
HBHG TEAM NEWSLETTER



COUNTING THE OMER

Today is the 48th day of the Omer with this week's theme being Malchut.

The definition of Malchut is sovereignty. Sovereignty - the last of the seven attributes - is different than the previous six. It is a state of being rather than an activity.

Leadership is a passive expression of human dignity which has nothing of its own except that which it receives from the other six emotions.

On the other hand, malchut manifests and actualises the character and majesty of the human spirit. It is the very fiber of what makes us human. When love, discipline, compassion, endurance and humility are properly channeled into the psyche through bonding - the result is malchut. Bonding nurtures us and allows our sovereignty to surface and flourish.

Malchut is a sense of belonging. Knowing that you matter and that you make a difference. That you have the ability to be a proficient leader in your own right. It gives you independence and confidence. A feeling of certainty and authority.



COMMENT PIECE BY JACK HORWITZ: BICYCLE FUNDRAISER

This week, we (Year 12) took part in a fundraiser for a charity called World Bicycle Relief by cycling to school on Thursday. After nearly a year of riding to school every day, through rain or shine, I thought I could get people to take part just for one day to help raise money for this fantastic charity.

World Bicycle Relief uses donations to provide people with a bike, giving them lots of new opportunities to go to school, work, or whatever else you might use a bike for. Girls like 12-year-old Portia in rural Ghana are now able to get to school on time, and benefit from an education from the start of the day, not just from whenever they manage to arrive after a long, hot walk. The charity's donations also go to improving healthcare in rural communities, Ramadahn, a doctor in Kenya has been able to visit 88% more patients thanks to the bicycle he now uses to ride from village to village.

I'm writing this piece to thank everybody for donating, you are all helping to change the lives of those less fortunate than us, and that really makes me grateful for your support. More so, I want to thank all the super people that actually rode to school with us on Thursday, you guys are the absolute best of us, so thank you.



DVAR TORAH BY TOBY NAGUS

Shavuot

What is Shavuot all about? If you think it's all about celebrating when we received the Torah thousands of years ago, then you're only half way there.

Shavuot is also known as "Z'man Matan Torateinu"; the time of the giving of our Torah. The thing is, if you go by our definition above, then Shavuot is no longer the time of the giving of our Torah; it is merely the anniversary of it.

To get to the answer of this, it is important to remember what happened at Har Sinai. Hashem did not just give our ancestors the Torah; He offered it to us. Bnei Yisrael, our ancestors, exclaimed that they would accept the Torah and live a life in service of Hashem. The Torah was not a set of laws and regulations suddenly enforced on a people, it was a mutual acceptance, and the start of a relationship between Bnei Yisrael and Hashem. The acceptance of Torah was and is the foundation of a Jew's relationship with Hashem.

We may not have been at Har Sinai ourselves, but as Jews, we still must have that beautiful relationship with Our Creator, Hashem. To have that, though, we cannot rely on the commitment our ancestors made thousands of years ago. That's where Shavuot comes in!

Of course, Shavuot is a time to celebrate the revelation at Har Sinai! However, it is so much more than that. It is a time for us, every year, to re-commit ourselves to our relationship with Hashem, and to reconnect with the foundation of that relationship; Torah. It is the time of giving OUR Torah; not the Torah of our ancestors.

Use Shavuot this year to think about your relationship with Hashem. If Torah is the foundation of that relationship, what can you do to strengthen it?

Chag Sameach!

FINAL WORDS OF THE WEEK

After a long, tiring week, we are all excited for the long weekend and the festival of Shavuot.

Shavuot concludes the Omer and is the day in history when we received the Torah at Har Sinai. Every year on Shavuot, we renew our acceptance of Hashem's gift and Hashem "re-gives" the Torah. Take the weekend to relax and spend time with your families.

Shabbat Shalom and Chag Sameach!

Shabbat begins at 20:30 on 14th May 2021.

Shabbat ends at 21:44 on 15th May 2021.

**Stay safe and Shabbat Shalom,
from your HBHG Team**

Chloe Fouladbaksh

Eden Field

Chloe Miller

Jake Gilbert

Daniel Grossman

Saadiah Klein

