

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

SHABBAT LASHEM

THE VOICE OF BNEI AKIVA UK

PARASHAT LECH LECHA

13TH CHESHVAN 5781

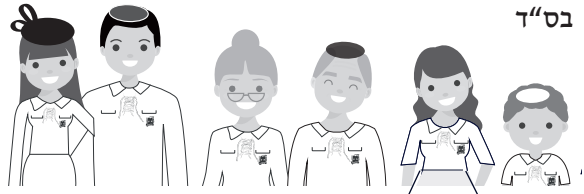
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בס"ד



This week's edition of Shabbat Lashem is dedicated to the refua of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, HaRav Ya'akov Zvi ben Liba. May he have a refua shelema amongst all the other cholim of Israel.



ONCE UPON A TIME IN A LAND FAR, FAR AWAY

ZAHAVA HILL
SHEVET MORASHA

וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-אַבְרָם לֵךְ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם וּמִמּוֹלֶדְתְּךָ אֲבִיךָ
אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲרָאֶךָ:
*Hashem said to Abram, 'Go forth from your native
land and from your father's house to the land that
I will show you.'*

The commandment given to Avraham at the start of the Parsha is a remarkable one. 'Pack up and leave, the flight is booked and I have your ticket, so just go...' Can we even fathom such a thing? Even before a two-week machane we look up the site location, the weather forecast, what clothes we'll need, we research and plan for any possible eventuality. How can we even imagine having so much faith that we would leave all that we knew and relocate instantly, without even knowing the destination? The Radak explains that G-d gave Avram this ambiguous directive of going אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲרָאֶךָ, "to the land that I will show you" as a test in Bitachon and Emunah, trust and faith. G-d does not give any more information as to how rich, fertile or good that land is, as this teaches us, as the readers, that Avram was a man of pure faith.

Later in the Parsha, we see two britot (covenants) between Avraham and Hashem. In both, there is a promise of the land, in which Avraham is now sojourning, to his descendants. So, if we use that as a basis to understand Avraham's Aliyah as a prototype for our national responsibility to this particular eretz, what else can we glimpse from the ambiguous directive of going אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲרָאֶךָ?

I would like to suggest that this unnamed land adds to the eternal nature of the commandment. Our responsibility to 'Lech Lecha' isn't characterised by the name of the land, but rather, by the inherent significance given to this location as it was chosen directly by G-d.

We see the land referred to as Eretz Canaan frequently, both at the end of last week's Parsha when Terach started out towards Canaan but didn't make it there, and also in only a few pasukim time. So why not this time too? By giving us the location alone in the commandment, I believe we can know, for eternity, that the kedusha of this land is not based on the local leadership at the time. It isn't about the Canaanites' rule, or the future malchut, or the Ottoman Empire or the British Mandate, not even the modern state. If we had been given the name of the land as the commandment, then the importance of our role here may be subject to change with the leadership of the land. After we lost sovereignty here over two thousand years ago, what would have driven us to return? Why have we been striving to live here throughout all of history, with groups and individuals risking everything to be here, even when we have had no state? Why could we not accept the Uganda plan, or set up a nice Jewish home in any other 'eretz'?

I think the answer to this question is in this message that we can learn from Lech Lecha. This is the land that G-d showed to Avraham. It was never about who else was here. It was never about what our status here was. The sole element that distinguishes this eretz is in the inherent kedusha of this land being a place so special that G-d marked it out for all eternity as the home for Bnei Avraham.

ZAHAVA WAS A PARTICIPANT ON TORANI 5780.

London	In: 16:21 Out: 17:27	Oxford	In: 16:22 Out: 17:31	Leeds	In: 16:17 Out: 17:29
Manchester	In: 16:24 Out: 17:32	Bristol	In: 16:28 Out: 17:47	Liverpool	In: 16:24 Out: 17:35
Cambridge	In: 16:15 Out: 17:25	Birmingham	In: 16:22 Out: 17:32	Jerusalem	In: 16:15 Out: 17:28

A TASTE FROM THE ARCHIVES: LECH LECHA 5778

RAV AHARON HERSKOVITZ

At the beginning of this week's parsha, Hashem commands Avraham to go "to the land that I will show you." Instead of viewing Avraham as wandering aimlessly, merely waiting for Hashem to reveal which land has been chosen, the midrash ascribes an inner dialogue regarding Avraham's hopes for Hashem's choice (Bereishit Rabbah 39:8):

אמר רבי לוי בשעה שהיה אברהם מהלך בארם נהרים ובארם נחור, ראה אותן אוכלים ושותים ופוחזים, אמר הלוואי לא יהא לי חלק בארץ הזאת, וכיון שהגיע לסולמה של צור ראה אותן עסוקין בניכוש בשעת הניכוש, בעידור בשעת העידור, אמר הלוואי יהא חלקי בארץ הזאת, אמר לו הקדוש ברוך הוא: לזרעך אתן את הארץ הזאת.

Rabbi Levi said: When Avraham was journeying in Aram Naharayim and Aram Nachor, he saw them eating and drinking and acting recklessly. He said, "I hope that my portion is not in this land." Once he arrived at the cliffs of Tyre (in the north of Israel) he saw them involved in weeding during the time of weeding, hoeing during the time of hoeing and said "I hope that my portion is in this land." Hashem said to him "I will give this land to your descendants."

