." I looked at her with a smile and said, "Sweetie, it's not closed." She peered back at the candle and turned to me. "It's broken!" she cried. "Chaviva, it's not broken, we just need to light the wick with a match," I reassured her.

It dawned on me that we often perceive our lives with the same childlike naivety. We look around at our life circumstances and think that the "right" doors are closed. We hope and search for a magic key to open them up. When we're struggling and everything seems broken, looking at our obstacles with narrow vision, we miss the big picture.

Even when we can't understand why we experience challenges in our lives, there is something very powerful that allows us to withstand and even grow from them. That "something" is emunah, loosely translated as faith in God.

Emunah is the cornerstone of the Jewish people. When God spoke to us directly at Mount Sinai, He only told us one thing: Believe in Me and don't believe in other gods. God could have chosen to relay any message at this world-altering event, and He chose this. Why? Because belief that God runs the world is the foundation of our religion.

Just as I helped my daughter see that the tea light candle wasn't broken, as Jews we must also believe that life isn't broken. It's been designed perfectly, just as it's meant to be. In the face of obstacles and challenges, we remember that this is all part of God's greater plan for us, orchestrated to help us grow and reach our unique spiritual potential. Living with this awareness of God enables us to thrive, not just survive.

Sukkot gives us an opportunity to deepen our emunah, our faith. According to the Zohar, the sukkah provides the "shade of faith." The palm tree leaves – or schach – that make up the roof of the sukkah have to meet certain regulations to be acceptable for use. The verse in Numbers explains that they must be the "trash of the threshing floor and vineyard," meaning that the schach must be made of the secondary, undesired part of the plant, not



from its coveted fruit.

Why should something seemingly so holy be made out of what we normally view as undesirable scraps? The answer sheds light on the meaning of "the shade of faith." Sukkot comes at the convergence between the beginning of a new year and the end of the harvest year. It's a time when we celebrate our new dreams for the coming year while reflecting on the previous year. At this juncture, we can look back at all the things we thought "went wrong" in the last year and consider how they connect to the bigger picture of where we're heading today. We can start to see the many ways in which the "trash" – the hardships and mistakes – of our past has shaped who we are today and paves the way for the next stage in our lives. This is why the schach of the sukkah is made from discarded materials – our trash.

We build our sukkah roofs, the part of the home that protects us from the heat, rain and elements, out of the unwanted parts of the plant to show us that God is constantly protecting us with the exact same things we may have perceived as junk. This is the shade of faith.

Life is not always easy and we can't see the whole picture. But remembering that there is something more, something that goes beyond our limited vision of the world, we can begin to get a glimpse of how God sees the bigger picture.

Our doors are never really closed and our lives aren't ever really broken. We just need to strike the match, the fire of our souls, so that we can start looking at the world in a new light. This Sukkot, let's take some time to reflect on this past year and discover the treasures that may have been buried beneath the facade of trash. Consider how an experience or turn of events you perceived as negative has actually been a source of light and blessing in your life and discuss it under the schach of your sukkah, feeling God's warm embrace from above. **Rabbi Moshe Gersht**

All Four One

The Torah (Leviticus 23:39-40) commands us to "take for ourselves" four species; the lulav (palm branch), the esrog (citron), the willow branch and the myrtle branch, on Succos. What is the significance of this commandment, in which we take the above species and wave them during our prayers? Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch in Horeb, Chapter 31, points out that each of the species has different qualities. Together, they symbolize all the physical blessings that G-d has given us. The esrog symbolizes sustenance and aroma; the palm branch, sustenance but no aroma; the myrtle branch, aroma but no sustenance, and the willow branch neither sustenance nor aroma it is just wood. These four indicate clearly that everything has been created by G-d for man, to benefit him through nature. If we look at them in greater detail we see that each represents a different category of our benefits from nature. Rabbi Hirsch divides our blessings into the following categories. The first group includes things in nature that require no finishing touches by man. For instance, the air you breathe, the light which shines for you, the beauty which makes you happy, the sweet-smelling scent which refreshes you, etc. This category is symbolized by the myrtle, which has a pleasant aroma, and the esrog, which has aroma and sustenance. The second category comprises things in nature that are inherently beneficial to man, but out of which man has to extract the benefit, i.e. all means of sustenance, which are represented by the lulav, a branch of the date-palm. The third category includes things whose consummation depends entirely upon the hand of man, upon which man exercises his power as their master and from which he extracts all the usefulness that is in them. Nature supplies only the raw material. For instance, his dwelling, clothing, utensils, etc., represented in general by wood, i.e. the willow branch, which has no aroma or sustenance. In the words of Rabbi Hirsch: "Take these four to represent all that G-d offers you as gifts of nature. Take them as your very own before Hashem, your G-d. Acknowledge and acclaim that it is G-d who vouchsafes unto you all that is good in life. Cling to them only as the means of living in the presence of G-d according to His will. Rejoice in them before your G-d as the means of fulfilling your duties." This commandment is a way of acknowledging that the purpose of all our physical blessings, strengths and capabilities, is to "take them before G-d" and to dedicate them to a spiritual purpose. Do not ignore the physical you may enjoy it and benefit from it but do so with the purpose of reaching beyond the physical world and into the spiritual world. **Rabbi Mordechai Becher**



SUKKOS SCHEDULE 5776

Erev YomTov - Sunday 27 September

Mincha: 1.05 pm, 5.50pm
Candle Lighting: 5.48pm

1st Day Succos - Monday 28 September

Shacharis
Neitz 5.05am (Neitz 5.51am)
Main Shul 8.00am
Ohr Chodesh Minyan 8.15am
Shiur 5.15pm
Mincha 5.50pm

