

# COMPLETE MASECHET MEGILLAH IN HONOR OF PURIM WITH TALMUD ISRAELI

## מסכת מגילה MASECHET MEGILLAH

### פרק א: המגילה נקראת CHAPTER 1: THE MEGILLAH IS READ

## מתי קוראים את המגילה בעיר טבריה?

### DAF 5: WHEN SHOULD MEGILLAT ESTHER BE READ IN THE CITY OF TIBERIAS?

Chizkiyah, the son of Rabbi Yehudah HaNasi, lived in the city of Tiberias. His custom was to read *Megillat Esther* on both 14 and 15 Adar. Why did he read on both days? After all, the city of Tiberias was surrounded by a wall during the time of Yehoshua Bin Nun. The appropriate day for Purim in Tiberias would be 15 Adar and not 14 Adar!

The Gemara says that Chizkiyah was not sure if Tiberias was really considered an “*ir mukefet chomah*” (city surrounded by a wall). Why was Chizkiyah unsure? Because one side of the city bordered on Lake Kinneret! It is true that three sides of the city were indeed surrounded by walls since the days of Yehoshua Bin Nun. However, on the fourth side, there is no wall. There is a lake. You might say that Tiberias is still considered an “*ir mukefet chomah*,” because the enemy cannot enter into it. Or, you might say that since in reality, there is no wall on the fourth side, the city is not considered “*mukefet chomah*.” For this reason, Chizkiyah read *Megillat Esther* on both the 14 and 15 Adar.

## מדוע ישב רבי זירא בפתח בית המדרש?

### DAF 6: WHY DID RABBI ZEIRA SIT AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE BEIT MIDRASH?

Rabbi Zeira was an Amora born in Bavel (Babylonia) to a family of *Kohanim*. Sadly, Rabbi Zeira’s father and mother both died when he was still a young boy. Rabbi Zeira long regretted that he did not have the chance to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *Kibbud Av v’Em* (honoring your father and mother).

As a boy, Rabbi Zeira learned Torah all the time and with great enthusiasm. Rabbi Zeira rose to become one of the great Torah scholars of Israel. Years later, Zeira made *aliyah* to *Eretz Yisrael* where he was ordained and earned his title of “Rabbi.” He learned Torah in the city of Tiberias for many years. He was rewarded with a very long life and was known to be an extremely righteous person. When Rabbi Zeira became too weak to learn Torah, he was accustomed to sitting at the entrance of the Beit Midrash. He did so to give himself the opportunity to stand up in front of the *talmidei chachamim* who entered and exited, thereby fulfilling the *mitzvah* of honoring Torah scholars. When Rabbi Zeira died, all of Israel remembered him and was saddened to lose such a great Torah scholar.



# תלמוד ישראלי

א.ת.מ. Daf Yomi For US



## שֵׁשׁ מִצְוֹת שֶׁל פּוּרִים

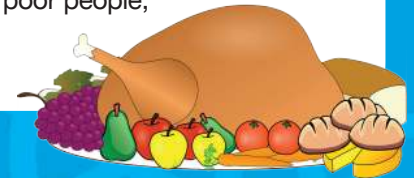
### DAF 7: THE THREE MITZVOT OF PURIM

In addition to the reading of the Megillah, there are three *mitzvot* of Purim. *Megillat Esther* 9:19 lists the three other *mitzvot*. The verse reads: "Make them [the days of Purim] *yemai mishteh v'simcha* (days of celebration and joy), and [deliver] *Mishloach Manot* from a person to their friend, and [give] *Matanot L'Evyonim* (gifts to the needy)."

**1) Seudat Purim** (Purim meal)— The festive Purim holiday meal should be conducted during the day and *not* in the evening, because the *pasuk* says: "**days** of celebration." When one of the *Amoraim* heard this rule, he quickly reviewed it forty times so that he would not forget it.

**2) Mishloach Manot**— A person should send food items to a friend. How many food items is one required to send? One should send two food items, for example, chicken and potatoes, or cake and berries. Why two food items to one person? Because the verse mandates sending *Mishloach Manot* "*ish l'ray'ay'hu*." *Manot*, portions, is written in the plural and thus indicating a minimum of two sent items. *Ray'ay'hu*, one's friend, is written in the singular and thus indicating that it is sufficient to send food gifts to one friend.

**3) Matanot L'Evyonim** — The verse mandates the giving of two gifts to a total of two poor people; meaning; one gift to one needy person and another gift to a different needy individual.



## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

1. What would be a reason to observe two days of Purim?
2. What did Rebbe Zeira do when he was too old and weak learn Torah anymore?
3. In total, how many *Mishloach Manot* and *Matanot L'Evyonim* do we have to give on Purim?

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