



Torah Family E-magazine

Issue #2



This magazine is a special place for Torah keeping families to learn and share and grow together. Whether you are 2 or 69, you will find something here for you. Enjoy and Shalom!



Info and Index

Torah Family e-magazine is a publication just for families that are trying to keep Torah. Everyone gets a chance to share, from children to grandparents.

This magazine is owned and operated by Heidi Cooper, and all submissions are checked and placed by her. Please enjoy reading the material, and be sure to share what you have learned with everyone else.

Ads or classifieds are available for \$5 per issue, and will be placed within the magazine as well as on the www.torahfamilyliving.com website. Categories accepted include: Torah, crafts, homesteading, herbs, modesty, home schooling, general Scriptures.

This magazine is available to all for free and all submissions are given freely. Each issue will be available in PDF download at the www.torahfamilyliving.com website. Thank you very much for taking part in this project.

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We now have a new home base! Check us out at the Torah family living website:

www.torahfamilyliving.com

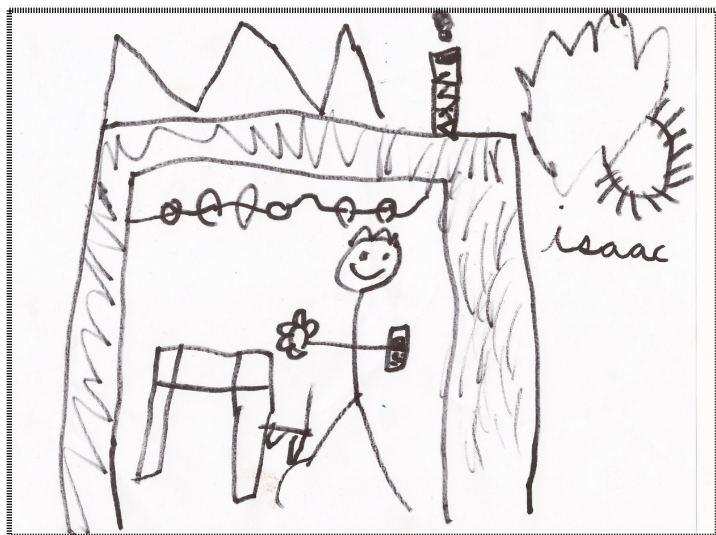
We have printables, articles, publications and more. This is also the place to purchase "The Children's Ketubbah Project." Shalom!



