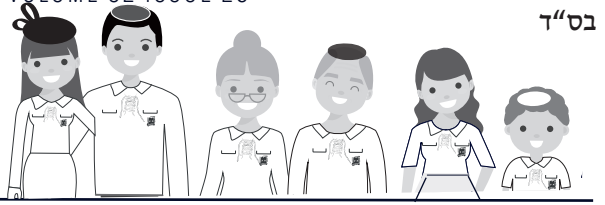


זכור אתיום השבת לקדשו.
ששת ימים תעבד ועשית כל-מלאכתך,
ויום השביעי שבת לה'

SHABBAT LASHEM

THE VOICE OF BNEI AKIVA UK

PARASHAT VAYIKRA
9TH ADAR II 5782
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BIRDS OF A FEATHER

ISSY KAY
SHEVET SEENAI

We are now starting an entire new book of Vayikra. In this book there is a lot of information about the korbanot and the Bet Hamikdash. One of the korbanot in this week's parasha included the option of giving sheep, goats or birds. The Torah says

דָּבַר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם אָדָם כִּי-יָקָרִיב
מִכֶּם קֶרְבָּן לַה' מִזֵּבֵה־מִקְהָה מִזֵּבֵה־קֹדֶרֶת וּמִזֵּבֵה־צֹאן תִּקְרִיבוּ
אֶת-קֶרְבַּנְכֶם:

Speak to the Israelite people, and say to them: When any of you present an offering of cattle to Hashem: You shall choose your offering from the herd or from the flock. (Vayikra 1:2)

A few pesukim later, Rashi comments, saying that if someone chooses to offer a bird, the feathers don't need to be removed. The birds are supposed to have all their feathers on as these supposedly generate a beautiful aroma to Hashem. However, the smell of burning feathers is not so nice so why does Hashem command us to keep the feathers on?

The answer comes from a case where a poor man once brought these birds. People felt sorry for him as everyone else was bringing much bigger animals which they could afford. If the poor man was to take the feathers off the bird, it would appear even smaller. Therefore, Rashi tells us to not take the feathers off the birds in order to not embarrass

poorer members of society and protect their dignity.

With this in mind, we see that even though the birds had their smelly feathers on them, they were beautiful to Hashem. Therefore, if someone wants to bring something to Hashem, whatever it is, it is still beautiful. The intention to give to Hashem, no matter how much someone has, is a beautiful thing.

We can also learn from this when we are receiving from others. When a person receives a birthday present that they really do not want, there are two options. Either the person could accept it with gratitude and say thank you. The other option would be to complain and make a fuss about the gift. You have a choice, just like the bird offering. Even though it did not smell great, to Hashem it was about the intention behind it.

This is also the case in Bnei Akiva. Every minute that Madrichim put into planning and caring makes a difference to the Chanichim's experience at Machane or Sviva. Even if it is not your favourite Tochnit, one still has to participate fully. This is because every Chanich/a will learn something, from how to overcome their fears to information they didn't know before. Every Madrich/a gains pieces of important information about their Chanichim and learns from their actions. Therefore, although we focus on the game or the team we are in, there is still a lot to be gained, just like the bird being smelly but Hashem does not mind that but wants the person to feel valued.

**ISSY WAS A CHANICHA ON H-COURSE
MACHANE 5782**

SHABBAT TIMES

London	In 17:43 Out 18:50	Oxford	In 17:44 Out 18:54	Leeds	In 17:44 Out 18:57
Manchester	In 17:50 Out 19:00	Bristol	In 17:49 Out 19:00	Liverpool	In 17:50 Out 19:03
Cambridge	In 17:38 Out 18:49	Birmingham	In 17:46 Out 18:58	Jerusalem	In 17:08 Out 18:22

ISRAEL IN THE PARASHA WITH LANI ESHEL

PARASHAT VAYIKRA - SHILOH



In this week's parasha, we begin a new book of the Torah, one that focuses on the Halachot of Kedusha and specifically the laws and intricacies of how to bring offerings in the Mishkan and how to make sure that one is spiritually pure enough to be able to do so.

So what is the Mishkan? In short, the Mishkan was a portable sanctuary, a spiritual centre in the midst of the desert. It was the place where the People of Israel would bring sacrifices to atone for sins or express gratitude.

So where was the Mishkan located?

The Mishkan travelled with Am Yisrael for 40 years in the desert. When the people entered the Land of Israel, the Mishkan came with them. For 14 years, the Mishkan stood in Gilgal while the Israelites conquered and divided the land. Then, they created a slightly more permanent house of stone in Shiloh and spread the curtains of the Mishkan over it. The Mishkan of Shiloh stood for 369 years. At the end of that period, the Mishkan was moved to Nov, and then to Givon.



the valley of modern day Shiloh. Based on measurements in Tanach as well as size and shape, visitors can actually stand on the spot where the Mishkan once stood!

The modern Yishuv of Shiloh was established in 1978 and is home to over 2500 people. Shiloh has many of the amenities of a modern Israeli community, with schools, factories, stores, a sports field, a swimming pool, a winery and more. There are several shuls, including one that was built to be a replica of the Mishkan, as well as a Hesder Yeshiva.

When Shlomo HaMelech built the Bet HaMikdash in Jerusalem, the remains of the Mishkan were stored deep in the earth below it. According to our tradition, since the Mishkan was built with pure intent, it was never destroyed. It is ready for Hashem to once again come to rest there.

