

## The Sukkah as Shelter

1	<b>Deuteronomy 16:13</b> You should celebrate the holiday of sukkot for seven days after the harvest from your threshing floor and your vat.	<b>דברים פרק טז:יג</b> חג הסוכת תעשה לך שבעת ימים באספך מגרונך ומיקבך:
<p><i>What emotions does the harvest bring out?          What is the connection between harvest and sukkot?</i></p>		
2	<b>Leviticus 23:42-43</b> For seven days all citizens of Israel should dwell in sukkot. In order that the generations should know that with sukkot I redeemed Israel when I took them out of the land of Egypt- I am the LORD your G-d.	<b>ויקרא פרק כג:מב-מג</b> בסכת תשבו שבעת ימים כל האזרח בישראל ישבו בסכת: למען ידעו דרתים כי בסכות הושבתי את בני ישראל בהוציא אותם מארץ מצרים אני ה' אלקים:
<p><i>According to this text, why do we celebrate sukkot?          What emotions does redemption from Israel conjure?          How does this biblical text compare with the one from Deuteronomy?</i></p>		
3	<b>Rashi 23:43</b> <u>Because with sukkot I redeemed:</u> The clouds of glory	<b>רש"י ויקרא פרק כג</b> <b>כי בסכות הושבתי - ענני כבוד:</b>
<p><i>The "clouds of glory" refer to the clouds that surrounded/protected Israel on their journey in the desert. How does dwelling in a sukkah remind us of this?</i></p>		
4	<b>Rashbam 23:43</b> <u>In order that the generations know:</u> . . . The holiday of sukkot you should make for yourself when you gather from your threshing floor, and from your vat and when you gather the bounty from the land and your houses are full of the good of the land: grains, grapes and olive oil. In order that you should remember that with sukkot I saved Israel in the desert for forty years without settlement and without a land, and for this you should give thanks to the one who gave them a land and houses full of good. And you should not say in your heart "my strength and strength of hand brought me this success.	<b>רשב"ם ויקרא פרק כג:מג</b> <u>למען ידעו דורותיכם [וגו'] - חג הסוכות תעשה לך באוספך מגרונך ומיקבך באוספך את תבואת הארץ ובתיכם מלאים כל טוב דגן ותירוש ויצהר, למען תזכרו כי בסכות הושבתי את בני ישראל במדבר ארבעים שנה בלא יישוב ובלא נחלה, ומתוך כך תתנו הודאה למי שנתן לכם נחלה ובתיכם מלאים כל טוב, ואל תאמרו בלבבכם כחי ועוצם ידי עשה לי את החיל הזה.</u>
<p><i>The above interpretation is concerned that we might misattribute the success of the harvest to our own efforts and not credit G-d's help. What are some modern examples of similar misattributions?</i></p>		

5	<p><b>Mishnah Sukka 1:1</b> [A Sukkah] that is smaller than 20 tefachim (~5 feet), or has fewer than three walls or that has more sun than shade is not kosher</p>	<p><b>משנה סכה א:א</b> ושאינה גבוהה עשרה טפחים, ושאינ לה שלוש דפנות, ושחמתה מרובה מצילתה--פסולה.</p>
<p><i>What is it about these quantifications that makes a sukkah not kosher? What characteristics does a sukkah need to have to be considered kosher?</i></p>		
6	<p><b>Talmud Bavli Sukkah 28b</b> Our teachers taught “you shall sit” (Lev 23:42) meaning “reside.” From here we learn that all seven says a person should made their sukkah permanent and their home temporary. How? If you have nice dishes you bring them to the sukkah, nice linens, you bring them to the sukkah, and you eat and drink and spend time in the sukkah and study torah in the sukkah</p>	<p><b>תלמוד בבלי כח:ב</b> דת”ר תשבו כעין תדורו מכאן אמרו כל שבעת הימים עושה אדם סוכתו קבע וביתו עראי כיצד היו לו כלים נאים מעלן לסוכה מצעות נאות מעלן לסוכה אוכל ושות’ ומטייל בסוכה ומשנן בסוכה</p>
<p><i>The Talmud is concerned that we should really consider the sukkah home by bringing our precious possessions into it. How might this connect with source 4 above?</i></p>		
7	<p><b>Hashkiveinu Prayer</b> Help us, Adonai, to lie down in peace, and awaken us again, our Sovereign, to life. Spread over us Your sukkah of peace; guide us with Your good counsel. Save us because of Your mercy. (Translation adapted from <i>Siddur Sim Shalom</i>)</p>	<p><b>תפילת השכיבנו</b> השכיבנו אבינו לשלום, והעמידנו מלכנו לחיים טובים ולשלום. ופרוס עלינו סוכת שלומך, ותקננו מלכנו בעצה טובה מלפניך, והושיענו מהרה למען שמך.</p>
<p><i>What is it about this prayer that makes it appropriate for the evening service? How might this connect with source 3 (about the clouds of glory?)</i></p>		
<p><b>General questions for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you understand the concept of “being dependant on G-d”?</li> <li>• What are some other reminders from the past year of our “dependence of G-d” (however you’ve defined it above)</li> <li>• How might dwelling in sukkot help to shift our priorities or change our actions?</li> <li>• What might you take away from your experience of being in the sukkah this year?</li> </ul>		