

Wednesday, July 23, 2014
כ"ה תמוז תשע"ד

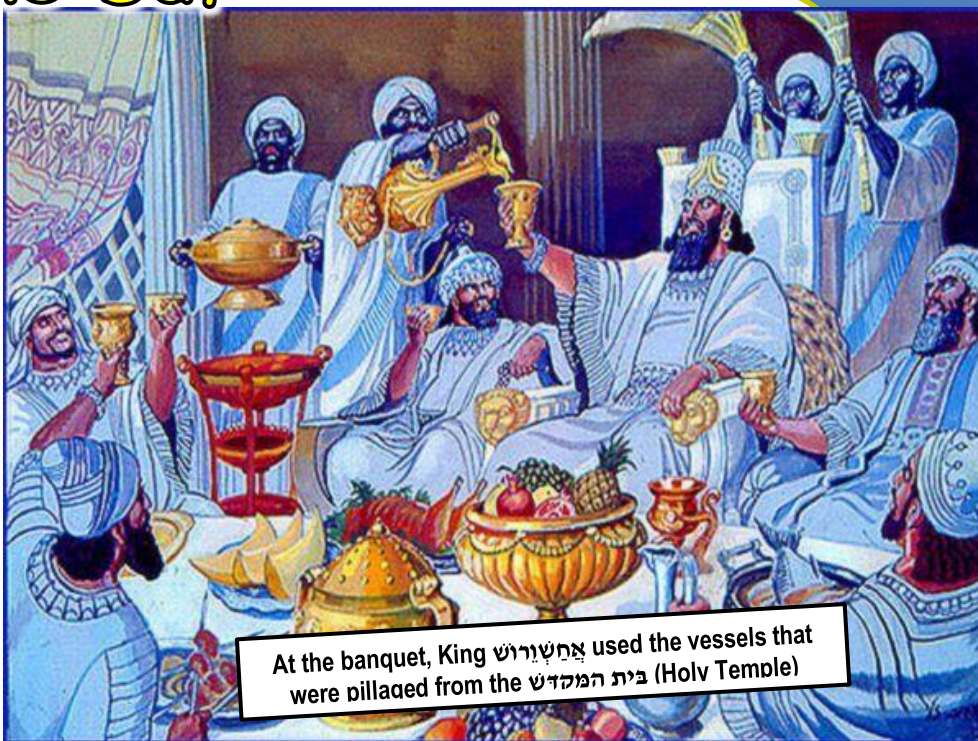
מסכת מגילת דפייב

DAF YOMI 4 KIDS

Inside the Daf

The beginning of the Book of אֶסְתֵּר (Esther) tells of a lavish banquet that the king of Persia-Mede, אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ (Ahasuerus), made.

The גְּמָרָא describes the excesses of this great feast. Some say there were hangings of hand-made tapestries and cushions of fine wool. All the couches were made of silver with legs made of gold. The floor was paved with rare stones. A precious stone called "דָּרָה" found on coastal cities was placed in the middle of the room and it lit up the area like it was the middle of the day.



The גְּמָרָא also tells us that at this banquet the king used the vessels that were pillaged by the Babylonians from the בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ (Holy Temple). In fact, King Belshazzar of Babylon was destroyed for using these same vessels (see דְּנִיאל ה, כג, Dan. 5,23), yet King אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ repeated this disrespectful act!

Perhaps even worse, the Jewish people of the time showed up at this feast and partook in the celebration. רַבֵּי שְׁמַעוֹן בֶּן יוֹחִי said it was for this act of disrespect that the Jewish people of that generation were deserving of extermination!

The גְּמָרָא also says that King אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ wore the clothing of the גָּדוֹל (High Priest) which had also been looted from the בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ.

WORDS OF THE DAY:
תְּנִיָא נַמִּי הַכִּי
"WE ALSO LEARN IN A בְּרִיָתָא"

Vashti's Insult

In the Book of אֶסְתֵּר (א, יב, Esther 1,12) we are told how King אֲחַשְׁוֵרֹשׁ invited his wife Vashti to the great banquet and she refused to come. The Sages explain that she broke out with a skin disease and did not want to be seen.

That seems understandable. So why did אֲחַשְׁוֵרֹשׁ become so upset with her when she refused to come? That's because she sent the king back this insulting response:

"Compared to my father you are nothing but a stable boy! Why, my father could drink a thousand times the amount of wine that other people drink and not get drunk. You become a fool when you drink wine!"

אֲחַשְׁוֵרֹשׁ was not very happy with his queen's response. He turned to "wise men" for advice. These wise men were in fact the Jewish Sages. They told the king that they could not give him any advice.

"From the day that the Temple was destroyed," they told the king, "our ability to give advice has been taken from us."



Vashti broke out with a skin disease and she did not want to be seen at the banquet



Did You Know...

רְבֵּה בֵּר בֵּר חָנָה says (in the name of רַבִּי יְהוֹשֻעַ בֶּן לֵוִי) that מְרֻדָּי's (Mordecai) father was from the tribe of בְּנֵימִין (Benjamin) and his mother was of the tribe of יְהוּדָה (Judah).

A מְדוּת Moment

For the millionth time that summer, Yisroel Meir had accidentally thrown the basketball out of the park and into someone's backyard. And for the millionth time that summer, the boys had to think of a way to get it back. They really didn't want to bother the backyard's owner for the millionth time.

"I know," said Yisroel Meir. "We can just jump the fence ourselves! I'll stand on someone's shoulder's so I can reach it and then I'll climb over."

"And how will you get back to our side again?" asked Nossou.

"Oh yeah..." said Yisroel Meir.

"When the Sages were asked for advice by king אֲחַשְׁוֵרֹשׁ, הָמָן jumped to the front to be the first to give advice, even though we are told he was the least important of the king's servants. We see from here that only a boor leaps to the front. Don't rush to give advice. Think carefully, first."

Games

Review Questions – מגילה דף י"ב

1. What did אֲחַשְׁוֵרֹשׁ wear at his banquet?

2. Why did Vashti refuse to appear at the king's banquet?

3. From which tribes were מְרֻדָּי's parents?



DRAW IT!

Read "Inside the Daf" and draw what was at the king's banquet using this banquet table.

