



Jewish Literacy Programme

Year 4 ~ Week 24

This week's סדרה:

English Translation	חומש Words	English Translation	חומש Words
camels	גַמְלִים	get up	קום
perhaps	אוּלַי	(and) they bowed down	וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּוּ
food	אֵכֶל	old, elder	זָקֵן

English Translation / Explanation

G.K. Words

From שְׁבִיעוֹת to פֶּסַח (2)

24,000 talmidim of Rabbi Akiva died between Pesach and Shavuot, "because they did not show proper respect to each other." They died between Pesach and Shavuot as a result of a mysterious plague that raged during the days of the Omer counting. We observe some laws of mourning during this period: we do not have weddings, haircuts or listen to music. However, **on Lag Ba'Omer we rejoice, because Rabbi Akiva's students did not die on this day.**

Lag Ba'Omer is also the anniversary of the day that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai died. He was a talmid of Rabbi Akiva and the author of the Zohar, a book of Kabbalah. His 'Yahrtzeit' is also a cause for celebration because he revealed many deep secrets of the Torah to his students on his dying day.

ל"ג בְּעוֹמֶר
Lag Ba'Omer
 The 33rd day of the Omer

Adapted from:
<http://www.torahtots.com/holidays/lagbomer/lagbomer.htm>

On Yom Yerushalayim, the Old City of Jerusalem was liberated during the Six Day War of 1967. Yom Yerushalayim is celebrated on the 28th of Iyar.

Jerusalem has been the Jewish capital for 3,000 years, since the reign of King David. **Both Temples were built in Jerusalem, on the Temple Mount, "Har HaBayis."** The first was built by King Solomon and was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE. The second was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. Three times a year (the Sholosh Regolim - Pesach, Shavuot and Succot), the Jews of Israel would make a pilgrimage to the Temple with their offerings.

יום יְרוּשָׁלַיִם
Jerusalem Day

Adapted from:
http://www.wujs.org.il/activist/learning/festivals/yom_yerushalayim/index.shtml

Plants and flowers: we decorate our homes and shuls with fragrant flowers, leaves, tree branches, and greens. One reason for this is that Har Sinai bloomed and sprouted flowers in honor of the Torah.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot: A common Minhag is all-night Torah study on the first night of Shavuot. On the day the Bnei Yisroel were to receive the Torah, the nation overslept. We put this right by staying up all night learning Torah.

It is customary to eat dairy meals, or at least one dairy meal, on Shavuot. One reason for this is that, once the Torah had been given on Shavuot, the Jewish people had to eat milky foods until they had learnt their new laws of kashrus.

מִנְהַגי שְׁבִיעוֹת
Shavuot Customs

Adapted from:
<http://www.torahtots.com/holidays/shavuot/shavuotr.htm>

Megillas Rus is read on the second day of Shavuot, before the reading of the Torah. Many reasons are given for this practice: 1. The entire Torah is loving kindness, and this Megillo is about loving kindness 2. The story took place during the harvest season. This period includes the Yom Tov of Shavuot. 3. The Torah was given to the Jewish People on Shavuot; Rus showed how much she loved the Torah by becoming Jewish. 4. Rus was the Great-Grandmother of King David. King David was born, and also died, on Shavuot.

מְגִילַת רוּת
Megillas Rus

Adapted from:
<http://www.torahtots.com/holidays/shavuot/shavuotr.htm>