

Navi Notes for Test #2

Who Fights Our Wars? - (Background information for new topic)

Dovi Schlossberg

יהושע's 3 Letters

יהושע wrote 3 letters and sent them to the indigenous people of כנען:

1. Those who want to leave, leave immediately.
2. Those who want to make peace with us and be subservient to us, make peace.
3. Those who want to wage war with us, let us fight!

There were 3 groups of people in כנען that received these letters:

1. Gibeonites- גבעונים
2. Girgashites- גרגשים
3. 31 Kings

Each group of people had a different response:

1. Gibeonites- They made peace.
2. Girgashites- They left Israel and inhabited Africa.
3. 31 Kings- They waged war with the Jews and were defeated.

Wars of the Jews:

- The first war we fought was against Jericho- יריחו. We blew our שופרים and Jericho's walls came tumbling down- "Pompeii" by Bastille- [in a British accent] (in the city that we lo-o-o-o-ove, great clouds roll over the-e hills bring-ing darkness from abo-o-o-o-ove. But if you close your eyes, does it almost feel like nothing changed at all, and if you close your eyes, does it almost feel like you've been here befo-ore? How am I gonna be an op-ti-mist about this? How am I gonna be an optimist ab-out this?; if you close your eyes...[in an undertone] [no pause between the two sentences] E-o-e-o, e-e-o-e-o, e-e-o-e-o, e-e-o-e-o [no pause between the two sentences] Where do we be-egin, the rubble or our sins? Oh-oh-oh, where do we be-egin, the rubble or our sins? And if you close your eyes; e-o-e-o, e-e-o-e-o, e-e-o-e-o, e-e-o-e-o.)
- When we fought against עי, we lost the first war and then won the second war. בני ישראל's victories and defeats in war are dependant on our loyalty and connection to Hashem.
 - Q) Why did we lose?
 - A) Because we took from the spoils of יריחו which we weren't supposed to. Yehoshua made a חרם that all the war spoils should be given to the משכן.

ענן was the one who kept some of the spoils for himself. Yehoshua asked ה' why we had lost, and ה' responded that it was due to our sins.

Q) Why should everybody be punished if ענן was the only one that sinned?

A) We are all in this together. We sinned together, so we are punished together. We lost men and confidence, because of this war.

- כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה - We are mutually responsible for each other. ה' fights our wars.

Times Change, Leaders Change, Strategies Change

<u>Case</u>	<u>Then</u>	<u>Now</u>
Bowing Down to a Powerful Gentile	-יעקב	-מרדכי
Getting Water from the Rock	-משה	-משה
Consecrating Spoils of War to ה'	משה- Consecrated the spoils to ה'	יהושע- יהושע thought that since משה consecrated the spoils of war to ה', he should too. But he should've gone by the concept of "Times Change, Leaders Change, Strategies Change".

-עי and the Battle of יהושע

- ה' blames יהושע for losing the battle of עי, because the reason we lost the battle of עי was because אחב took the spoils for himself. But ה' never said that בני"י couldn't take the spoils for themselves! ה' never told יהושע to put a חרם on the spoils, and if there hadn't been a חרם, then אחב never would have done an עבירה by taking the spoils for himself! So יהושע was the main cause for the loss of the battle of עי!

●

Akiva Thalheim

Yehoshua's 3 Letters

- 1) Those who want to leave, leave now
- 2) Those who want to make peace, make peace (and be subservient to us)
- 3) Those who want to fight, bring it on

Responses

- 1) גרגשי left to Northern Africa
- 2) גבונים made peace
- 3) 31 kings of Canaan waged war, all lost

Wars

- The first war we had was with Yericho, we blast our shofars, the walls come crumbling down.
- Then with עי, lost first war, won second. Again, our victories and defeats depend on our loyalty to Hashem. Why did we lose? Because we took from the spoils of Yericho which we weren't supposed to. Yehoshua made a חרם that all the spoils should go to the Mishkan. עכן was the guy who took some stuff. Yehoshua asked why did we lose, and Hashem said because of our sins. How come it's all because of עכן? Because we are all in this together, we sinned together, so we are punished together. We lost men, confidence, because of this war.
- כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה - We are mutually responsible for each other. Hashem fights our wars

Times Change, Leaders Change, Strategies Changed

Case	Then	Now
Bowing down to powerful gentile	<u>Yaakov</u>	<u>Mordechai</u>
Getting water from the rock	<u>Moshe</u> Enslaved nation, Moshe hit the rock.	<u>Moshe</u> Free nation, Moshe hit the rock instead of speaking to the rock. But because of times change, leaders change, strategies change,

		it was no longer the proper thing to do.
Consecrating spoils of war to Hashem	<u>Moshe</u> Moshe made חרים in the desert.	<u>Yehoshua</u> Yehoshua copied Moshe and made a חרם, but because of times change, leaders change, strategies change, it was no longer the proper thing to do.

