



Table Talk Sukkot



דברים ט"ז:י"ד

Deuteronomy 16:14

ושמחת בחגך ...

You shall rejoice in your festival...

חזקוני, דברים ט"ז:י"ד:א'

Chizkuni, Deuteronomy 16:14:1

ושמחת בחגך הזכיר למעלה
בשבועות שמחה לפי שהוא זמן קציר
וזמן שמחה כדכתיב שמחו לפניך
כשמחת בקציר, וכ"ש עכשיו בסוכות
שאספו הכל מן השדה אבל בפסח לא
הזכיר שמחה לפי שעקרו של חג
להזכרת הנס של יציאת מצרים הוא
ועדיין אין עקר שמחה לקנות תבואה,
ועוד שנינו בד' פרקים העולם נדון
בפסח על התבואה ושמא יבא ברד או
ארבה חסיל שדפון ירקון וילקה
אותן.

ושמחת בחגך, "you shall rejoice on your festival;" "rejoicing" has been mentioned already in connection with the festival of weeks (verse 11); The reason why it was mentioned there is that it is the period of harvesting a major part of the grain harvest. (Isaiah 9,2.) At the time of Sukkot, such joy is increased greatly as everything that the fields and orchards produce is now being gathered in. Joy is not mentioned in connection with Passover as the season of ingathering produce has not yet started. Furthermore, we have been taught in the Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 16,1 that one of the four days on which the world is being judged concerning the produce for the coming year is Passover. In other words, the fate of the harvest still hangs in the balance, and it would be premature to rejoice therefore.

"The biblical word for happiness, Ashrei, is the first word of the book of Psalms and a key word of our daily prayers. But far more often, Tanakh speaks about simcha, joy – and they are different things. Happiness is something you can feel alone, but joy, in Tanakh, is something you share with others."

-The Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Let's Talk!

What is the reason that joy is mentioned in connection to Sukkot and not Pesach?

What is different about being joyous with people rather than on your own?

How can we be happy for other people in their own celebrations?

What are ways that you are celebrating this Sukkot?