

**Rabbi Kacev**  
**SHABBAT BREISHIT**  
**CYCLES**

**For October 25th, 2008: 25<sup>th</sup> Tishrei 5769**

I write this short idea as we leave the chaggim and move to parshat Breishit. Kohelet, which we read last Shabbat focused on the cycles of life. Throughout sukkot we did hoshanot and then on Simchat Torah we did hakafot. The end of the year cycle is so filled with the concept of circles, a concept worth contemplating. The obvious message is that a circle has no beginning or end; it symbolizes continuity, hope and expectation. Rav Soloveitchik also points out how everyone in a circle is equidistant from the centre point. It reminds us that we are all connected to Torah, all have a portion in it, and all are equally connected to or have access to Hashem.

We will once again read of a world that began as a void, with human potential and so much hope, reaching its height for the Jewish people with the greatest of its leaders, Moshe, passing away yet passing on the mantle of leadership to a nation who would journey into Israel. Such is the cycle of life, loss and voids, yet times of achievement and greatness.

Yom Tov was uplifting and wonderful to share with the community. Thank you to all and as we leave one cycle, may we as a community reach greater heights. May we all learn the Torah with renewed strength and deeper insight and let us all keep in mind that we are all part of the circle; the community all contributing to and hopefully benefiting from being active members of the “circle”.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Kacev