

27 Tishrei, 5777 (29/10/16) **Simchat Torah Service 5777: Isru Chag** J. M. Terrett
What Goes Around, Comes Around

Introduction: Because this year, the traditional date for Simchat Torah fell midweek, we decided to observe this concluding celebration on the first Sabbath of the new Torah Reading Cycle – so for us, today is both **Simchat Torah** and the **Sabbath of the Beginning** (Bereshit). Simchat Torah is also called **Isru Chag**, which means in Hebrew: Bind up the Festival, so we can put our festival celebrations away and get ready to get back to work.

October has been a joyful, busy month and after a wonderful year walking with the L-rd through our annual Torah Reading Cycle in 5776, we can look forward to another blessed, interesting year as we make our lives turn around His Word for another whole year in 5777.

I have entitled this service: What Goes Around Comes Around because what we sow into our lives will determine what grows in our lives and with all the unpredictable excitement which comes our way every year, we want to make sure that, at the core, we stand firm on His Word.

This is the only weather proof strategy which will ensure that our faith in His coming Kingdom will translate into victory and progress in our lives, both as individuals and as a community throughout all of our generations – from the tiny babies which are forming in their mother's wombs in our midst, to those of us who are at the jumping off place.

Your homework over the coming week, is to read the portions for Shabbat Bereshit (Gen. 1:1-6:8; Is. 42:5-43:10; Rev. 22:6-21) and bring any questions you may have to our Thursday night Yeshiva Bible Study. Or, you can email them to me as we begin another year long journey of awe and wonder, which could also be called our annual feeding frenzy because His Word always gives us a full meal deal, the more we dig into it and the deeper we go.

(1) The Siddur:

pp. 5, 7, 9, (first reading pp. 43, 45)
 pp. 35, 37 (Shema)
 p. 87 (L-rd's Prayer)

(2) Praise and worship

(3) Rolling Back the scroll

Our kids are going to stay with us as we roll the scroll back and get ready for the special readings and the Torah Promenade. Anyone who wants to can come up and watch.

(4) Torah Service: pp. 89-93 (while the scroll is being rolled back)

Reading: V'Zot Ha B'rachah (And This is the Blessing): Deuteronomy 33:1-29:

[1] 1-5; [2] 6,7 [3] 8-11; [4]12-16; [5] 17-19; [6] 20-25; [7] 26-29

How many of you noticed that Manasseh and Ephraim were combined and that Simeon was missing and that the birth order was not followed? It is the final blessing of Moses, because in the final analysis G-d wants to bless His people through all the ups and downs we go through, both Jewish and Gentile as we wander through this life on our way to our Father's Home in Glory.

I cannot promise you a year full of blessing and ease, no matter who gets into the White House or how the civil war in Syria turns out. What I can promise you that despite all the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, the light afflictions of the moment in 5777 will not be worthy to be compared to the eternal weight of glory which is reserved for each one of us when this fading world is finally brought to a close and His eternal kingdom is established over all the nations and generations of mankind. You ain't seen nothing yet!

Here are four New Testament Passages for Isru Chag:

[1] 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; [2] Colossians 3:16,17; [3] Heb. 4:12,13; [4] 2 Peter 1:16-21

(5) Betrothal:

(1) **Chatan Torah (groom of the Torah)** [the oldest who can still read] Deut. 34:9-12.

(2) **Chatan Bereshit (groom of the Beginning)** [youngest who can read] Gen. 1:1-8

(3) **Chazak Chazak (Haftarah transition)** [leader of the next generation] Jos. 1:1-9

(4) **Brit Chadashah (groom of the Coming Kingdom)** John 1:1-5 and Rev. 22:17-21

(5) **Multilingual Readings:** _____

(Gen. 1:1-5; Deut. 34:9-12; Lk 1:1-4; Jn 1:1-5; Heb. 1:1-4)

(6) The Torah Parade (Hakafot) 7 times anticlockwise – winding up for another cycle

(7) Returning the Scroll: pp. 93-97 and blessings: Jude 24, 25; Heb. 13:20,21;

(8) Kiddish (Eyn Kelohaynu p. 135; Aaronic Benediction p. 121)

**The Chocolate Frenzy and Nosh You Shall Have Nothing But Joy
(THOU SHALT NOT MAKE A MESS)**