

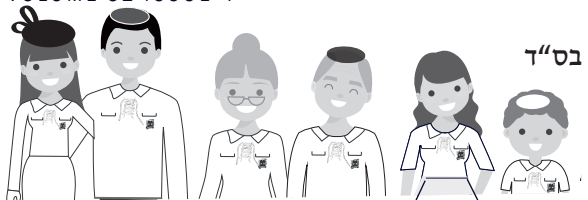
זכור את יום השבת לקדשו.
ששת ימים תעבד ועשית כל מלאכתך,
יום השביעי שבת לה'

SHABBAT LASHEM

THE VOICE OF BNEI AKIVA UK

PARASHAT VAYEIRA

17TH CHESHVAN 5782
22ND & 23RD OCTOBER 2021
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LIVING AL KIDDUSH HASHEM

LAYLA MASLIN
SHEVET DOROT

This week's parasha contains the infamous story of the Akeida, the last of the 10 tests in which Hashem tested Avraham.

וַיֹּאמֶר קַחנָא אֶת־בְּנֶךָ אֶת־יִצְחָק אֲשֶׁר־אֵהָבֶנָּה וְאֶת־יִצְחָק וְלֹדְ לֹדְ אֶל־אֶרֶץ הַמֹּרְיָה וְהַעֲלֵהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה עַל אֶחָד הַהָרִים אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֱלֹהִים (בראשית כ"ב)

And He said, "Please take your son, your only one, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah and bring him up there for a burnt offering on one of the mountains, of which I will tell you."

(Bereishit 22:2)

This test seems entirely illogical. How could Hashem ask Avraham to kill the son he has waited a lifetime for? How could Hashem who loves his people ask for one of them to be sent to their death? It just makes no sense. Most would agree that this was, without a doubt, Avraham's most challenging test. However, it is possible to argue that there was an even greater test.

When Avraham was younger, he chose certain death in a fiery furnace instead of worshipping the evil demagogue, King Nimrod, and he was miraculously saved by Hashem. Surely this test was greater than the Akeida? Avraham decided to give up his own life Al Kiddush Hashem so this has to be the ultimate sacrifice and as such his greatest test.

The Machatzit haShekel answers that this is not the case. He explains that to give up one's life, however great, is only a short-term sacrifice. Aside from the pain and major discomfort at the time, it passes in a short period of time and from then on one is in Gan Eden forever after. For Avraham however, the agony and discomfort of sacrificing his son would continue to haunt him for the rest of his life. All day and every day he wouldn't be able to stop thinking about his beloved lost son.

In other words, to die Al Kiddush Hashem is an extremely great thing. However, to actually live Al Kiddush Hashem is a far greater sacrifice. Even the test of being thrown into a burning furnace was short-lived in comparison to the test of the Akeida and for this reason, it was the greatest test of all.

Throughout our history, innumerable Jews have given up their lives Al Kiddush Hashem and we recognise and admire their remarkable self-sacrifice. Whether voluntarily or by force, these Jews had the privilege of sanctifying the name of Hashem and they gave up everything in order to do so. Thinking about their immense sacrifice can help to remind us that as long as we are in this world, we have an opportunity which is even greater. We have the possibility to live Al Kiddush Hashem each and every day of our lives.

Every day is full of new opportunities to show the world around us the beauty of Judaism and to fulfil the will of Hashem. This is by far a much bigger task than enduring a moment of death. This job lasts a lifetime and is much more rewarding.

LAYLA IS A MADRICHA AT SALFORD SVIVA

SHABBAT TIMES

London In 17:37 Out 18:41
Manchester In 17:41 Out 18:48
Cambridge In 17:31 Out 18:40

Oxford In 17:38 Out 18:46
Bristol In 17:44 Out 18:51
Birmingham In 17:39 Out 18:48

Leeds In 17:35 Out 18:45
Liverpool In 17:41 Out 18:51
Jerusalem In 17:23 Out 18:35

ISRAEL IN THE PARASHA WITH LANI ESHEL

BE'ER SHEVA



In Parashat Vayeira we learn about an important city in Tanach, an ancient city whose history stretches from before the Bronze Age, all the way to the modern State of Israel –

Be'er Sheva.