www.torahfamilyliving.com

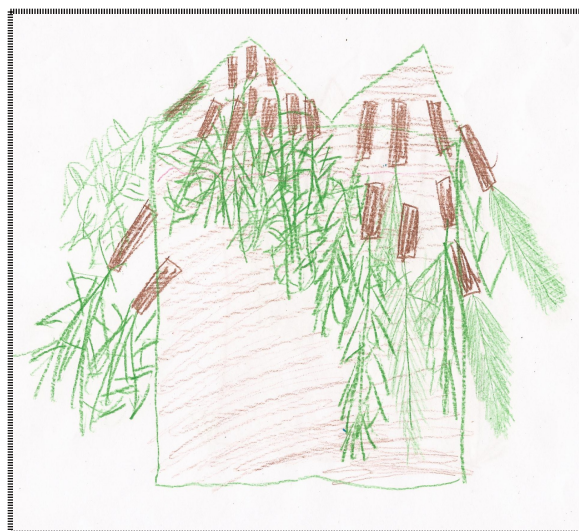


Children's gallery

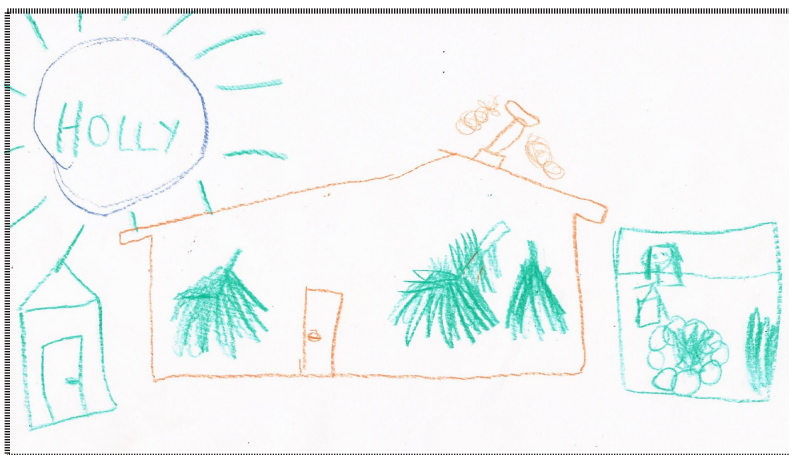


ISAAC, AGE 6

I LIKE THAT WE GET TO SLEEP
OUTSIDE AND EAT M & M'S.
WE KEEP SUKKOT BECAUSE
YHVH MADE IT A FEAST DAY!
NAOMI AND HOLLY



NAOMI, AGE 9



HOLLY, AGE 7

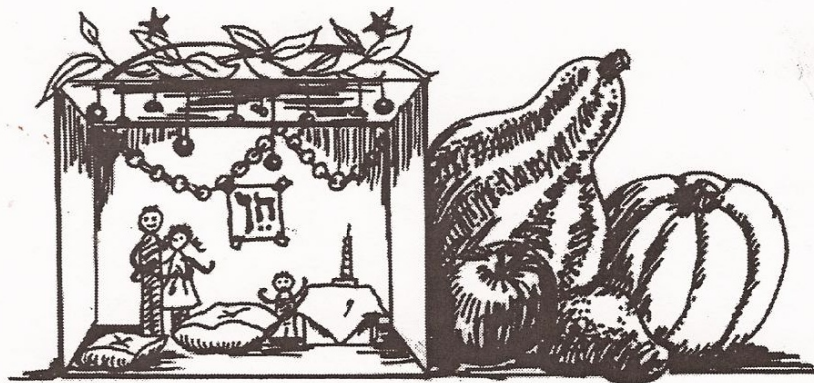


Miniature Sukkah Craft

This small version can become part of your centerpiece. Optional materials include:

- Half of a small shoebox or similar size (or)
Small paper sack, shortened (or)
Craft sticks.
- Use any of these to create your basic hut shape. Cut a doorway in the sack or leave a doorway if using sticks. The shoebox can be simply stood on the cut end. Use different shades of brown markers if you want a natural wood appearance.
- Use a collection of small twigs and leaves to make your roof. Glue on top, or leave loose if you want to store them separately later. Tiny metallic stars can be put on your top branches. If you want to hang "fruit" from the ceiling, use things like raisins, seeds, nuts, or beads on threads. Use your imagination for other small inside decorations. Stuff tiny cushions or use a wooden block for a table.
- If you like, thread spools or clothespins (half or whole) can become little people. Tiny manufactured people and furniture also work. A birthday candle on a button can set off your table.
- Many craft stores have doll house furniture available. We were able to find a tiny Bible, small fruit basket, and miniature fruit.

Note from Robin: This was our family's favorite craft! If you enjoy doll houses you'll love this one. (Thanks for the idea Linda.)