Moshe & the Rock

- Each generation has its own leader, prophet etc. Moshe was the leader of the generation of מצרים; they were used to be hit, harsh words, because of the slavery they were used to. Towards the end of the 40 years, there was a completely new generation; a free generation. They were used to kind words, etc. So that's the difference by the rocks. The first time, the proper thing to do was hit the rock. The second time, the proper thing to do was speak to the rock, but he hit it. This showed he wasn't worthy anymore of leading that generation, and a new leader was needed.

Yehoshua & עי

- Hashem blamed Yehoshua for losing the battle of עי because אחב took from the spoils. But Hashem never told Yehoshua to make a חרם!! So its Yehoshua's fault; if he didn't make the חרם, they wouldn't have sinned, and they would've won the battle of עי. Explanation: Moshe himself would also make חרים, that's why Yehoshua thought it was the proper thing to do. By Moshe when they were wandering in the desert, if one person stole from it, only he was punished. By Yehoshua, when they were free in their own land, every Jew was responsible for each other. Therefore, if one person sinned, everyone was punished. There was a sense of ערבות.

Religion vs. Science

Episode of the גבנים

1) The גבנים tricked bnei yisrael to make peace with them, came in ripped clothes, dirty water, made themselves appear they were from a distant country, even though they were indigenous to Israel. Bnei Yisrael falls for the trick and makes peace and swore they wouldn't harm them. Once they found out they were tricked, they were mad, but they couldn't do anything because of the peace treaty, even though it was done under

false assumptions. Also, there would be a חילול השם. So instead, they imposed the rules of the peace treaty (taxes, subordinate).

2) Why did the גבעונים trick Bnei Yisrael? Asked by the רמב"ם

A) They wouldn't be taxed so much if they had complete peace, they wouldn't be considered inferior

B) Maybe they didn't get Yehoshua's letter

C) They did get the letters, but they were obstinate, they wanted to fight. But after seeing the battles of Yericho and עי, they were scared so they wanted to fight.

3) Now all the כנעני kings got the impression that the גבנים were weak traders, and decided to attack them. They were also scared that they had inside information on them that they might tell Bnei Yisrael that would make them vulnerable. The כנענים made war, and the גבנים quickly asked Bnei Yisrael to defend them, since they have the peace treaty

4) They were fighting the war, and Yehoshua realized it was getting dark. If they couldn't see, then they couldn't fight, and the כנענים would be able to regroup and would be stronger the next day. So, Yehoshua davened to Hashem that the sun wouldn't set and it would stay in the sky until they lost.

Figurative vs Literal

Literal - Vashti grew a tail

Figurative - Vashti became ugly

Geocentric Theory - The Sun revolves around the Earth. The Sun moves, the Earth is stationary. Theorized pre-scientific revolution. This was because our perception was we didn't feel like we were moving; the Sun was moving! Also, because Hashem only made man on Earth, we should be at the center. Lastly, because the Christians read the Pasuk that Yehoshua asked the Sun to stop, which shows that the Sun moves, not Earth. This third reason sounds literal.

Heliocentric - The Earth revolves around the Sun. The Earth moves, the Sun is stationary. Theorized by Copernicus and Galileo, early 16th century.

Rejection of Copernicus	Rejection of Copernicus
Preconceived notion: The geocentric theory made sense to them because it places man at the center	For purely textual reasons: A refusal to read the Bible non-literally. Where do you draw the line? If you read it figuratively, everything goes away. But, man has an ego; there was a political power struggle.

Idiom - "The sun stood in the sky" it just means things went fast. But the Gemara talks about how many hours, which sounds like something really happened. But the Rabag just says the sun is always at the center, standing still.

The Torah Speaks in Human Language

Figuratively - Rabag - Military miracle

Literally - From our perspective it looks like the sun stopped, but really the earth stopped - actual miracle - from the perspective of everyone on earth, it stopped, and like we said in the gemara, everyone saw the greatness of efraim

Sefer Shoftim

State/Country	Federation	Confederation
One nation together	One country/nation comprised of smaller countries/nations	many countries/states working