What's in a Name?

The word **באר** means a well. **שבע** is most familiar as the number 7, which would indicate that there were seven wells found in the city, which may have been the reason for its founding – a stable water supply. However, if we look at the stories in Sefer Bereishit where **באר שבע** is given its name, it appears to be referring to something else entirely.

In this week's parasha we read of Avraham's adventures (or misadventures) with Avimelech, King of Gerar (a region in Western Negev, leading to Egypt), which eventually come to a peaceful end.

After Avraham lies to Avimelech at the start of the parasha, they later manage to come to a truce. This truce includes Avraham giving Avimelech seven sheep in exchange for Avimelech agreeing to the fact that Avraham was the one to dig a well there. This story is where Be'er Sheva gets its name.

כִּי אֶת־שֵׁבַע כְּבָשׂוֹת תִּקַּח מִיַּדִּי בְעִבּוֹר תְּהִיָּה־לִּי לְעֵדָה כִּי חִפְרָתִי אֶת־הַבְּאֵר הַזֹּאת: עַל־כֵּן קָרָא לַמְּקוֹם הַהוּא בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע כִּי שֵׁם נִשְׁבְּעוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם: (בְּרֵאשִׁית כ"א, ל-ל"א)

Because these seven ewes you will take away from me: in return you will be my witness, that I did dig this well (באר). And because of this the place is called Be'er Sheva; because there the two of them did swear an oath (שבוע) (Bereishit 21:30-31)

As we can see the word **שבע** can also refer to an oath, depending on how it is punctuated, and from the context of this verse, its meaning is clear.

Be'er Sheva continues to be an important city throughout Bereshit, as we see all three Avot living there at different times.

Yaakov's departure from the land of Canaan, along with the promise of "I Myself will also bring you back" (46:4), takes place in Be'er Sheva. This was the place where his father and grandfather both invoked Hashem's name and merited divine revelation, not to mention lived their lives and dug their wells.



MODERN DAY BE'ER SHEVA



TEL BE'ER SHEVA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (BIBLICAL BE'ER SHEVA)

In Israel today, Be'er Sheva is the 8th largest city; home to schools and yeshivas, Ben Gurion (one of Israel's major universities), several colleges, Saroka hospital, a Rabbinical Court and a regional court, industrial areas, a Bedouin market and modern malls, hotels, a high-tech complex, community centers, a sinfonietta that plays for a 712-seat hall and Glidat Be'er Sheva, an ice cream factory that is almost as old as the state itself.

Where is Biblical Be'er Sheva located? Generally, Biblical Be'er Sheva is identified with Tel Be'er Sheva, about three miles

east of the Old City of modern Be'er Sheva, where the rivers Nachal Hevron and Nachal Be'er Sheva meet. Tel Be'er Sheva is now a National Park, as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is an extremely well-maintained site, with paths that are replete with clearly labeled signs explaining the archaeological finds. Partially preserved walls have been restored to their full original height, with precise indications distinguishing between what was found at the site and the restored sections.

LANI ESHEL IS THE NEW BA NORTHERN SHALICHA. LANI STUDIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM, AND IS A REGISTERED KALLAH TEACHER AND BAALANIT. SHE'S EXCITED TO JOIN THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BAUK!

MEET THE NIVCHARIM

RAPHAEL KASTNER | NIVCHAR HANHALLA



Hi! My name is Raphael Kastner (although you probably thought Waffle was my name). I'm from the Suburb and I went to Habs. I was Rosh Sviva of Norrice Lea and I've also been a chanich and madrich on a few Machanot. I was on a gap year last year at Yeshivat Eretz Hatzvi with Torani. This year I'm studying Natural Sciences at UCL, I'm also the youth director for Highgate shul.

