

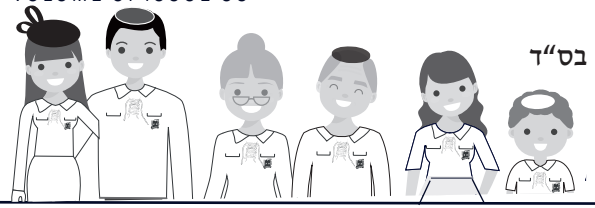
זכור אתי יום השבת לקדשו.
ששת ימים תעבד ועשית כל מלאכתך,
יום השביעי שבת לה'

PARSHAT NITZAVIM
27TH ELUL 5781
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SHABBAT LASHEM

THE VOICE OF BNEI AKIVA UK



THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY

AVI HARRIS
SHEVET DOROT

Parashat Nitzavim begins with a very blunt statement. Moshe addresses the tribes, small children, men, women and converts, saying that the reason they are assembled in this way is

לְמַעַן הָקִים אֶת־יְהוָה לְפָנֶיךָ הַיּוֹם | לֹא לְעַם וְהוּא יְהִי־לֶךָ
לְאֱלֹקִים כְּאֲשֶׁר דְּבַרְיָךְ וְכְאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם
לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וְלְיַעֲקֹב

So that He may establish you this day as His people and be your God, as He promised you and as He pledged to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Devarim 29:12)

This covenant is referred to as 'נשבע', a pledge. This word is an interesting one as it means we are represented both as a nation and in the individualistic sense. In Hebrew, the letter נ is used to represent us, for example,

א נ ו
נ א לוקי נ ו

The list goes on and on. What do you get if you remove the team effort from a pledge? What happens to the nation of Israel if you remove their founding feature? You get, quite simply, the word שבע. Even the most simple of Hebrew speakers would be highly likely to tell you that this is a Hebrew number seven which corresponds to a week. This represents the more average days that we may have, that carry little meaning. If you take the 'us' out of Am yisrael, it becomes something mundane, but once you add it, it becomes special. This shows the importance of viewing the Jewish people as a unit who need to work together.

The parasha later speaks of the man or woman who is led astray to the G-ds of other nations. A question that arises from this is how is it possi-

ble for the succeeding generations of ישראל to continue believing in miracles even though they were not granted the gift of seeing open miracles?

Examples of this are the ten plagues and the splitting of the Red Sea. Even though we didn't see the miracles ourselves, the fact that the stories of them are passed down between generations creates a strong sense of Emunah, belief in Hashem. Additionally, being surrounded by other people who also believe that these miracles happened strengthens our own emunah. Once again, the idea of achdut, unity as a key concept that sustains the Jewish people, is evident. Scattered as the Jewish people may be, across all sides of the Earth, we maintain this sense of achdut.

It says towards the end of the parasha, **הַעֲדוּתִי בְכֶם הַיּוֹם אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַחַיִּים הַקּוֹת נִתְּתִי לְפָנֶיךָ הַבְּרָכָה וְהַקְּלָלָה וּבַחֲרַתְּ בְּחַיִּים לְמַעַן תַּחֲיֶה אֶתְּךָ וְזָרַעְךָ:**

I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day: I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life, if you and your offspring would live (Devarim 30:19)

Interestingly the Torah doesn't say the blessing or the curse, it says, the blessing and the curse. This tells us that both good and evil are very much in reach of each other. Perhaps, this can be seen as a warning of what could happen if we lose our sense of achdut. Without it we would disintegrate as a nation. We should maintain our sense of unity, in order to preserve our belief in Hashem.

AVI WAS A MADRICH ON ALEPH MACHANE 5781.

