



The AREIVIM Times

SUMMER 2017, ISSUE 2 | PARSHAS BALAK

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MASMIDEI AREIVIM

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Pennsylvania Overnight!!!

Week 2 began with a blast! In fact, it was a blast from the past! The popularity of Rabbi Bennett & Rabbi Greenfield’s “Minute To Win It” was so tremendous, campers were begging for us to bring it back again this year. So we did! With a bit of a remix. This year, every bunk had a chance to “Win It!” Each team chose five members to participate in the cotton ball conundrum timed by Rabbi Greenfield. There were many complicated nuances and details that Rabbi Bennett explained clearly, but basically cotton balls needed to be transported from one location to another via a nose and Vaseline. You get the idea. But there was another twist! One of the five had to be the counselor of the bunk! Rabbi Hersh announced that the winning bunk would receive soda cans for each camper. Campers went wild! When everything was finally set up things got chaotic (in a controlled chaos types of situation, of course). With Rabbi Greenfield running from table to table to inspect, and Rabbi Bennett on the mike giving play by play, in the end the winning team was...IT WAS A TIE! The Chait’s Chex from the 4th and 5th grade division and the Rekant’s Bistros from the

6th, 7th & 8th grade division both received the coveted award of ice cold cans of Coke from the canteen. What a competition!

Wednesday was the anticipated first overnight of the season, and let me tell you, it did not disappoint! Before boarding the 3 massive coach buses to begin our trek out to Philadelphia, campers played a surprise league game just to get the excitement and anticipation pumping even more!

After the game, with help from their counselors, campers loaded their luggage onto the coach buses. Some of the campers looked like they packed for a month-long trip! Many campers also brought along their baseball gloves in hopes of catching a ball at the Phillies game!

The first stop was the Citizen Bank Park—where the Philadelphia Phillies play! After davening mincha and a deli sandwich dinner, each camper was handed a ticket and entered the monstrous stadium. Campers were reminded again that “Kiddush Hashem” was the name of the game. Campers took their seats (or someone else’s) and made themselves comfortable for what turned out to be a great game. Although the home team couldn’t take the win, everyone had a blast cheering on the Phillies (or the Pirates) and enjoying the ambience of the stadium.

Following the game it was a short drive to the KleinLife JCC. Immediately upon arrival, many campers changed into their swimwear and headed straight for the indoor Olympic-sized swimming pool. Other campers went directly



Pennsylvania Overnight!!!

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to the double-courted indoor gym for some late-night basketball. Some campers did both (not at the same time, of course). After the late-night activities, campers got themselves ready for bed, had snacks and davened maariv, and dozed off into dream world dreaming about what tomorrow held in store.

Thursday morning was an early wake up to Rabbi Bennett's Modeh Ani as campers packed up their things and loaded the buses to daven Shacharis at the Lower Marion Shul. After a beautiful Shacharis, campers were zocheh to hear divrei chizuk from the shul's Rav, Rav Avraham Schmidman who spoke about the uniqueness and kochos of each and every member of Klal Yisroel, including children! Breakfast was then served and off to meet the Gadol HaDor, Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlit"a.

Upon arrival at the Philadelphia Yeshiva, campers were ushered into the lunchroom and Rabbi Hersh addressed them explaining the special opportunity they were about to encounter. He explained what being a leader in Klal Yisroel meant and brought ra'ayos from the Shiv'im Zekeinim. Rav Shmuel then addressed the campers encouraging them to take advantage of their summer and enjoy Camp! He knew it wasn't hard to do that, being in Camp Areivim. Each camper then lined up to give shalom to the Rosh HaYeshiva and receive a bracha or ask a

short question. It was simply awe-inspiring!

From there, buses drove down to the U.S. Mint, which happens to be the original Mint, where campers took the tour of the Mint and, as always, were given a chance to visit the gift shop. George Washington, who lived nearby, was said to have donated his own silver to make some of the first coins. Even though the U.S. capital moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., in 1800, the manufacture of coins and medals has stayed primarily in Philadelphia for the past two centuries. At least half of the nation's circulating coins and most of the commemorative medals are struck in this building; check the coins in your pocket for the trademark "P" that indicates its origin!

Campers got to watch operations on the Mint floor – from high above and behind protective glass, to be sure. Interactive displays depicted the many presidential and honorary commemoratives designed and made there. We also saw early mint and coining equipment and rare and historic coins.

From there it was off to Fireball Mountain! What an awesome activity! Campers were divided up into 4 teams and, together with their coun-

selors and head staff, went to "Lasertag War" with each other. It was just incredible! Rabbi Bennett was in the trees, Rabbi Greenfield was in underground tunnels, Rabbi Robinson was camouflaged from head to toe. It was so intense! But, Boruch Hashem, it was all in good fun. Everyone had a blast at Fireball Mountain.

Although exhausted, most campers came to Camp on Erev Shabbos for a fun-filled day of davening (with a special kumzits by Rabbi Bennett), learning, Cholent and kugel lunch, leagues and end of the week raffles.

Can't wait for newt week!

Have an incredible Shabbos!

- Rabbi Bennett

SNEAK PEAK INTO NEXT WEEK

Monday

Wheels of Fun (Camp T-shirts)

Tuesday

Shiva Asar b'Tamuz—2:30 Dismissal

Wednesday

Ice Cream Lab

Thursday

Splash Wars

League Updates

Rabbi Tsvi Greenfield

Going, going, gone!! Another outstanding week of Areivim Leagues are in the books. Here are your C.A.S.M.L. highlights.

