

זכור את יום השבת לקדשו.
ששת ימים תעבד ועשית כל מלאכתך,
ויום השביעי שבת לה'

SHABBAT LASHEM

THE VOICE OF BNEI AKIVA UK

PARASHAT BEREISHIT

29TH TISHREI 5781

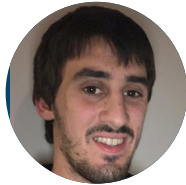
16TH & 17TH OCTOBER 2020

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**BNEI
AKIVA**
UNITED KINGDOM



בס"ד



TO BE A SIBLING GIDEON RUDOLPH SHEVET NE'EMAN

This concept of sibling rivalry in Tanach is first shown in this week's parasha with the story of the world's first siblings, Cain and Abel, and ending with the world's first murder. However, this is by no means the last record of fighting brother in Sefer Bereishit, as the stories of Yitzchak and Yishmael, Ya'akov and Esav, and Yosef and his brothers appear later in the book.

On the surface these rivalries seem to stem from childish disagreements, whether it be a sacrifice, teasing, lentil soup or a new coat. However, on a deeper level, these arguments all come from the same thing, a fear that their parents love their sibling more than them:

- The Torah says that Cain was named as he was because Chava said that 'she had acquired a man with the L-rd'. (Bereishit 4:1). Chava felt that as she had produced Cain, Cain belonged to her just as she had belonged to G-d. So Cain grew up loved and guarded by his mother. When his sacrifice was rejected but his brother's was accepted, Cain feared that his mother would now treat only Abel the way he had been treated his whole life.
- Yishmael knew that Sarah was his father's favourite wife and only married his mother because he had to. He took this personally and thought that it would also mean that Avraham would love Yitzchak more than him.
- Esav was insecure about his father's love for him and needed proof that he was his father's favourite. When Yitzchak gave the blessing to Ya'akov, even though it was an accident, Esav felt like he had lost his father's love to his brother.
- Yosef's multi coloured coat was a constant reminder to his brothers that they were second best to Yosef.

If all these people's reason for their anger towards their brother was the same, why was it that only Cain was able to go far enough to attack and kill his brother? Yishmael left his father's house when being told to and did not stick around to fight Yitzchak. Esav never searched for his brother while he was in hiding, and Yosef's brothers decided at the last minute not to kill Yosef but to sell him into slavery instead.

The answer can be found in one of the more famous lines in this week's parasha. Bereishit 4:9 reads:

וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-קַיִן אַי הֲבֵל אָחִיד וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יָדַעְתִּי הֲשֹׁמֵר אָחִי אָנֹכִי:
'And the L-rd said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"'

This quote is often read as a sarcastic response by Cain, but could also be read as a genuine question Cain is asking G-d. He is asking G-d whether he is his brother's keeper, whether one has an obligation to look after their siblings. G-d answers this question by punishing him, clearly showing that one does have this obligation. The generations that followed learnt from this encounter between Cain and G-d about the importance of looking after one's siblings and so did not harm their brothers even when driven to do so.

One reason the Torah chooses to record the stories before the Jews became a nation in Sefer Bereishit is to teach us the importance of learning from our mistakes. The generations over time learnt the importance of care for their siblings, eventually resulting in absolute love between Moshe and Aaron despite many reasons for one to be jealous of the other, demonstrating to us the importance of learning from mistakes to avoid repeating them.

GIDEON WAS ROSH OF BET BASE/BET CHALUTZI MACHANE 5780.

London	In: 17:49 Out: 18:53	Oxford	In: 17:50 Out: 18:57	Leeds	In: 17:48 Out: 18:57
Manchester	In: 17:54 Out: 19:00	Bristol	In: 17:56 Out: 19:02	Liverpool	In: 17:54 Out: 19:03
Cambridge	In: 17:44 Out: 18:51	Birmingham	In: 17:51 Out: 18:59	Jerusalem	In: 17:30 Out: 18:41

WHY START AT THE BEGINNING?

RAV JOEL KENIGSBERG | RAV SHALIACH



It is commonly assumed that the beginning is a good place to start. Rashi, however, in his very first comment on the Torah, challenges this basic assumption.

