

First Days of Sukkos

The sukkah itself, the daled minim, Ushpizin, and why we left our permanent homes at all.

Shiurim

Traveling during Sukkos and the mitzvah of Sukkah. A halachic overview of what travel does to your sukkah obligation, from Rav Daniel Stein, originally printed in YU's To-Go.

Rav Daniel Stein · [Drive link](#)

Why shake the daled minim specifically in the sukkah? A shiur working through the connection between the two mitzvos, from the Pardes Eliezer.

Pardes Eliezer · [Drive link](#)

Sukkos as continued kapparah, for the Meraglim. Frames the seven days as an extension of Yom Kippur's atonement, specifically for the sin of the spies.

Rav Chaim Sosevsky · [Drive link](#)

Sukkot in Mikra. A broad textual overview of how Sukkos is treated across Tanach.

Dr. Yehoshafat Nevo · [Drive link](#)

Derashos

Why did Rabbi Akiva laugh when his sukkah blew down? Contrasts his laughter with Rabban Gamliel's warning not to have built it there in the first place.

Rav Zvi Dov Kanatopsky · [Drive link](#)

When exactly did the Israelites sit in Sukkos? A dating question on when in the wilderness the sukkos experience actually began.

Rav Henkin · [Drive link](#)

The Chafetz Chaim & Rav Meir Shapiro train story. A little discomfort is worth it for another's joy — a message for those shvitzing or shivering in the sukkah. Sent in two different years as two separate files.repeat

Story · [Drive link 1](#) · [Drive link 2](#)

Daled minim as symbols of our simchah. One of two Goldvicht teachings on the daled minim in this archive; see the unity/protection shiur under Chol HaMoed.

Rav Chaim Yaakov Goldvicht z"l · [Drive link](#)

Anatomy of an Esrog. Oketz (rootedness in the past) and pitom (openness to the future) as the two poles a complete esrog, and a complete Jew, must hold together.

Rabbi Norman Lamm z"l, 1968 · [Drive link](#)

What Are We Remembering? Sukkos relives desert dependence precisely at harvest time, as a corrective to the illusion of self-sufficiency that prosperity breeds.

R' Menachem Leibtag · [Drive link](#)

Why the Ananei HaKavod, and not the mann or Miriam's well? The clouds mark the full attainment of the relationship between Hashem and Klal Yisrael — divine closeness, not just sustenance.overlap

Rabbi Immanuel Bernstein · [Drive link](#)

Why does the Torah tie Sukkos to entering the Land? The Abarbanel and Rambam differ on what the arba minim and sukkah commemorate once we're settled in Eretz Yisrael.

Rabbi Immanuel Bernstein · [Drive link](#)

Zman Simchaseinu: happy in an uncertain world. A post-9/11 reflection on being charged with simchah while the road ahead is unclear.

Rabbi Nathan Lopes Cardozo · [Drive link](#)

Sukkat Shalom: an imperfect peace is still shalom. Even a peace that's "under construction" is worth celebrating short of the peace we hope for.

Rav Kook, sent 5785 · [Drive link](#)

The Festival of Insecurity. The sukkah's fragility mirrors Jewish vulnerability through history; faith is the courage to live with insecurity and still find joy.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z"l, sent 5785 · [link \(unverified\)](#)

"Ignorance and Bliss." On the limits of human understanding in mitzvos, via a medresh on the daled minim, plus a read of Rabbi Akiva's sukkah-on-a-boat argument.

Rabbi Zvi Dov Kanatopsky z"l, 1945, sent 5785 · [Drive link](#)

Why Tishrei for the Ananei Hakavod? The clouds returned in Tishrei, alongside the Mishkan going up, after the Cheit HaEgel — Hashem restoring protection once it seemed lost.overlap

The Gra, sent 5785 · [Drive link](#) · [fixed re-send](#)

Celebrating Succos in, and despite, the rain. Practical and spiritual guidance for a rained-out sukkah.

Rav Avigdor Miller, sent 5785 · [Drive link](#)

Ushpizin: robust lives, unrealized hopes. Every Ushpiz lived a full Jewish life without seeing his hopes for Eretz Yisrael or the Beis Hamikdash realized — strength for a journey without a visible end.

Rav Ben Zion Firer, sent 5786 · no link (sender didn't have the sefer on hand)

"Peace in Pieces." A second-day-of-Sukkos drasha from days after the Yom Kippur War broke out: truth must be whole, but peace, like a sukkah, can be built in pieces.

Rabbi Norman Lamm z"l, 1973 · [link \(unverified\)](#)

02

Chol HaMoed Sukkos

Koheles for Shabbos Chol HaMoed, plus the Hoshanos material that runs through Hoshana Rabbah.

Shiurim

What are we saying in Hoshanos? The meaning of "Ani V'Ho." Unpacks one of the more cryptic refrains recited daily through Hoshana Rabbah.

