



## Parshat Bo January 21 2021

### The Week in Review

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Yeshivat Frisch

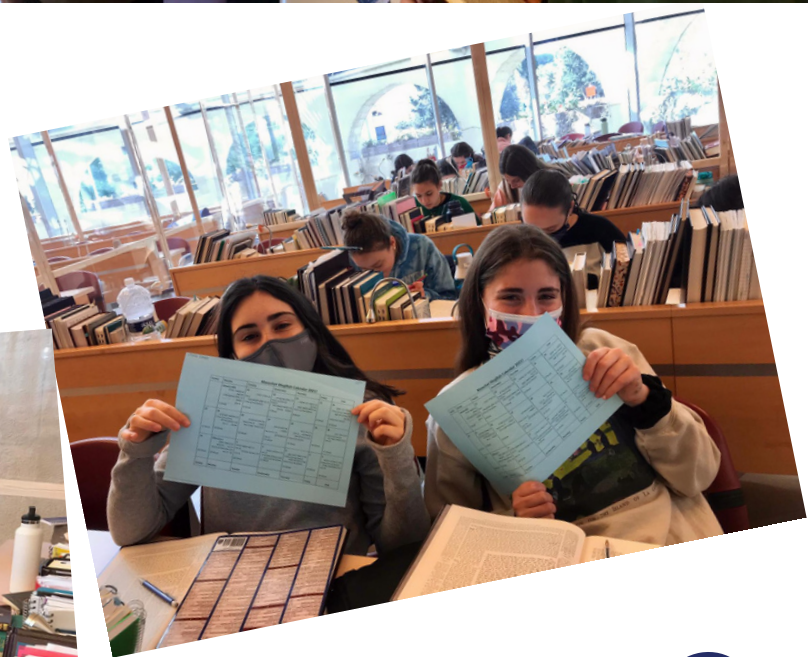
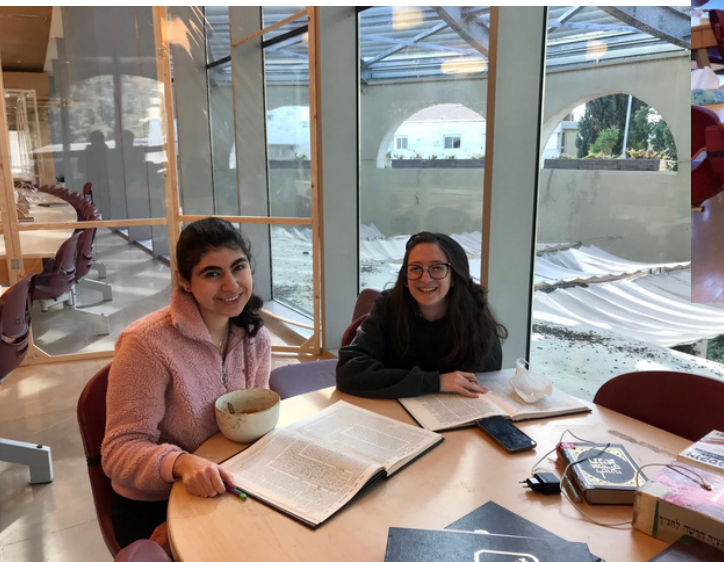
Even though the sefer continued, this week has been great!

Last week ended on a high note with an all-night mishmar filled with siyumim and shiurim, and lots of snacks! I gave a shiur on Moshe's sin and punishment in honor of finishing learning Chumash, which was super exciting. Lucy made a siyum on Seder Moed, and Emily, Chaya and Gillian all gave chaburot as well. The energy created through our night of learning carried us through a great and relaxing shabbos.

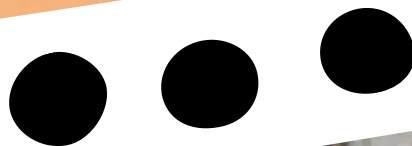
Sunday started a new semester for us, which means new great class options! I've had a lot of fun testing out new classes this week and getting to experience new types of learning. We've really gotten the chance to further our Torah learning through this lockdown!

We ended the week with a wonderful mishmar, complete with delicious burgers in honor of Gila's birthday! Looking forward to our Aussie Shabbat led by Tari and Mia!

# Masechet Megilla is underway!!









# Chavrutot with Darkaynu







## Friendship Circle



## Teaching English to Israeli 8th graders



## Pantry Packers



# D'var Torah from our Students

Miri Jonas  
Bronx, NY  
Yeshivat Frisch



Parshat Bo is a jam-packed Parsha. We have 3 plagues – locusts, darkness, and the death of every firstborn Egyptian male. In addition, Hashem also gives us the laws of the Korban Pesach and the mitzvah of declaring Rosh Chodesh.

Pasuk gimmel in the very first perek of Parshat Bo has a subtle yet fascinating paradox. When Moshe and Aharon go to Pharaoh, they give Pharaoh a very interesting reason to release Bnei Yisrael:

“וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו כֹּה אָמַר ה' אֱלֹהֵי הָעִבְרִים עַד מָתַי מֵאֲנֶת לַעֲנֹת מִפְּנֵי שְׁלַח עַמִּי וַיַּעֲבֹדוּנִי.”

And Moshe and Aharon came before Pharaoh and said to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews, How long will thou refuse to humble thyself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me.’

My question on this passuk, a question that many commentators ask, is why does Hashem want to free us from Egypt just to serve Him? Is serving G-d just perpetuating slavery? Far from it!

As Abraham Lincoln said, “Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we ought.” The difference between slavery and servitude is very apparent: by serving Hashem, we are actually liberating ourselves. Without Hashem, we would live in a world of absolute chaos, and a lonely one too. Keeping Hashem’s mitzvot and declaring Him as our creator gives our lives an immense amount of meaning. It’s also the foundation of community. In fact, the mitzvah of eating Korban Pesach, which we are commanded to do in the parsha, is designed to emphasize the importance of community.

In Perek Yud-Bet Pasuk Chaf Aleph, we see that each family took 1 Korban pesach and ate it among themselves and friends. At the beginning of Shemot, Bnei Yisrael came down as a family, but slavery broke down the family unit. Now, the mitzvah of Korban Pesach is continuing the transition from slaves to real, free people, to reestablish the family unit that was broken down by Pharaoh and the mitzrim.

A second mitzvah regarding Korban Pesach is that we are not allowed to break the bones of the animal. Hashem wanted us to experience something that would help us feel less like slaves and more like kings. Every time we eat the Korban Pesach and keep this Halacha, we are reminded of how Hashem views us and our status in the world.

What we can learn from Parshat Bo is that Hashem's biggest blessing to Am Yisrael is guiding us with His Torah in order that we can serve Him and lead the most meaningful lives possible.

Shabbat Shalom!

*Happy Birthday  
Gila!*