The Torah was given as a guide for how we are to live our lives, not as a book of stories. It therefore follows that the opening parsha of the Torah should have been that of Kiddush HaChodesh - the first commandment given to the Jewish people as a nation, rather than the account of the six days of creation.

Rashi answers that it was necessary to begin with the story of creation, in order that we should be aware of Hashem's complete mastery and ownership over the entire world. When the nations of the world will claim that the Jews are thieves who have stolen their land, we will be able to answer that the world was created by Hashem – and only He can decide to whom each land belongs.

The Ramban struggles to understand Rashi's question. The faith in Hashem as the Creator of the world is one of the central tenets of Jewish belief. Anyone who denies this principle is branded a heretic – how could one even think it to be a superfluous inclusion in the Torah?

Furthermore, while Rashi's answer explains the inclusion of the account of creation, it does little to explain the need for the rest of Sefer Bereishit. Why does the Torah not begin to enumerate the commandments immediately following the story of creation?

The Netivot Shalom explains based on a question asked by Rav Chaim Vital. Rav Vital

asks why there are no commandments in the Torah about good middot. In many places Chazal went to great lengths to illustrate the importance of having good character traits. Both arrogance and anger are compared to idol worship, and we are taught that Torah can only be acquired by one who is humble. Rav Vital explains that good character traits are so basic that they precede the mitzvot, and serve as a foundation and a prerequisite for the Torah itself. The Torah does not contain explicit commandments about character traits because without them one

cannot even begin to approach the Torah.

BY PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE LIVES OF THE AVOT IN SEFER BEREISHIT, AND BY EMULATING THEIR EXAMPLE, WE WILL BE READY TO RECEIVE AND FULFILL THE ENTIRE TORAH WHICH FOLLOWS AFTERWARDS.

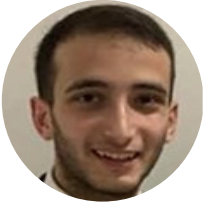
Yet the Torah contains within it the source of all instruction for Jewish living. Even though the character traits are a prerequisite to the Torah's explicit commands, they must be alluded to in the Torah itself in some way – and this is where Sefer Bereishit comes in.

The whole of Sefer Bereishit is replete with stories of our ancestors, how they acted and spoke, their interactions with their fellow human beings and with Hashem. It is a mistake to think that these are simply stories. Each and every deed contains eternal lessons for how we are to live our lives.

The Mishnah in Avot teaches that *דרך ארץ קדמה לתורה*. By paying close attention to the lives of the Avot in Sefer Bereishit, and by emulating their example, we will be ready to receive and fulfill the entire Torah which follows afterwards.

FOLLOW RAV JOEL ON FACEBOOK (RAV SHALIACH PAGE) AND ON TWITTER (@JOEL KENIGSBERG)

MEET YOUR MAZKIRUT 5781!



Nathan Daniels will be the new **Mazkir** this year. Nathan grew up in Mill Hill and attended JFS before going on to study in Yeshivat Eretz Hatzvi. He has just graduated from the University of Birmingham with a Geography and Planning degree. Nathan has been strongly involved with Bnei Akiva for a number of years now and is excited to have this opportunity to continue to drive the Tnuva forward. He hopes every Chaver will feel comfortable contacting him about anything on mazkir@bauk.org.

Shira Collins is the new **Camps and Social Action Worker** this year. Originally from Manchester Shira has grown up in the Tnuva being actively involved with both Sviva and Machanot across the years. After attending Torani – Midreshet Harova, Shira attended Leeds Beckett University studying Childhood Development and Playwork where she has recently graduated. Shira is particularly passionate about ensuring Chaverim of all ages are represented and looks forward to channeling this into her work preparing amazing Machanot and Social Action projects throughout the year. You can contact Shira at camps@bauk.org or socialaction@bauk.org.



