

לְכָבוֹד הַתּוֹרָה

To Honor the Torah

One of the most joyful events at Beit Hallel is the parading of the Torah Scroll amongst the congregation. For visitors it may seem a little strange, but understanding why we do it will hopefully allow all to participate with joy. The primary reason we parade the Torah scroll is to give the Word of G-d a time of honor and thus honor the G-d who gave it to us. By parading the scroll we give thanks to G-d that He has not left us without the opportunity of knowing Him and His will. How blessed we are that the G-d of the universe has chosen to speak directly to us. The Torah is central and should be given a place of pre-eminence. To insure that we do not become unthankful, we parade the Torah, giving everyone in our community an opportunity to be close to it and express their thanks for having G-d's word.



Another reason we parade the Scroll is to remind ourselves that the Torah should be foremost in our thoughts. Every time the Torah is paraded by us we are reminded that its study should be the core of our lives. As it passes among us we are reminded that G-d and His word are inseparable—obedience to the Torah is obedience to G-d. As the Torah passes many will touch it with their tzitzit or siddur and then touch their lips. This is done to remind us that G-d's word should be on our lips as we live our lives, and that it is sweet to us, like honey (cf. Ezekiel 3:3).

Another reason that we parade the Torah scroll is to affirm that the Torah belongs to every man and women. The scroll must never be the sole responsibility of the priesthood or clergy. No matter one's gender, race, ethnic origin, or social status, the Torah must be in the hands and hearts of everyone. There have been occasions in the history of mankind where only a select few had access to G-d's word. To make sure that this travesty is never repeated within our congregation the Torah is brought down and paraded among us all.

You will notice that children follow the Torah as it is paraded around and by doing so say that they are willing to follow the commands the Torah sets forth. The parade of children should remind each parent and adult of his/her responsibility to teach and live out the Torah before our children.

As followers of Yeshua, the written Torah among the people reminds us of Yeshua who is the living Torah and also walked among us. The parading of the written Torah reminds us of Yeshua who lived out the Torah to perfection. Yeshua is the living Torah and without Him we will never fully understand the written Torah. While we do not have Yeshua still walking among us, His Torah reminds us of His presence with us, and His promise to teach us the truth.