SUKKOT AROUND THE WORLD

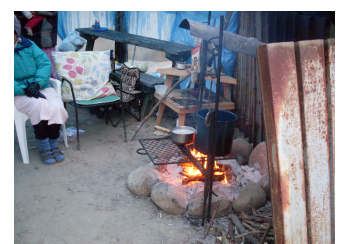
Sukkot Ideas

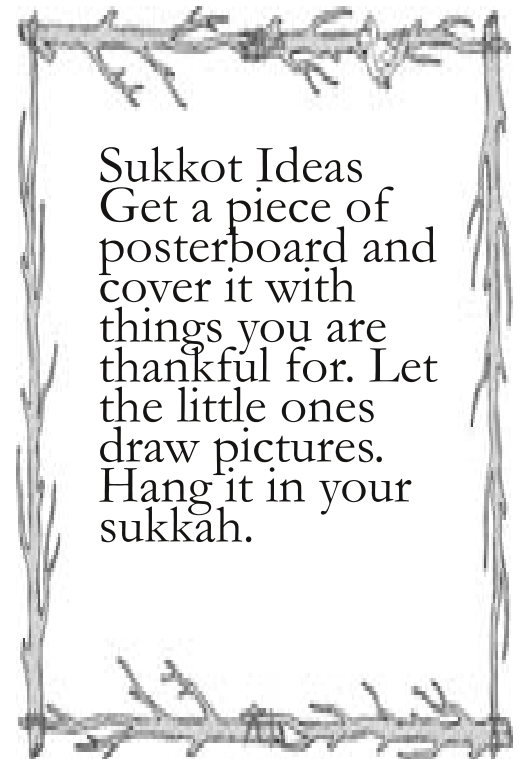
Decorate your sukkah with natural items. We make strings of pinecones to hang up. What natural items can you use?



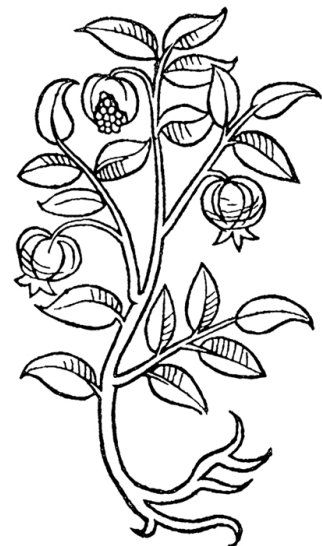
Aww, we love Sukkot (and all the holy days) too! When I was an infant, my parents went to the Feast in NY, where they met my husband's grandmother! It would be several years later before I met my husband. In 2000, Andrew and I started dating during Sukkot. Two years later, we were engaged during Sukkot. Two years later, Andrew's brother and his now wife were engaged during Sukkot. In 2005, we conceived Arin during Sukkot :) In 2008, we were due with Ella during Sukkot (she arrived a little late. And this year, 2011, we are due with another baby during Sukkot! Yeah, Sukkot holds more than one special meaning for our family :)

Cara @ The Peterson Party





I want to encourage everyone to research Sukkot but to recognize HOW it is done is a unique expression of worship and remembrance. We all do it "imperfectly" without being in Israel and there being no temple. I believe if we approach The Feasts humbly, with a contrite heart to "keep His Word Alive" for this generation and on to the next as best we can...I believe it pleases and honors Abba...even though WHAT WE DO may be a "scribbly picture" from an immature child who loves Him (and wants to obey) in comparison to the "original master piece of the Father". :-)
Pam @ Homeshalom





Sarah and Danny Adventure

The Pine Tree Sukkah by Heidi Cooper

“This is going to be the coolest hike ever!” Danny exclaimed as he laced up his boots. Sarah zipped up her backpack and handed Danny a bottle of water.

Their local home school group would be spending the whole afternoon hiking through a state forest. Sarah had packed her mini flower press and field guide. Danny was hoping to sketch a bird.

Sarah climbed up into the van with the other kids, mumbling under her breath, “It would be cooler if you weren’t tagging along.” Sarah gazed out the van window at the dense forests creating a wall on either side of the road. Occasionally, she spotted a clump of black-eyed susans as she pitied herself for having to take care of her brother.



But all misery was soon forgotten as Sarah, Danny, and the other children stepped off the van. The smell of pine trees wafted towards the curious children.

“Wow, a chickadee!”

Danny called out as he heard the familiar “chickadee-dee-deeee.” The group sauntered along the path, observing little treasures at their feet and watching squirrels scamper from tree to tree. Sarah found a beautiful specimen of a chicory plant, with the odd blue toothed petals. “People grind up the roots for coffee,” Sarah explained to her brother.



