



Sukkot Message
Rabbi Gideon Shloush
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Newsletter

Sukkot is such a beautiful holiday. Coming off the High Holidays we are excited to begin the new year with a renewed commitment to our heritage and faith.

Here in Israel, despite the hardship of a relentless war, everywhere one turns the landscape is filled with delightfully decorated sukkahs. One can find them on balconies, in parking lots, in fields, in malls and even next to stadiums. How inspiring to see the Jewish People's dedication to this Mitzvah.

Though perhaps there's a deeper message to this holiday.

As we go about our lives, we try to build structures to provide ourselves with security and protection. We build elegant homes. We lock our doors. We live in these spaces and feel safe and in control. We view our homes as enduring and without them we could not function.

But the reality is that our residences are essentially delicate shelters that give us the illusion of permanence and security.

The Sukkah that we step into for seven days reminds us of the fragility of all that is precious to us. The Sukkah serves as a reminder that our real security and protection comes, not from the walls that we build, but by the grace of God.

As we enter this festival of joy – where we leave our perennial homes and step into the embrace of the beloved Sukkah, who won't be reflecting on the temporary nature of our existence and acknowledge our total dependence on the One Above.

The world may feel as a storm, but we are in G-d's trusting embrace. Our present-day challenges and circumstances are a vivid reminder to take to heart the comforting message of the Sukkah and all that it represents.

With best wishes for a Chag Sameach,
Rabbi Gideon Shloush