Followed by Drosha by Rabbi Akiva Tatz

Candle lighting: Not before 6.37pm from an existing flame

2nd Day Succos - Tuesday 29 September

Shacharis
Neitz 5.05am (Neitz 5.48am)
Main Shul 8.00am
Ohr Chodosh Minyan 8.15am
Shiur 5.15pm
Mincha 5.50pm

Followed by Drosha by Rabbi Yonason Shippel

Yomtov ends at 6.38pm

Followed by a Simcha Beis Hashoava with live band and refreshments

Chol Hamoed 2015

Shacharis
Neitz 5.48am
Main Shul- Wed, Thurs, Fri 5.45am
Small Shul 7.00am
Main Shul 8.00am
Mincha - Main Shul 5.30pm

Simchas Hachag

Thursday 1st October

Mincha 5.15pm
Guest speaker, And other Divrei Torah
Ma'ariv 6.40pm

Shabbos Chol Hamoed - 3rd October

Shacharis
Neitz 5.00am (Neitz 5.45am)
Back Shul 7.30am
Main Shul 8.00am
Ohr Chodosh Minyan 8.15am
Men's Shiur 5.00pm
Mincha 5.30pm

Followed by Seudas Shlishis

Shabbos ends 6.39pm

Hoshana Rabbah

Motzei Shabbos 3rd October

Ladies Video – Rabbi Frand 8.15pm
Night Learning 8.30pm

Sunday 4th October

Shacharis
Main Shul 5.05am (Neitz is at 5.44am)
Back Shul 6.30am
Main Shul 8.00am

BABY GIRL



Mazeltov to **Warren & Aliza Freeman** on the birth of a baby girl. Mazeltov proud grandparents **Leon & Rosalie Wolpe** and **Wally & Ruth Freeman**

Guest Speakers over Yom Tov

1st Day Yom Tov - Mon 28 Sep - after Mincha

Rabbi Akiva Tatz

2nd Day Yom Tov - Tues 29 Sep - after Mincha

Rabbi Yonason Shippel

Simchas HaChag

Thursday 1 October

Guest speaker and other Divrei Torah
Mincha: 5.15 pm Ma'ariv: 6.40 pm

SHABBOS AFTERNOON SHIUR

RABBI AUERBACH
THE LAWS OF
BUILDING THE SUCCAH

Shabbos afternoon at 4.40pm

YORTZEITS

- **Rabbi Tuch** for his late wife
- **The Tuch children** for their late mother
- **Selwyn Joffe** for his late father

CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

Yehoshua Levi Hollander

Eitan Shmuel Henen *Happy Birthday!*
Tova Abramson

WOMEN'S SHMIRAS HALOSHON PROGRAMME

RABBI YISOCHOR FRAND
LADIES SPECIAL DVD

TESHUYA DROSHA 5776/ 2015

HOSHANA RABA

MOTZ'EI SHABBOS 3 OCTOBER

8.15 PM

OHR SOMAYACH GLENHAZEL

DONATION R30

The Shabbos Project

KEEPING IT TOGETHER



SAVE THE DATES

Kids Program "Colour Me Shabbos"

SUNDAY 18 OCT



Communal Catered Luncheon

SHABBOS 24 OCT

OHR SOMAYACH, KOLLEL YAD SHAUL, THE TORAS CHAIM
COMMUNITY KOLLEL & YESHIVAS MESHECH CHOCHMAH
INVITE FAMILIES TO A COMBINED

SIMCHAS BEIS HASHOAVA

When: Motzei Yom Tov
17 Tishrei, Tuesday 29 September

Where: Ohr Somayach
10 Kingswood Road, Glenhazel

Program:

Time: 8:00pm - 8:30pm

*Avos U Bonim for Boys

*Torah Activity for Girls (under Basmitzvah)

Gift for all children who participate.

Time: 8:30pm - 10:15pm

Simchas Beis Hashoava

Come and dance with

LeChatchila Band

All boys who arrive at 8:00pm will

be in the draw to win a Bicycle!

Draw takes place at 10:15pm



CHIP N DIP FOR SALE • REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



LADIES YOM TOV CHESED INITIATIVE THE SHOSHANA FOUNDATION

This year Ohr Somayach has the opportunity and privilege to support **The Shoshana Foundation**. The Shoshana Foundation is a modestly run initiative that discreetly provides **support to single mothers** in our community.

Our intention is to collect **Yom Tov gifts** which will be distributed to the women who are beneficiaries of the Shoshana Foundation. With this, we hope to demonstrate our **care and moral support of our sisters in need**.

These gifts can be **any gift that you as a woman would appreciate receiving**.

We want our sisters to feel cherished and honored! Examples could be **accessories, something beautiful for one's home, jewelry, gift vouchers...** You get to choose. Financial donations are most welcome too!!!

We would appreciate it if these gifts would be of the value of approximately R100.

Feel free to join up with a friend in order to share a gift, if that is easier for you.

Please take a few moments to gift wrap or package the gift, add a **note of encouragement and good yom tov wishes** and sign the note off "From the Ohr Somayach Ladies" (Please make sure your gift remains anonymous).



GIFTS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE **OHR SOMAYACH OFFICE** OR HOME OF **RUTHIE ABRAMSON - 30 CHILTON AVE**

THESE GIFTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE ANNUAL SHOSHANA FOUNDATION SUCCOS GATHERING

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SPECIAL MITZVAH!