“What’s the matter with you?” Sarah asked.

“Well, the trip is almost over, and I still haven’t found a bird to draw.” The sky was beginning to look a bit gray, and the breeze was turning cool.

Suddenly, a flash of white high up in a pine tree caught Danny’s eye. In a moment, he knew what it was. A bald eagle was nesting at the top of the tree. In his excitement, he took a leap towards the tree. But he didn’t see the steep slope that dropped down about five feet.



“AHHHHH,” he cried as he plummeted into the ravine. His ankle was throbbing with pain as he slowly sat up. Sarah carefully picked her way down the slope.

“I think you sprained it. Let me help you back up the path.” But before she could, the gray clouds squeezed out their rain like saturated sponges. Sarah grabbed her brother by the arms and dragged him under the pine tree a couple feet away.

“Sarah, I’m scared.” The rain dropped from branch to branch to finally land coldly on their heads.

“Let’s pray,” Sarah said, trying to sound brave. “YHVH, thank you for keeping us safe and help Danny’s ankle to feel better.”

“I feel a little better,” Danny whispered.

The rain fell in curtains for several minutes. Sarah and Danny shivered together under the great pine.

“You know, Sarah, this tree is kinda like our sukkah.”

“What do you mean?” Sarah questioned.

“Well, our sukkah leaks and the wind blows through it. But Yah is with us there, too.”

“You’re right! Yah takes care of us, no matter where we are.”

The rain departed almost as quickly as it had arrived. But it left its mark. The rest of the home school group had been soaked through and they made sloshing sounds as they retraced their steps looking for Sarah and Danny. Sarah called out to them as they approached, and Danny was soon safely seated in the van.

“Sarah, I can’t wait till Sukkot,” Danny announced, and they both laughed.

Children, what does the sukkah mean to you?

Be sure to thank YHVH for always protecting you.

American Robin



Size: 10 inches

Color: Reddish orange belly, dark grey back, yellow beak, and light colored legs.

Eggs: 3-6 light blue

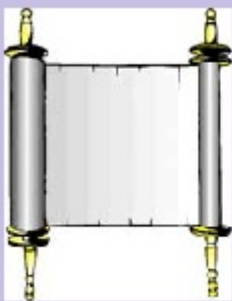
The American Robin is a sure sign of spring. The robin eats insects, worms, mollusks, and berries. They make a nest with grass, paper, and mud. The female then lays 3 to 6 blue eggs.

I once saw a male robin stand guard on a clothesline, and whenever we went near, he divebombed us to protect the nest. What a good daddy! Be sure to watch for robins in the spring. They are one of the first birds to return from their southern migration.

For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the seed to shoot up, so the Master causes righteousness and praise to shoot up before all the nations!

Isaiah 61:11





Torah Family Interview

During this issue, we will be visiting with Christina from hskubes.blogspot.com. I would encourage you to visit her blog and learn more about her. Thank you Christina, for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

1. Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Christina. I am married to my high school sweetheart and am a homeschooling mama to four. I love to read, photograph, write, sew, among many other things.

2. When and how did you begin your journey of following Torah?

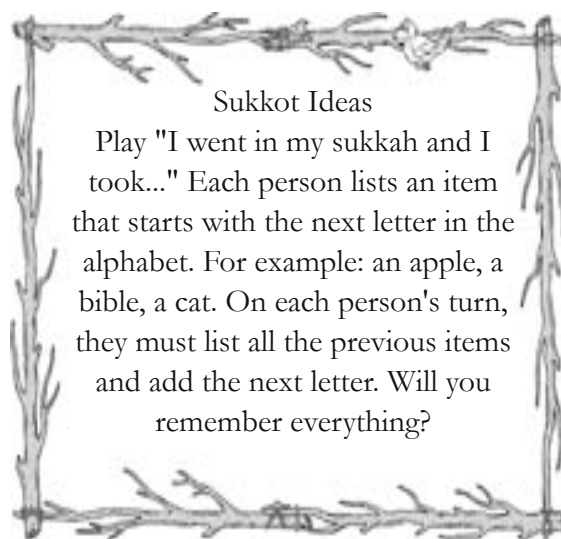
I spent much of my life in the church and shortly after I entered adulthood, I began studying my Bible. For years, I read through the "new testament" over and over, again. Then, a couple of years ago, I was led to begin teaching the "old testament" for history in our homeschool and, shortly after, I began reading through it in my own personal, quiet time. Immediately, it was like a whole new world of Scripture was opened up to me! I had no idea the "OT" could be so rich!

