

Sukkos/Simchas Torah- 5784

This Shabbos, we are celebrating Sukkos 5784. Although this week's Parsha is V'Zos Habrachah, we will not be reading it as part of the davening, rather, we wait until Simchas Torah. Part of this is because the Torah never "ends." We don't read the Parsha, say Chazak, then have to wait a week, then start Parshas Bereishis because the Torah never ends.

Similarly- after Yom Kippur, we don't even wait a week before we are encapsulated by spirituality in the Sukka.

Judaism is both cyclical and linear. It is linear in that we are progressing toward a defined timeline, i.e. the coming of Mashiach, but it is cyclical in that the mission never ends; it loops right into the beginning.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe discusses in a Sichah why we do not celebrate Simchas Torah on Shavuot when the Torah was given. The simple answer is that on Yom Kippur, we received the second Torah, and there is a connection since Yom Kippur is part of the cycle of these holidays. But on a spiritual level and thematic month, we celebrated the world's rebirth on Rosh Hashana, and for the next 3.5 weeks throughout the month of Tishrei, we reconnected with Hashem in a multi-layered way. In some ways, through repentance, but in other ways, and how boundaries are broken (Simcha Poretz Geder), we end the holidays through true Simcha, the joy of celebrating with the Torah. This Simcha is the top-up to the recharging before we set off for the remainder of the year.

May this holiday of Sukkos be a time for overcharging our spirits anew, and may it be a blessed time for all of us, and may we truly celebrate the coming of Mashiach, where the spirit of Hashem encapsulates us.

Good Yom Tov! Good Shabbos!