

Shavuoth Holiday Insights by Rabbi Meyer Hager of Righteous Blessed Memory

Shavuoth, the 6th day of the month of Sivan commemorates the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai some 3,300 years ago. The Torah, which includes both The Written and Oral Law, was received by Moses through divine revelation. The Torah has remained the basic teaching, which has guided our people since then.

The festival of Shavuoth has in many respects a deeper meaning and significance than any of the other holidays. Each of our major holidays has some prescribed ceremonial connected with its observance from which it derives its unique character. Shavuoth, which is not linked to any ceremonial, however, is enhanced and given a unique position, by its purely spiritual message to which the Jewish people pledged an abiding loyalty that allowed the people of Israel to enter into the covenant of G-d.

The Lesson of Shavuoth: That a Jew has a mission to fulfill, namely, to educate himself and mankind as to the divine will and purpose for man. G-d is Israel's Lawgiver, hence Israel's only task: to learn and fulfill this divine law and thus to be a kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation.

The giving of the Torah took place on a specific date in our history. The receiving of the Torah is a continuously, never-ending process that goes on from generation to generation, year to year, day after day. Every generation is compelled to learn and delve into the Torah message on its own terms and find insight and solution to its own complexities. It is important to hear its message and to recognize its relevance and significance for our time. By receiving the Torah throughout our lives we are part of the noble experience of Sinai. **A HAPPY YOMTOV.**

YISKOR – DAY TWO OF THE FESTIVAL OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS – Our Heritage from Mt. Sinai Today.

On Yiskor day, we assemble to offer tribute and prayers for our departed parents in accordance with the Fifth Commandment, **"Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother"**, which is explained in Talmudic lore refers to our obligation to parents and forbears, that continues after they have passed away.

Yiskor upholds and bolsters our commitment to the obligations that Jewish people assumed in the shadow of Sinai, and that we become united with them.

YISKOR : STRENGTHENING OUR FAMILY FABRIC ---- RENEWING THE LINK OF GENERATION TO GENERATION – AND OF THE PAST TO THE PRESENT AND TO THE FUTURE FORGING THE CHAIN OF TRADITION (MESORAH) TO MOUNT SINAI