Last summer, we moved from the east coast to the west coast. At the time, I did not see it, but I believe YHVH was using the transition from 'church to church-seeking' to open my eyes to His wonderful Truth. When we arrived on the west coast, I was reading through the book of Isaiah and came across some verses about the Sabbath. I attempted to 'shrug it off', resolved that it only pertained to the Jews, only to encounter more verses about the Sabbath, calling it His Sabbath (not the "Jews") but I still resolved that it did not pertain to me and that I could prove it in the 'New Testament'. After reading all of the Scripture pertaining to the Sabbath in ALL of the Bible, I sat dumbfounded. I repented and resolved to obey Him and begin observing the Sabbath, even though I had

no idea how. Once my eyes were open to the Sabbath and once I took those steps of faith and obedience, He soon opened my eyes to the truth of His Torah! And it has been an amazing journey!

3. What truth really sealed the deal for you?

When I realized who I was, who Israel is, it sealed the deal for me. I knew He was calling me to walk in His Torah.



4. What has been your greatest blessing since beginning this Torah journey?

There have been SO many! But if I could pick just one, it is how His Word has come so alive for me, how I can see how much more deeper and rich it is, since understanding Torah.

5. What has been your biggest challenge?

There have been many challenges along the way. I think the biggest, so far, has been learning how to walk and obey amidst the lack of unity in the home. But YHVH is faithful. It has been a challenging but a beautiful journey of growth. And I look forward to seeing how He works!

6. What does a typical Shabbat look like at your house?

After only a year of observing Shabbat, we have, yet, to develop anything that I would call "typical". :-) And though each Shabbat is different, we do aim to enjoy supper together as a family as Shabbat is welcomed in. I spend much of Shabbat reading, studying, and meditating on YHVH's Word. I try to spend some time sharing Scripture with the children and we enjoy singing, too. A few months ago, YHVH blessed us with local fellowship and in the afternoon, on Shabbat, we often enjoy fellowshiping and studying Torah with our group. I look forward to how Abba works in the future and how our Shabbats will come to be. :)

7. At your season in life, what is your most significant contribution to the Messianic community?

I do not know what my most significant contribution is.

As a homeschooling mom, YHVH has put upon my heart to encourage other mamas to train their children up in the way they should go.

As a wife, He has put on my heart to encourage other wives, especially those that may share similar circumstances.

As a woman, He has put on my heart to reach



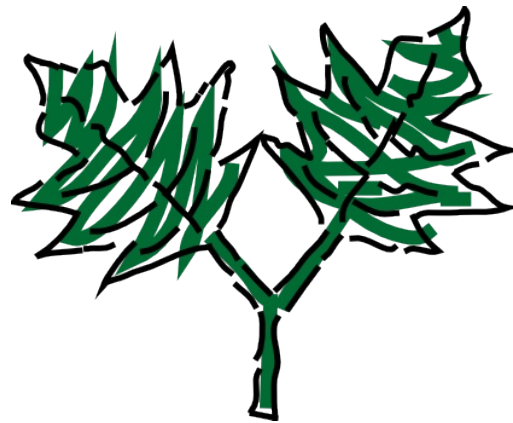
out to, teach, and encourage other women. As His daughter, He has laid on my heart to pray for His multitude of children, to share His Truth, and compel them to come.