Mitchell First · [Drive link](#)

Jewish Unity as Jewish Protection. Taking the daled minim together models the unity of Am Yisrael that can itself protect us from din, drawn from Yekara D'Chaim. Second of two Goldvicht daled minim teachings in this archive.overlap

Rav Chaim Yaakov Goldvicht z"l · [link \(unverified\)](#)

Derashos

Koheles: look up, not far ahead. From The Royal Reach — instead of scanning the distant future, look up to our Father in Heaven.overlap

Rabbi Norman Lamm z"l · [Drive link](#)

Short introductory thought on Koheles. A brief framing piece to set up the megillah before going deeper.

[Drive link](#)

In-depth Koheles thoughts. A fuller, shiur-length treatment for those who want to go further than the intro piece.

Rav Aviner · [Drive link](#)

Hevel as "transience," not "vanity." Reframing Koheles's key word reveals urgency and beauty in life's fleetingness rather than futility. Resent with a corrected link.overlap

Azure magazine, sent 5785 · [Drive link](#)

Shlomo Hamelech doesn't say give up, he says seize it. Your own Chol HaMoed drasha, arguing Koheles is a call to make every fleeting moment count, not to despair. The original share was a broken link to your Drive home; this is the corrected file.

Menachem Penner, sent 5785 · [Drive link \(corrected\)](#)

"Sukkos Without Suffering." The Gra called sustained joy through Sukkos the hardest mitzvah; pain may be unavoidable, but suffering is a choice. Flagged as good for Hoshana Rabbah too.overlap

Rabbi Norman Lamm z"l, 1975 · [link \(unverified\)](#)

03

Last Days: Shemini Atzeres & Simchas Torah

Geshem, Yizkor, hakafos, finishing the Torah — and, in the most recent cycle, the hostages.

Shiurim

The minhag of reciting Chazak. On the source and status of Chazak Chazak V'nischazek at the Torah's completion.

Rav Dovid Cohen · [Drive link](#)

Leining at night on Simchas Torah. A comprehensive halachic overview of the practice.

Minhag Avoseinu · [Drive link](#)

Hakafos Sheniyyos, even in Eretz Yisrael. The case for a second round of hakafos even where there's no second day of Yom Tov.

Rav Goren · [Drive link](#)

Is it proper for so many to walk out during Yizkor? Traces where the walk-out minhag actually comes from.

R' Zvi Ron · [Drive link](#)

The Rav on Hakafos. Verbatim Q&A from Rav Soloveitchik on hakafos, adapted from "Hakafot — Moving in Circles."

Rav Soloveitchik, adapted by Dr. Moshe Sokolow · [link \(unverified\)](#)

Derashos

Why wait until Musaf to daven for rain? Pairs geshem with techiyas ha-mesim: rain decomposes a seed the way the body returns to earth before Hashem reunites body and soul.

Rabbi Dr. Aaron Levine, citing the Belzer Rav · [Drive link](#)

Crawling Out of Crisis. A full derasha outline pairing the Elul-through-Sukkos upheaval with the hostages coming home just before Shemini Atzeres, arguing the lessons of crisis shouldn't lapse into ordinary celebration.

RCA Chomer Lidrush, 5786 · full text sent inline, no separate link

Shemini Atzeres as the return to homes in Israel. Leaving the sukkah for the house recreates entering the Land after 40 years of wandering — read this cycle against hostages beginning their own long road home.

Rav Ben Zion Firer, sent 5786 · no link given

Rabbanan.org hostage-release chomer. Matzah as both affliction and redemption; the holiness of longing for normalcy; geulah internalized slowly rather than all at once. Featuring three speakers.

R' Shalom Rosner, R' Dovid Gottlieb, R' Shay Schachter, 5786 · [link \(unverified\)](#)

Yizkor list of the fallen, by name. A distributable, card-by-card list of soldiers, murdered civilians, and executed hostages for shul-wide Yizkor recitation.

R' David Fine, prepared by Tehila Dramon Malka & Ada Gabel, 5786 · no link given

Shemini Atzeres as an "afterthought" day. The Midrash's read on Hashem asking us to stay one more day, an island between Sukkos and the new year, to reflect on what just happened.

Own drasha · [link \(unverified\)](#)

"Come and dance with us" — hakafos after the Yom Kippur War. Rav Tzvi Yehuda Kook led hakafos with all four sons at the front, and still danced in simchas haTorah.

Recalled by Rav Yisrael Ariel, sent 5785 · [link \(unverified\)](#)

Every Jew is a Sefer Torah. A pre-hakafos nugget from the Rav, applied this cycle to those still in Gaza and those who came home.

Rav Soloveitchik, applied in RCA Chomer Lidrush, 5786 · no separate link

"How can we be happy on this Simchas Torah?" From Rabbi Lamm's 1973 trip to Israel weeks after the Yom Kippur War: simchah as an act of faith and defiance, not just good-times celebration.

Rabbi Norman Lamm z"l, 1973, sent 5785 · [link \(unverified\)](#)