Avraham's hope that Hashem would tell him that Eretz Canaan was to be the chosen land was motivated by the work ethic of the people living there. Instead of being engaged in the pursuit of pleasure, on their temporal enjoyment, the people of Canaan were engaged in the work they needed to be doing at that time.

In an article published in "By His Light", Rav Aharon Lichtenstein zt"l expands this idea to point out that part of the original mission Hashem gives to man in the Garden of Eden (and by extension, the world) is to work there, and thus tend

to it (Bereishit 2:15). The basis of man's mission in this world is not to extract as much enjoyment as possible, but to work on Hashem's world.

Instead of aiming to focus on his "free" moments when he is finally able to engage in his leisurely pursuits which he regards as the pinnacle of his existence, man is called upon to invest effort and work hard.

I remember once asking someone if he was looking forward to coming closer to retirement age, when he could finally take off time and engage in activities he'd

been waiting to do; he looked at me as if he didn't understand the question. "If I didn't feel like my work now was worthwhile and meaningful, I wouldn't be doing it! I enjoy other activities as well, but I don't

live my life waiting for those moments of leisure."

In our day and age, with the myriad activities we are able to engage in thanks to modern technology and relative prosperity, it is important to remember what we were put in Hashem's world to do: to work, and work hard, at maintaining it, tending to it and improving it.

מה חיינו? תורה ועבודה

What is our life? Torah and Avodah (work).

Shabbat Shalom!

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Meet your Nivcharim 5781!

Rosh Nivchar ת"ב

Ben Rothstein

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Currently: Studying Ancient Languages @ UCL

What's your favourite thing about BA?
Torah, Avodah and Aliyah!
And singing about them on Machane.

Fun Fact: The only fruit I eat is grapefruit



Funny BA Story:
First time madrich on Bet Base 5776, water sports day. All the chanichim had been put into groups and the madrichim were assigned to wherever there was space left. I got put in a sailing boat by myself.
Having never sailed before, I think I did pretty well to only crash into three people before being hit in the face by the boom and thrown 10 feet out of the boat.




Nivcheret ת"ב

Abi Laderman


abiladerman@gmail.com
07776195548
Currently: studying Biochemistry @ Queen Mary's

What's your favourite thing about BA?
All of it!

Fun Fact:
I'm scared of fish



Funny BA Story:
I once held the tafkid on Machane of "Official Babysitter".



Nivchar ת"ב



Avishai Marcus

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07546430688
Currently: studying Politics & Religion @ Kings

What's your favourite thing about BA?
For me, BA is unique in its ability to allow youth to form their own opinions and outlooks, whilst infusing their opinions with a strong Religious Zionist hashkafa

Fun Fact: I can sky an entire bottle of water without stopping (PM for demonstration)

Funny Hadracha story: I remember when one of my madrichim broke one of my friends' arm on camp. It's not particularly funny, I just remember feeling really bad for the madrich. It was a game of American Football on Alef Chalutzki. Bad combo.



Nivcheret ת"ב



Tammy Kwartz

tammykz@me.com 07912291439
Currently: studying Dentistry @ Birmingham

What's your favourite thing about BA?
I love Machane the most! Especially the late night tisches where you sing until you lose your voice.

Fun Fact: I still remember every summer camp song I've been on.

Funny BA Story: I once ended up in A&E after falling off a bunk bed and hitting my head!



Nivchar ת"ב



Rafi Kleiman

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Currently: studying Youth Work & Community Development @ Leeds Beckett

What's your favourite thing about BA?
The shiny white tablecloths!

Fun Fact: I used to pay classmates in pennies to commentate on breaktime football matches.

Funny BA Story:
Bet Chalutzki Machane 5773. Dares Challenge.
I get up to do the infamous "eat the whole raw onion challenge. Me thinking I'm really shtark screams out the bracha for onion before digging in. Only to find out that you don't make brachot pre-repulsive eating. #awks.



Nivchar ת"ב



Josh Daniel

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07952973425
Currently: studying NatSci @ Cambridge

Fun Fact: I'm not related to Nathan Daniels or Zoe Daniels! In fact if you look closely you can spot a difference in our surnames...

What's your favourite thing about BA?
Musical tochniot

Funny Hadracha story: On my first machane I came up with the chug "various watermelon-based activities". Somehow it was a huge success - we had watermelon carving, watermelon bowling, a watermelon drumming workshop - but the most highly attended day was when we named a watermelon Gavin and dropped him from the highest point we could find in the Swiss countryside.
Baruch Hashem, my chanichim helped solve the Bal Tashchit problem by volunteering to eat Gavin's various dead limbs off the floor after he had smashed into pieces.



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. Sign up at bauk.org/kadima!

- **Svivot are up and running!** Look out for updates from your local sviva or **visit www.bauk.org/svivot**.

- **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.

- **SBM is back!** Look out for updates on social media of the different chaburot being given on a variety of topics and keynote speakers. If you are looking for a chavruta please get in touch!

- Join us at the London Bayit on Tuesday 10th November at 8pm and on Zoom as we explore the **Big-Bang Bereishit Broigus** with **Rav Joel**. Look out for sign up details on social media.

- Keep an eye out for **Mitzvah Day activities** coming soon in Leeds, Manchester and London.

- **Mazal Tov to Danny Seal** (Mazkir 5766) and **Limor Sion** on their wedding!

- 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!

SHABBAT SHALOM!!!



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Winter Machane 5781



21st - 28th December 2020
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