



# THE TRIBE SCRIBE

BEHA'ALOTECHA: CLOUD SIGNALS!

YOU DON'T NEED MORE THAN 4 CAPEX MAX.

BUT I'M NOT MAX, I'M DANI!

ARGH! YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN... I'M SO EXCITED FOR THE HOLIDAY - I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO IT ALL YEAR!

WITH ALL THIS PACKING YOU'D THINK WE'RE STAYING FOR 40 YEARS! BEFORE WE KNOW IT, WE'LL BE PACKING UP AGAIN TO COME HOME!

DO YOU KNOW WHO WERE EXPERTS AT PACKING? NOT ONLY MUM, BUT NONE OTHER THAN THE **JEWISH PEOPLE** IN THE DESERT.

**BOING! BOING!**

THE **JEWISH PEOPLE** TRAVELLED IN THE DESERT FOR 40 YEARS. BUT OF COURSE THEY DIDN'T SPEND 40 YEARS ON THE ROAD. THEY CAMPED AND STAYED IN MANY PLACES ALONG THE WAY.

SOME OF THE STOPS WERE LONG (19 YEARS!) AND SOME WERE ONLY A DAY! SO HOW WERE THEY TO KNOW WHETHER TO UNPACK AND GET COMFORTABLE OR WHETHER IT WAS JUST A WHISTLESTOP VISIT?

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS? THAT'S RIGHT! THE CLOUDS WOULD LET THEM KNOW WHAT KIND OF STOP IT WAS. THE **TORAH** TELLS US IN THIS WEEK'S **PARASHA** THAT THE POSITION OF THE **CLOUDS OF GLORY** WOULD SIGNAL TO THE PEOPLE IF THEY SHOULD STAY PUT OR GET READY TO GO.

IF THE **CLOUD OF GLORY** RESTED ON THE **MISHKAN**, IT MEANT UNPACK, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, WE'RE STAYING HERE FOR THE MOMENT; BUT IF THE **CLOUD OF GLORY** ROSE IT MEANT GET PACKING AND READY TO LEAVE. THEY DIDN'T KNOW IN ADVANCE HOW LONG THEY WOULD STAY; THE ANSWER WAS IN THE CLOUDS!

SOMETIMES WE SAY, I'LL LEARN MORE WHEN I HAVE MORE FREE TIME. I'LL DO MORE **CHESED** WHEN I HAVE MY OWN HOME, I'LL HELP AROUND THE HOUSE MORE WHEN I'M NOT SO BUSY WITH HOMEWORK... LIFE IS NEVER PERFECT. IF WE ARE ALWAYS WAITING FOR A 'SOMETHING' THEN WE'LL NEVER RUN OUT OF EXCUSES.

**Rabbi Dessler (1892-1953)** suggests that the **Jewish people** not knowing the camping time in advance, teaches us an important lesson. Don't make excuses, don't wait until you are comfortable, seize the day and make the most of it!

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