



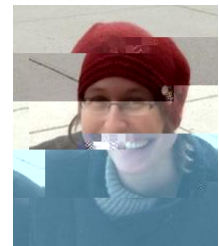
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**Shabbat Behukkotai**  
**June 1, 2019 - 27 Iyyar 5779**



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## **Wagering on the Meaning of Meaning**

Torah Reading: Leviticus 26:3 - 27:34  
Haftarah Reading: Jeremiah 16:19 - 17:14

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Behukkotai is known for its aspect of tokhehah, admonition. This parashah details the consequences of pursuing God's laws (hukkot) and commandments (mitzvot), including the positive but dwelling upon the negative, in terms of sheer number and detail. The parashah begins, "If you walk in my laws (im behukkotai telekhu) and keep my commandments (et mitzvotai tishmeru)," and continues with promises such as, "I shall grant you rains at the correct times...I shall grant peace in your land...and turn towards you..." This opening section, in which the rewards of observance are explained, ends with the following pledge: "I shall ever walk in your midst (vehithalakhti betokhekhem)"—that is, just as Jews are to walk in God's ways, God promises to walk among the Jewish people, both verbs being derived from the same root. The parashah now turns to tokhehah, warning Jews that should they fail in this mission, God will—for starters—"bring upon you panic (fe folrivnitg t negbeinrompleioiMMJu, b ev



Tamar Marvin, PhD,

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