



Project: Sermon Resource for Shluchim
Distribution Date: May 20, 2008 / ט"ו אייר תשס"ח
Parsha: Bechukosai – בחוקתי

בייה

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1. Zohar: Everything depends on Mazal.
 Even a Sefer Torah needs luck to be the congregation's favorite.



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2. Prayers need luck too:
 Aleinu complained that he had no luck so G-d put it in Musaf of the High holidays.

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3. Holidays need luck:
 Every Holiday has its special mitzvah except Shavuot.
 It is called Atzeret –"restraint"- because the only observance is not to do work.



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4. There is no mention of the celebration of the Torah's giving in Torah. Just" 50 days from Pesach is the "First Fruit Celebration".
 Why did Shavuot get such bad luck?



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5. Simchat Torah is another holiday that is not mentioned at all in Torah.

Why not?



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6. Perhaps:

Just as a father cannot force his son to love a gift the father gave him G-d cannot command us to love Torah.

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7. Simchat Torah is a celebration of our love for Torah.

G-d cannot command us to love Torah; this holiday must come from within ourselves.



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8. The same is true regarding Shavuot.

G-d commanded us to celebrate on the sixth of Sivan for our produce – but our love caused us to transform this holiday into a celebration of the Torah.



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9. The practical lesson:

Jewish information can be passed down in school and online but love for Judaism cannot come on command – it can only be internalized at home!



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