London	In: 19:26 Out: 20:32	Oxford	In: 19:28 Out: 20:37	Leeds	In: 19:33 Out: 20:44
Manchester	In: 19:38 Out: 20:46	Bristol	In: 19:33 Out: 20:42	Liverpool	In: 19:38 Out: 20:49
Cambridge	In: 19:24 Out: 20:33	Birmingham	In: 19:32 Out: 20:42	Jerusalem	In: 18:25 Out: 19:37

ROSH HASHANA 5781: A DEEPER LEVEL TO THE SHOFAR

RAV JOEL KENIGSBURG | RAV SHALIACH



One of the most perplexing concepts of Rosh Hashana is found in an explanation given by the Gemara as to why we blow the Shofar.

The Gemara (Rosh Hashana 16a) asks why

we have two distinct sets of Shofar blasts on Rosh Hashana (one before Mussaf, and another during the chazzan's repetition) and the answer given is "כדי לערוב השטן" - in order to confuse "the satan". Tosfot explains that this refers to the accuser in the Heavenly court. Blowing the shofar twice causes him to become confused, and as his bewildered state renders him unable to provide arguments against us, we emerge righteous from the judgement of Rosh Hashana. When we blow the shofar the first time, it is clear that we are doing it to perform the mitzvah. But when the shofar blow is heard again, the accuser fears that it is not our doing, but rather the great shofar blow of the time of Mashiach and he understands his time is up.

The obvious question is how and why this trick works every year? Surely it is well known that the double set of shofar blasts has been our custom for many years past? Is our adversary struck with an annual bout of amnesia?

Perhaps there is a much deeper message to be conveyed behind this ostensibly fanciful tale.

The Torah describes Hashem's act of creation of man in the plural ("Let US make man"). The analogy given by the midrash (Bereishit Rabbah 8:5) is that an argument broke out amongst the Heavenly attributes. The attributes of truth and peace claimed that man should not be created, since he would be full of lies and create conflict. The attributes of kindness and mercy claimed otherwise - that man's creation would provide countless

opportunities for good and kindness in the world. The midrash goes on to describe how, as they were arguing, Hashem proceeded to create man.

Of course the midrash is not meant to be taken literally, but the deep idea behind it is that man is comprised of and influenced by all these various attributes. On the one hand he strives to do good and to emulate the Creator, but along with that he is full of base desires and physical temptations which pull him down and threaten to sully his existence.

The "satan" refers not to an independent being that lives amongst us, but rather to the lower self within each of us distracting us from the real purpose of existence.

THE SHOFAR THAT WE BLOW ON ROSH HASHANA IS MEANT TO SHAKE US OUT OF COMPLACENCY

The shofar that we blow on Rosh Hashana is meant to shake us out of complacency. It is a piercing blast that comes to awaken us, to cause us to sit up and take notice of the real reason we are here

and not pay attention to the distractions that set us off course. The bewilderment that takes place when we hear that sound is an internal realization of what really matters most.

Perhaps when we blow the shofar the first time round, the voice inside is still inclined to say that we've been here before and nothing really changed. We had a momentary awakening but there was nothing more to it. Why should this year be any different? But as we blow the shofar a second time, the inner critic becomes silenced. Yes, we've been through this all before. But maybe, just maybe, this year will be different. At some point the great shofar will be blown. At some time in our lives we may have to force ourselves to change. Maybe that time is now. May the shofar blast resonate within us all and usher in a meaningful new year. K'tiva veChatima Tova!

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

MEET THE MAZKIRUT

SAM PRAIS | MAZKIR



Hi, I'm Sam Prais and I have been elected as Mazkir for 5782. I'm from Manchester and attended Broughton Jewish and Yavneh Boys. I learnt in Yeshivat Hakotel (in conjunction with Torani) during my Gap Year and I have just graduated with a degree in maths from the University of Birmingham. I was a regular chanich at Whitefield and later Salford Sviva and was a madrich in Salford for my last 3 years of school. I went on every machane as a chanich and have been on 14 different Tzvatim as a hadracha madrich, technical madrich, or rosh. I was a Nivchar Hanhallah 5780; and now I'm the Mazkir! In my spare time, I play football and also spend time with Rafi Kleiman!