Besides learning, in my spare time, I love to cycle and play my trumpet or piano. I'm also a massive Star Wars and Harry Potter fan. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone involved with Bnei Akiva and helping some of the older shvatim at school feel more connected.

THE VALUE OF BEING ON A TZEVEV

As November approaches, Year 13s and Bogrim across the country are inevitably contemplating the same question: which tafkid should I apply for on Winter Machane?

No matter what stage of life one is at, everyone is looking to maximise their skills development and personal growth, and different tafkidim on Machane can

enhance this in different ways.

For many Year 13s, a lot of the year may seem like it revolves around mocks, A-levels and UCAS. But are these the only important things to consider when planning for our future?

Applying for a tafkid on Winter Machane is a fantastic way to achieve impressive outcomes in an informal environment, whilst building one's CV in the process.

Being a Madrich/a is an opportunity to develop transferable skills such as teamwork, leadership and project management. It also provides a creative outlet to develop one's confidence and communication skills, whilst also having fun!



These experiences are extremely valuable when applying for university, jobs and Yeshiva/Midrasha.

For Bnei Akiva Bogrim, the opportunity to spend nearly two weeks in a Religious Zionist, Modern Orthodox environment is extremely beneficial. With daily morning seder on pre-camp and countless ways to develop hadracha skills, as well as opportunities to explore Jewish topics and ideology in more depth, this is a vital way to enhance one's knowledge and skills.



A variety of junior and senior tafkidim are available including Technical or Hadracha Madrich/a, Sgan/it, Rosh, Head Cook, Technical Or-

ganiser, and Rakaz/ezet.

'Being part of a tzevet on machane is really important as it provides you with skills to be able to work as part of a team,' says Camps and Social Action Worker, Ariella Herman, 'it teaches you to support the people around you but also to allow them to support you.'

Tafkidim forms are available at bauk.org/junior-tafkid (junior tafkidim) and bauk.org/senior-tafkid (Senior tafkidim). Applications close on the 12th and 7th November respectively.

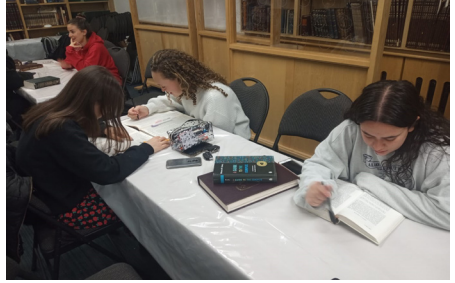


Images of Summer Machane 5781 tzevatim, clockwise from top left: Bet Base, Bet Chalutzi, Gimmel, Aleph Chalutzi and Aleph

STUDENT BET MIDRASH RETURNS

Student Bet Midrash, a joint initiative of Bnei Akiva, Mizrachi and the United Synagogue, has restarted on Thursday evenings at Kinloss. Open to high school students and Bogrim, the program gives participants the opportunity to learn in a Chavruta or Chabura with people of a variety of ages and skill levels.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT BA'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT THE CHINUCH TEAM AT CHINUCH@BAUK.ORG



WHAT'S GOING ON?

- Calling all Bogrot! **Lishma is back!** Don't miss this amazing **Torah learning opportunity**, now with a brand new **choice of Chaburot!** Sign up: tinyurl.com/Lishmah-BA

- Calling all male Bogrim! Join **Rav Joel** for a **weekly Va'ad** on Tuesday evenings at 10:15!

-BA is looking for some **charismatic Bogrim in both London and Manchester** to go into schools to run **lunch and learns**, as well as take part in other exciting opportunities! To get involved, contact Josh and Dania at chinuch@bauk.org

- **Mazal tov** to **Shulamit** (Shevet Lehava, Rosh Nivcheret 5776) and **Adam Finn** (Shevet Hagevurah) on the birth of a **baby girl, Yona Rivka!**

- Keep an eye out for **exciting Bnei Akiva updates** for all ages!

- Be sure to like our **Facebook page (Bnei Akiva UK)** and follow our **Instagram (bneiaktivauk)** to get regular updates with what is going on in the Tnua.

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



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