8. What would you like to share with other believers?

As we learn to walk in His Torah, may we not forget His law of love.

May we not grow weary in well doing. May we run the race He has set before us.

May we be faithful to the end. May we bring praise to His Name.



Thank you so much, Christina, for sharing your heart with us. It has been a blessing getting to know you.

If there are any readers that would be interested in being interviewed for a future issue, please contact me at info@torahfamilyliving.com.



Articles

A Time of Rejoicing by Heidi Cooper

During Sukkot, we are told to rejoice. For seven days, there should be no whining, complaining, worrying, bickering, etc. How do we rejoice? What do we rejoice about? This article is 100% scripture verses about rejoicing. Read some every day during Sukkot to help you rejoice! (Did you know that the word rejoice is found 183 times in scripture, not counting other forms of the word?)

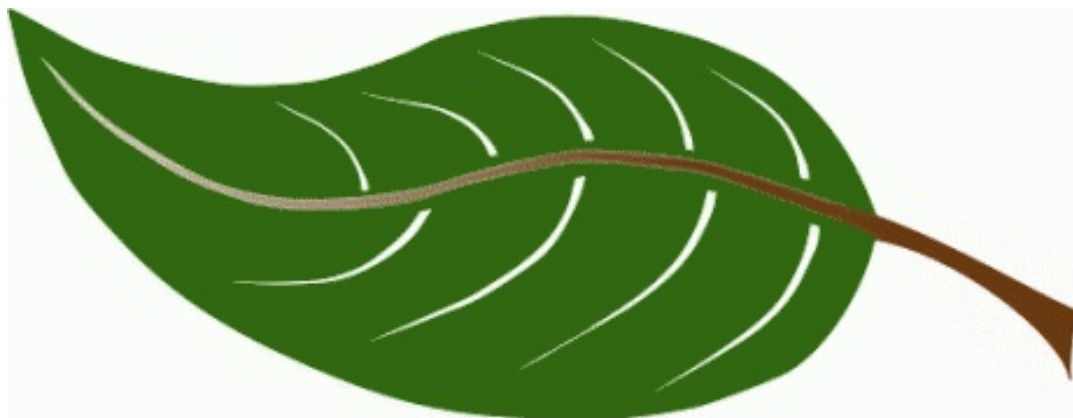
Lev 23:40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

Deu 12:7 And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee.

Deu 12:12 And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.

Deu 12:18 But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto.

Deu 14:26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,



Deu 16:14 And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within thy gates.

Deu 16:15 Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD shall choose: because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice.

Deu 26:11 And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you.

Deu 27:7 And thou shalt offer peace offerings, and shalt eat there, and rejoice before the LORD thy God.

Deu 32:43 Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.



Deu 33:18 And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; and, Issachar, in thy tents.

1Sa 2:1 And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

1Ch 16:10 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

1Ch 16:31 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.

1Ch 16:32 Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein.

2Ch 6:41 Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness.

2Ch 20:27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

Neh 12:43 Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.

Job 21:12 They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ.

Psa 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Psa 5:11 But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Psa 9:2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

Psa 9:14 That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.

Psa 13:5 But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.

Psa 14:7 Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.



Psa 20:5 We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.

Psa 31:7 I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;

Psa 32:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Psa 33:1 Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

Psa 33:21 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Psa 35:9 And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

Psa 40:16 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually,
The LORD be magnified.



Psa 53:6 Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

Psa 63:7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

Psa 65:12 They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

Psa 66:6 He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

Psa 68:3 But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

Psa 68:4 Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him.

Psa 70:4 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified.

Psa 71:23 My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed.



Psa 86:4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

Psa 89:12 The north and the south thou hast created them: Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name.

Psa 89:16 In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

Psa 90:14 O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Psa 96:11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.

Psa 96:12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice.