Daniel Ross is this year's **Chinuch Worker**, responsible for producing and distributing Bnei Akiva's educational publications and materials. He is hoping to educate, inspire and empower the Chaverim of the Tnuva, and feels strongly about instilling a sense of confidence and pride in the ideology of Bnei Akiva through a synthesis of experiential and traditional education. Daniel has journeyed through the movement as a Chanich and Madrich at both Sviva and Machane, and has just returned from Hachshara on Torani at Yeshivat Hakotel, and will be studying European Politics at Kings College London whilst ensuring the education of the Chaverim of Bnei Akiva. You can contact Daniel at chinuch@bauk.org.

Our **Svivot** this year will be supported and looked after by the capable hands of **Daniella Wieder**. Originally from Hendon, Daniella has grown up through her local Sviva and has held many Tafkidim at Sviva and on Machane over recent years. Daniella is keen to see Svivot continue and flourish, even during the current pandemic. After taking a gap year with Bnei Akiva's Torani programme at Midreshet Harova and graduating with a degree in Mathematics from Queen Mary University of London, Daniella is spending this year on the Mazkirut before making Aliya. You can contact Daniella at svivot@bauk.org.



Joel Ohrenstein is our new **Israel and Sixth Form Worker**. Originally from Hampstead Garden Suburb, he will be looking after our Chaverim as they move from Israel Machane through to Hachshara. We all know this is going to be a crazy and strange year, nevertheless Joel is so excited to get to know our Year 11 and Sixth Form Chaverim. He has been passionately involved with Bnei Akiva for many years as a chanich and madrich, most recently as sgan this past summer. Joel has just finished studying Accounting and Finance at Bristol University where he was also JSoc Vice President. If you've got any questions about anything Israel, you can email him any time at israel@bauk.org.

PLEASE CONTACT US ABOUT ANYTHING - EVEN IF IT'S JUST TO SAY HI!!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

- We are excited to bring you our brand new **Kadima programme for children in Years 3-10!** Running once a month Chanichim can enjoy an exciting programme of Tochniot, Peulot and social activities in a Covid-Secure environment. **Year 3-4 will delve into the stories of Tanach** in an experiential way through fun, games and tochniot! **Year 5-6 will engage with Israel** in an enjoyable, interactive and experiential way surrounded (at a distance) by their friends! **Year 7-8 will enhance their Bar and Bat Mitzvah years with a community engagement theme!** **Year 9 will connect with Israel**, learning about the country's history, significance and culture! Sign up at bauk.org/kadima!

- **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Coronavirus has hit Bnei Akiva hard, costing us over £150,000. Over the last six months our Mazkirut and Bogrim have been working tirelessly to put on a range of fantastic programming for our youth, from Machane Aviv in the Spring, to a celebration of Israel like no other on Yom Ha'atzmaut, and now a packed summer of programming for over 400 children. Please support our **Yad Achim Campaign**. Visit bauk.org/yad-achim for more information and to donate.

- Applications are open for **Winter Machane 5781!** Join us at an exciting new site from **21st-28th December** and enjoy a fantastic Bnei Akiva residential full of fun, friends and Ruach! NEW

THIS YEAR: **Machane Seenai for Year 11!** Sign up today at bauk.org/camps or email camps@bauk.org for more information.

- **Winter Machane Tafkidim** have opened! Sign up at www.bauk.org/camps.

- We have launched a **chessed initiative** planned by madrichim and chanichim who volunteered at GIFT during machane: **donate your old football shirts, shorts and boots** to those who can't afford them! Drop off any donations (clean and in good condition) at the London Bayit.

- Be sure to like our **Facebook page (Bnei Akiva UK)** and follow our **Instagram (bneiakivauk)** to stay informed of our online content!

- To receive weekly copies of **Shabbat Lashem**, sign up for our mailing list at bauk.org/contact.

- Visit bauk.org/feedback for contact details for all Mazkirut members and to leave any general feedback!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. How does the Torah irrefutably demonstrate the equality of man and woman? (See Rav Hirsch on 2:22)
2. Why did Hevel chose to be a shepherd? (See HaK'tav v'HaKabbalah on 4:2)
3. How important is it to try and influence others to be righteous? (See Sforno on 6:8)

SHABBAT SHALOM!!!



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Winter Machane 5781



21st - 28th December 2020
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