This week we're going to look at Shiloh, both in the times of the Mikdash and today.

Shiloh is located approximately 44 km north of Jerusalem, about an hour and a

half's drive, in the hills of the Shomron. It was the centre of Jewish religious life from the time of the Book of Yehoshua until David HaMelech established Yerushalayim as the eternal capital of the nation.

In the times of the Mishkan, Shiloh was where approximately 2 million Jews did Aliyah L'Regel, where they travelled three times a year on the Chagim to give korbanot and to daven together.

While we sometimes struggle to reconcile places named in Tanach with modern cities, Shiloh is one place that has stayed in our traditions, and its name has not been changed over time. Additionally, archaeological findings place the Mishkan at the

valley of modern day Shiloh. Based on measurements in Tanach as well as size and shape, visitors can actually stand on the spot where the Mishkan once stood!

Although Shiloh is a thriving, modern Jewish community, anyone who visits there cannot help but feel the connection to its ancient roots and to our ancestors. This is the incredible reality of living in Israel, being able to live our people's history!

LANI ESHEL IS THE BA NORTHERN SHALICHA. LANI STUDIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM, AND IS A REGISTERED KALLAH TEACHER AND BAALANIT.

100 YOUNG PEOPLE ATTEND LIMMUD MERCAZI

On Rosh Chodesh Adar 5768, a terrorist opened fire at the Talmidim of Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav in Yerushalayim, killing eight people. Fourteen years later, Bogrim and High School Students from Bnei Akiva, Ezra and Sinai came together to learn Torah in their memory. The events took place in Manchester and London, on Thursday and Sunday respectively, with over 100 individuals attending across the two events.

'It was excellent to be part in this collaborative event with other Youth Movements,' remarked Chinuch Worker, Josh Daniel, 'Limmud Mercazi is all about responding to hate with Achdut and Torah so it was very uplifting to see so many people taking part.'



SNAPSHOT FROM THE CHOVERET

The Choveret is the educational handbook that Bnei Akiva UK madrichim use to create their activities and discussions in Sviva each week. This week, it looks at the concept of arrogance.

Arrogance (Ga'avah) is recognised as the worst and most dangerous of all the character traits. This is aptly shown in one of the harshest gemaras ever:

Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai says - any person who has arrogance within them is considered as if they were an idol worshipper! Rabbi Yochanan says it is as if they have denied the core belief of G-d's existence.... Rav Hisda says any person who has arrogance within them - Hashem says that He cannot dwell together in the world with them...(Sotah 4b-5a)

Basically arrogance (ga'avah) is bad and humility (anava) is good. Why is this? Many sources describe arrogance as the root of all sin. The Gemara calls it 'idol worship,' because when you are arrogant it is like you are worshipping yourself.

Pirkei avot (2:4) tells us to 'make G-d's will your will.' We know what Hashem wants from tefillah (forgiveness, healing, redemption, peace...etc) and through davening we are supposed to make what Hashem wants, what we want. When we do an aveira we are doing the opposite. We are saying we care

about what we want more than what Hashem wants. Hence, all aveirot stem from arrogance, from us thinking that we are more important than we are.

Indeed, the Rambam says that the arrogance-humility character trait balance is one of the only two that you should not take a 'middle ground' on. Moshe is not described as 'the humblest man ever,' he is described as 'the most exceedingly very humble man ever!'

The Gemara above says that G-d cannot dwell with someone that is arrogant. Hopefully that statement should make a bit more sense now. Connection with Hashem means understanding a bigger picture. There are things that Hashem wants that we should make what we want. Someone that over-estimates their importance cannot be part of a bigger picture. Only someone humble can truly connect with Hashem. This is why the Torah is compared to water - it splashes off high places and trickles down to the lowest of places (the humblest of people).

WHAT'S GOING ON?

- **Lishmah** is now open to **all Bogrot and Sixth-Formers!** Don't miss this amazing **Torah learning opportunity!** Sign up: tinyurl.com/Lishmah-BA

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

- **London Student Bet Midrash** is taking place weekly on **Thursday evenings** for high school and university students. For more info about London or Birmingham SBM email chinuch@bauk.org

- **Tafkid applications** are now open for **Summer Machane!**
Junior Tafkidim: bauk.org/junior-tafkid
Senior Tafkidim: bauk.org/senior-tafkid

- Applications for **Israel Machane and Machane Yehudi** close on Monday! Apply now at bauk.org/israel

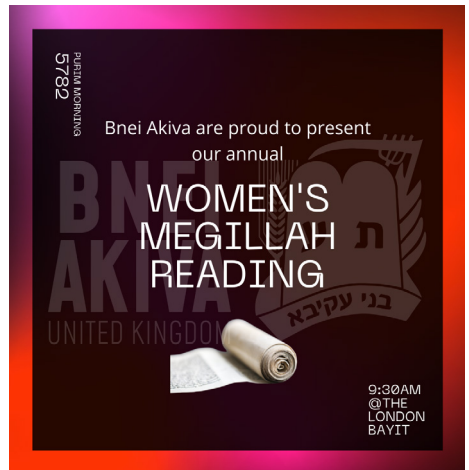
-Hatzlacha to **Salford Sviva** for their **Shabbat Ha'irgun** this week!

- **Mazal Tov** to **Orit and Tom Goude** (both Shevet Avichai) on their **Aliyah!**

- 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 Tnuva.

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



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