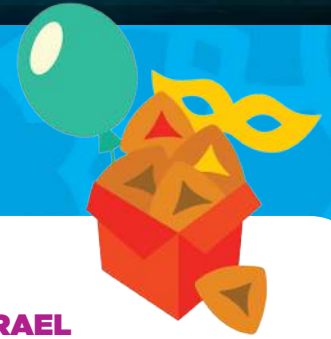


COMPLETE MASECHET MEGILLAH IN HONOR OF PURIM WITH TALMUD ISRAELI



הַקָּב"ה דוֹאֵג לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

DAF 11: THE KADOSH BARUCH HU CARES FOR B'NEI YSRAEL

In *Parashat Bechukotai* (*Sefer VaYikra* 26:33-34) the Torah states that if *Am Yisrael* commits transgressions, then other nations will rule over them, and they will go into *galut* (exile). The Torah promises that even in *galut* God will send *shlichim* (emissaries) to guard over *Am Yisrael*. The *Gemara* recounts that when *B'nai Yisrael* were in *Bavel* (Babylonia), God sent in Daniel, Hanania, Misha'el and Azariah, who were important to King Nevuchadnezzar, to ensure the king would treat the Jews decently. In the days of King Achashverosh and Haman, God chose Mordechai and Queen Esther, thanks to whom the Jews were saved. In the days of the Greek Seleucid tyrants, God dispatched Shimon Ha-Tzaddik, along with Mattityahu the Hasmonean and his sons, who defeated the Greeks, and through whom the Chanukah miracle took place. After the destruction of the Second *Beit HaMikdash*, the Roman Empire was in control of *Am Yisrael*. Then, God appointed Rabbi Yehudah HaNasi, editor of the *Mishnah*, and his generation of *chachamim* who were active in the King's court, to ensure there were no harsh decrees instituted against *Am Yisrael*. The *Gemara* says that in future times, God Himself will protect *Am Yisrael* and no other nation will be able to rule over us.



מִדּוּעַ אֵרַע נִס פּוּרִים?

DAF 12: WHY DID THE PURIM MIRACLE TAKE PLACE?

Megillat Esther tells of the cruel death sentence decreed by Haman against *Am Yisrael*. God showed mercy. A miracle was performed and *Am Yisrael* was saved. The students of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai asked him: "Rabbi, for what reason was *Am Yisrael* deserving of such a harsh *g'zeira* (decree)?" Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai said to the students: "You answer yourselves." His students replied: "It was because they participated in the feast conducted by King Achashverosh and ate forbidden foods."

Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai replied: "If so, why should all the Jews in the world be punished? After all, only the Jews of Shushan attended the feast." Then, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai explained: "It was because during the time of King Nevuchadnezzar, the Jews bowed down to an idol because they feared that refusing to do so would have gotten them killed. The harsh edict was decreed against the Jews, because it is *assur* (prohibited) to bow down to an idol."

Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai's students were confused and asked: "If that is true and the Jews deserved to be punished, then why was a miracle performed on their behalf?" Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai responded: "The Jews did not intend to truly worship idols; they only pretended to carry out the King's command to bow before the idol. Likewise, God never intended to carry out the harsh decree. He only made it seem so, but it was never meant to happen."



תלמוד ישראלי

א.ת.ת.מ. Daf Yomi For US



מדות טובות — עֲדֻקוֹתֶיהָ שֶׁל רַחֵל אִמֵּנוּ

DAF 13: GOOD VIRTUES: THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF RACHEL IMEINU

When Ya'akov Avinu arrived in Haran, he asked for Rachel Imeinu's hand in marriage. There is a Midrashic tradition that fills in more details: Rachel said to Ya'akov: "Beware of my father, Lavan. He is a dishonest, and in the end, he will see that you marry Leah." So that Lavan would not be able to misrepresent the two sisters, Ya'akov and Rachel agreed upon a secret password. When the time for the wedding came, Rachel would say that password to Ya'akov and that way he would know he was in fact about to marry Rachel and not Leah.

Lavan did indeed have Leah switch places with Rachel. However, Rachel started to regret the plan she had with Ya'akov. She was concerned that Leah would be very embarrassed when Ya'akov asks for the password and she would not know it. Rachel, therefore, revealed the secret password to Leah. She allowed Leah to marry Ya'akov Avinu because it was so important to Rachel to protect her sister from humiliation.

In light of her noble actions, God promised Rachel Imeinu He would redeem her children, *B'nai Yisrael*, from their dispersion among the nations. The verse in *Sefer Yirmiyahu* (31:15) laments: "A voice is heard on high — the bitter wailing, Rachel weeping for her children. She refuses to be comforted for [the loss of] her children, who are gone." In this verse, Rachel cries for her children who have gone into exile, to which God answers in the next verse (31:16): "Hold back your crying, do not shed tears. There will be reward for your labor— declares *HaShem*: They will come back from the land of the enemy." Meaning, thanks to your great act of kindness [Rachel], I will return your children to *Eretz Yisrael* (Rashi on *Yirmiyahu* 31:16).

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

1. What "tool" does *HaShem* use in order to watch over the us in *galut*?
2. What sin was the cause of the decree against the Jewish people during the Purim story?
3. What did Rachel do in order to make sure that her sister Leah would not be embarrassed?

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