My main aims for 5782 focus on ensuring Bnei Akiva exits the pandemic strongly. We have responded well as a Tnua, with fantastic online events over the last year and a half, and I hope to continue increasing the number of in person events we have, to surpass what we had pre-pandemic. Unfortunately, we've missed out on 2 residential machanot since March 2020, which has affected our Chaverim all over the UK. Machane this summer showed how much we've missed being all together as a Tnua, so I aim to provide more opportunities for us to do so, with Shabbatonim, in addition to (COVID permitting) our Summer and Winter Machanot this year.

MY MACHANE EXPERIENCE

Two first-time tzevet members reflect on their experiences on Summer Machane

SARAH ELBAZ | HADRACHA MADRICHA

Being a madricha at BA has been an enriching experience. I have learnt so much more during those 3 weeks than I've learnt in years. One thing that stuck out to me was teamwork. I really started to appreciate and learn what it consists of just by being there and actively working on my hadracha.

When the tzevet worked together, each doing their part, I really felt the deep meaning of us being one as a people. It made me feel important and valued, like each of us had a piece in that giant puzzle.

This held true in machane, where we all discovered that we all had specific skills that enriched the machane experience and gave our chanichim the best time they could have. Also in life, I've learnt about what skillset I have that I could fulfill my ultimate hishtadlut in life, and really opened my eyes to my own importance.

Am Yisrael is one, if one of us stumbles, all of us will take the fall together. This message held true in machane. We were responsible for each other. If one of us struggled, everyone else would help alleviate that. Teamwork has never been so eye opening



SARAH WAS A HADRACHA MADRICHA ON ALEPH CHALUTZI MACHANE 5781.

JACOB GOLDWATER | TECHNICAL MADRICH



There seems to be a misconception that being a technical madrich involves cutting vegetables and cooking all day long. However I quickly realised that there is so much more to being a "tech". A typical day as a Tech is enjoyable from the start, and you really feel like part of the machane.

The first job was to lay out breakfast and ensure the first meal of the day ran smoothly. This was followed by a day of preparing meals and working with the Technical Organiser around the site, which gave me the opportunity to take a walk and explore the grounds whilst making repairs and adjustments to the site (such as setting up the eruv pre-Shabbat).

I always had the opportunity to chat and engage with the chanichim, especially after meals when we would supervise the Toranim and help them work efficiently. It was the perfect opportunity to chat and have a laugh. The long day meant there was always time to take a break and relax, and this allowed me to see the other madrichim at work, and hang out with the technical tzevet.

Being a technical madrich was a brilliant opportunity to work behind the scenes in a crucial role, and working in the technical team was always such fun!

JACOB WAS A TECHNICAL MADRICH ON BET CHALUTZI AND GIMMEL MACHANE 5781.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

- Join us for **Selichot at the London Bayit** every night from 28th August until Erev Yom Kippur! Sign up at [tinyurl.com/BAaselichot!](https://tinyurl.com/BAaselichot)

- We will be hosting **Yom Kippur davening** at the **London Bayit**. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/BA-YK-5782>

- Sign up for **Yamim Noraim davening at the Manchester Bayit** at <https://tinyurl.com/BA-YN-5782!>

- The **Lilmod Ul'lamed Elul Zman learning program** has just finished it's second successful week! To find out more about the Lilmod Ul'lamed Women's Educator Program, email chinuch@bauk.org

- **Mazal Tov** to **Sam Prais, Adi Abeles, Ariella Herman, Shira Collins, Josh Daniel** and **Dania Mann-Wineberg** on starting their new tafkidim on the Mazkirut!

- **Mazal Tov** to **Daniella Donoff, Naomi Brookarsh, Sophie Harris, Rafael Kastner, Abi Laderman** and **Daniel Ross** on their appointment as this year's Nivch'rei Hanhalla!

-**Mazal Tov** to **Sam Brummer** on his appointment as Bnei Akiva's representative to the **Board of Deputies!**

- 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 (bneiakivauk)** to get regular updates with what is going on in the Tnuva.

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



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