Psa 97:1 The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

Psa 97:12 Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

Psa 98:4 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Psa 105:3 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

Psa 118:24 'This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psa 119:162 I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

Psa 149:2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Pro 5:18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

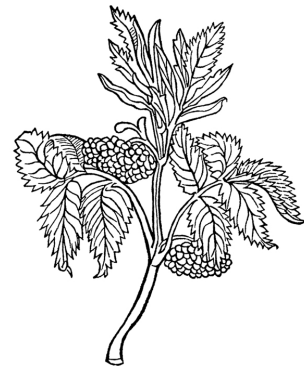
Pro 23:15 My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

Pro 23:24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

Pro 31:25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

Ecc 3:22 Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

Isa 25:9 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.



Isa 29:19 The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

Isa 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Isa 65:18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

Isa 66:10 Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her:

Jer 31:13 Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.



Joe 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

Hab 3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Zep 3:14 Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Zec 2:10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.

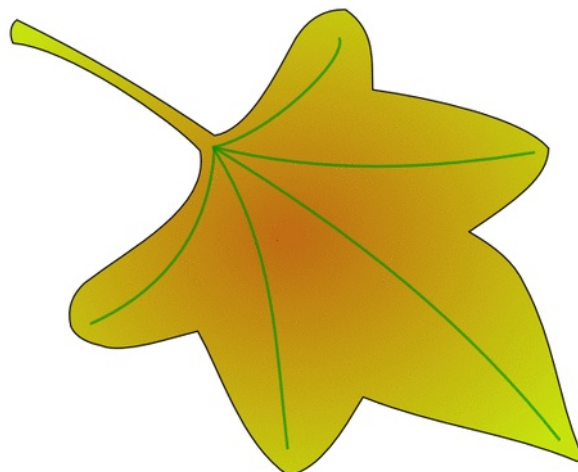
Zec 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Zec 10:7 And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.

Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Luk 15:6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

Luk 19:37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;



Joh 16:22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Act 2:26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

Rom 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

2Co 7:16 I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things.

Php 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Php 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Php 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.

Php 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

1Th 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.



Sukkot is such an exciting time! It is the favorite feast in our house. But I would like to say a few words about our hearts. Some firmly believe that we should not build a sukkah outside of Jerusalem. In my studies, I can see that as a completely legitimate conclusion. Some emphasize that it should be built with branches. Great! Some emphasize that it is a temporary dwelling, and live in a tent for a week. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob delights in those that seek Him with their whole heart. He resists the proud. He hates murmuring and arguing. As we enter into the fall feasts, let us remember that we are not in the land, and the best we can do is rehearse. Let us be understanding of each other and patient when someone else sees things differently. Let us seek YHVH with our whole hearts, humbly seeking to please Him in all that we do. He will draw us closer to Him.

Thoughts on Nehemiah 9:1-3

"Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshipped the LORD their God."

The remnant had returned from Babylon and were trying to rebuild Jerusalem. They were coming out of exile and relearning the Torah. That sounds similar to the return to Torah that is happening right now. How did they approach YHVH, their Creator and the Keeper of the Covenant? What can we learn from them? Let's look at the verbs in these verses.

**ASSEMBLED
SEPARATED FROM FOREIGNERS
STOOD
CONFESSED SIN
CONFESSED INIQUITY OF FATHERS
READ FROM THE BOOK OF THE LAW
MADE CONFESSION
WORSHIPPED**

As we approach the Fall Feasts, how are we approaching our Heavenly Father? Are we making our hearts ready by confessing (in Hebrew, lifting our hands) our sins (transgression of the Law). Are we confessing the sins of our fathers, to break the chain of generational curses? Are we reading the Torah? Are we worshipping, which is at least partly demonstrated by our obedience? I would encourage you to read the books of Ezra and Nehemiah during this time. They had returned from exile and were beginning again. There is much we can learn from their example.



*I hope you have enjoyed this issue of Torah Family E-magazine. I invite you to visit the website www.torahfamilyliving.com and look around to see what else we have available. Thank you for reading this magazine.
Shalom - Heidi Cooper*