4th & 5th Grade Conference: **Yaakov Benzaquen** of the CTC made a phenomenal diving catch saving at least one run. **Aaron Lewin** of the Frosted Flakes tallied up 4 QB sacks in an intense back and forth football game. In a 2-2 game bottom of the 9th bases loaded **Nachi Lieberstein** of the Cookie Crisp, drew a clutch walk-off walk to win the game!!! **Yisrael Silverstein** showed such gevaldig middos by allowing another boy to bat in his place and he batted last! Wow!

6th 7th & 8th Conference: **Aryeh Leib Wasserman** played an incredible left wing, scoring and hustling back to make crucial defensive plays. After the game **Uriel Korman** stayed behind to bring all of the hockey sticks back inside. The Chimichurri showed excellent teamwork passing the ball up yo **Yitzy Mishler** for many spikes. Even though **Moshe Applebaum** was playing great, he took himself out of the game in order to let another teammate play.

Something to Say at the Tish

Rabbi Tzvi Finkel

After trying twice unsuccessfully to curse Klal Yisroel, Bilaam prepares a third time hoping for better results. The posuk says וישא "וישא" "בלעם את עיניו וירא את ישראל שוכן לשבטיו ותהי עליו רוח אלוקים" Bilaam saw the way Klal Yisroel was camped and, instead of cursing them, gives a beautiful Bracha. We start off davening every morning with the words of Bilaam מַה טוֹבו אוֹהֲלֵיךָ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֹתֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל.

What exactly did Bilaam see that inspired him to give this Bracha?

Rashi explains that there were two things he noticed. Firstly, he saw how each Shevet was living on their own and that the doors of the tents were not facing each other, thereby preventing people from seeing into the tent of their neighbor. The beauty of not being able to see into someone else's tent brings out the level of kedushah and tzniyus Bnei Yisroel were holding on. Bilaam thought that such a nation is worthy of blessing. It is a beautiful thing when everyone is able to live with their own shevet; that everyone is comfortable with their own family, their tradition and their Derech in Avodas Hashem. No one is looking over their shoulder to see how others do things because they are embarrassed of who they are and what they stand for. Automatically, when one is comfortable with himself, he does not need to look into his neighbor's tent. He is not interested in seeing what his latest purchase was, what type of car he is driving, etc. because he doesn't feel the need to imitate. This is what Bilaam was referring to when he said מַה טוֹבו אוֹהֲלֵיךָ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֹתֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל - how beautiful are the tents of Yaakov.



Parsha Questions: Parshas Balak

- 1. Why did Moav consult specifically with Midian regarding their strategy against the Jews?**
22:4 - Since Moshe grew up in Midian, the Moavim thought the Midianim might know wherein lay Moshe's power.
- 2. What was Balak's status before becoming Moav's king?**
22:4 - He was a prince of Midian.
- 3. Why did Hashem grant prophecy to the evil Bilaam?**
22:5 - So the other nations couldn't say, "If we had had prophets, we also would have become righteous."
- 4. Why did Balak think Bilaam's curse would work?**
22:6 - Because Bilaam's curse had helped Sichon defeat Moav.
- 5. When did Bilaam receive his nevu'os?**
22:8 - Only at night.
- 6. Hashem asked Bilaam, "Who are these men with you?" What did Bilaam deduce from this question?**
22:9 - He mistakenly reasoned that Hashem isn't all-knowing.
- 7. How do we know Bilaam hated the Jews more than Balak did?**
22:11 - Balak wanted only to drive the Jews from the land. Bilaam sought to exterminate them completely.
- 8. What is evidence of Bilaam's arrogance?**
22:13 - He implied that Hashem wouldn't let him go with the Moabite princes due to their lesser dignity.
- 9. In what way was the malach that opposed Bilaam a malach of mercy?**
22:22 - It mercifully tried to stop Bilaam from sinning and destroying himself.
- 10. How did Bilaam die?**
22:23 - He was killed with a sword.
- 11. Why did the malach kill Bilaam's donkey?**
22:33 - So that people shouldn't see it and say, "Here's the donkey that silenced Bilaam." Hashem is concerned with human dignity.
- 12. Bilaam compared his meeting with a malach to someone else's meeting with a malach. Who was the other person and what was the comparison?**
22:34 - Avraham. Bilaam said, "Hashem told me to go but later sent a malach to stop me. The same thing happened to Avraham: Hashem told Avraham to sacrifice Yitzchak but later canceled the command through a malach."
- 13. Bilaam told Balak to build seven altars. Why specifically seven?**
23:4 - Corresponding to the seven altars built by the Avos. Bilaam said to Hashem, "The Jewish People's ancestors built seven altars, but I alone have built altars equal to all of them."
- 14. Who in Jewish history seemed fit for a curse, but got a blessing instead?**
23:8 - Yaakov, when Yitzchak blessed him.
- 15. Why are the Jewish People compared to lions?**
23:24 - They rise each morning and "strengthen" themselves to do mitzvos.
- 16. On Bilaam's third attempt to curse the Jews, he changed his strategy. What was different?** 24:1 - He began mentioning B'nei Yisroel's sins, hoping thus to be able to curse them.
- 17. What were Bilaam's three main characteristics?**
24:2 - An evil eye, pride and greed.
- 18. What did Bilaam see that made him decide not to curse the Jews?**
24:2 - He saw each shevet dwelling without intermingling. He saw the tents arranged so no one could see into his neighbor's tent.
- 19. What phrase in Bilaam's self-description can be translated in two opposite ways, both of which come out meaning the same thing?**
24:3 - "Shatum ha'ayin." It means either "the poked-out eye," implying blindness in one eye; or it means "the open eye", which means vision but implies blindness in the other eye.
- 20. Bilaam told Balak that the Jews' Hashem hates what?**
24:14 - Immorality.



I AM



ALBERTINI





I AM



ARZEVINI

