



This week's סָצָה:

Jewish Literacy Programme Year 5 ~ Week 8

now / until now	עתה \ עד עתה
you / are you there?	אתה \ אתה שם?
behold / behold how good	הנה \ הנה מה טוב
that, which / who ruled	אשר \ אשר מלך (שחרירית: אֲדֹון עַלְםָן)
blood / the blood of the man	דם \ דם האדם
in it / sitting in it	בו \ בה \ יושב בה

English Translation / Explanation

General Knowledge Words

The Calendar (part three)

25th - First day of Chanukah - חנוכה

כָּסְלוֹ

10th - Fast of Tevet - עֲשָׂרָה בְּטַבַּת - commemorating the beginning of Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem before the destruction of the First Temple

טַבַּת

15th - The New Year for Trees - ט"ו בְּשַׁבָּט

שְׁבָט

13th - Fast of Esther - תענית אֶסְתֵּר

אֶדְרָה

14th - Purim - פּוּרִים

15th - Shushan Purim - שׁוּשָׁן פּוּרִים

This month occurs in leap years - 7 times every 19 years.

אֶדְרָה שְׁנִי

Jewish History 6

Shmuel HaNavi (Samuel)

The last great personality of the period of the Judges is the Navi (Prophet) Shmuel, who is one of the most important prophets in Jewish history, and who is also famous for anointing the first two kings of Israel - Shaul and David. (See Shmuel I, chapters 1-16.) He authored the Book of Judges and, together with the prophets Gad and Nathan, the book of Shmuel.

By the time Shmuel appears on the scene, the Jewish people have gone through close to 400 years of no strong central leadership. They had to live up to a very high level of individual responsibility or else G-d would let them know they were off course through the Canaanites or the Philistines or the Midianites. This was a very difficult way to live. In the final analysis, the nation couldn't maintain this level of scrutiny without stronger guidance. (Your teacher will explain this last sentence)

When Shmuel was younger, he would travel the land judging according to Jewish law and giving people advice; once he grew old, he could not do it anymore. Meanwhile, his two sons, who had taken over for him, proved unpopular with the people.

Some people asked Shmuel to anoint a king instead:

“And they the people said [to Shmuel] "Behold, you have grown old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now set up for us a king to judge us like all the nations.

And the thing was displeasing in the eyes of Shmuel...” (Shmuel I, 8:5-7)

Shmuel doesn't want to do it, but Hashem tells him to go ahead and find a king for the people. Even so, it is clear that Hashem agreed reluctantly:

“Listen to the voice of the people according to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you but have rejected Me from reigning over them.” (Shmuel I, 8:7)

Why were Hashem and Shmuel so displeased about this request for a king? Had not Moshe in any case predicted that this would happen? (Devarim

17:14,15) Moreover, there is even a Torah commandment to appoint a king.

The answer lies in the way the people asked: “And they said [to Shmuel]: “Now set up a king to judge us *like all the nations...*” ” (Shmuel I, 8:7)

A Jewish king was not supposed to be like the kings of other nations, but rather a model and example for the rest of the nation to emulate: a leader, a scholar, pious, righteous and G-d fearing.

And this is how the Time of Judges came to a close.

Shmuel would soon meet Shaul, and anoint him as the first King of Israel...