

Thursday, July 3, 2014
 ה' תמוז תשע"ד

מסכת
תענית
 דף כב

DAF YOMI⁴ Kids

Inside the Daf

Not only do we call out in prayer in case of an invading army, but even if an army just passes through our land on its way to attack another country, we are told to cry out to Hashem.

The גְּמָרָא gives an example of a passing army that wreaked havoc on the Jewish community. Pharaoh Necho of Egypt wished to pass through the Land of Israel on his way to attack Assyria. The king of Israel, יֵאֲשֵׁהוּ (Josiah), refused to let him pass.

"What have I to do with you?" asked Pharaoh Necho. "I am not marching against you today!"

But King יֵאֲשֵׁהוּ heard that Pharaoh placed his faith in idolatry and decided to do battle with the Egyptians. The גְּמָרָא explains that יֵאֲשֵׁהוּ should have consulted with יְרֵמְיָהוּ (Jeremiah), the prophet before deciding whether or not to go to war. The prophet would have advised against war since the Jewish people were sinful at the time and not deserving of Hashem's protection.

The results were tragic. The Egyptian archers shot through the king so many times that his body became pierced like a sieve.

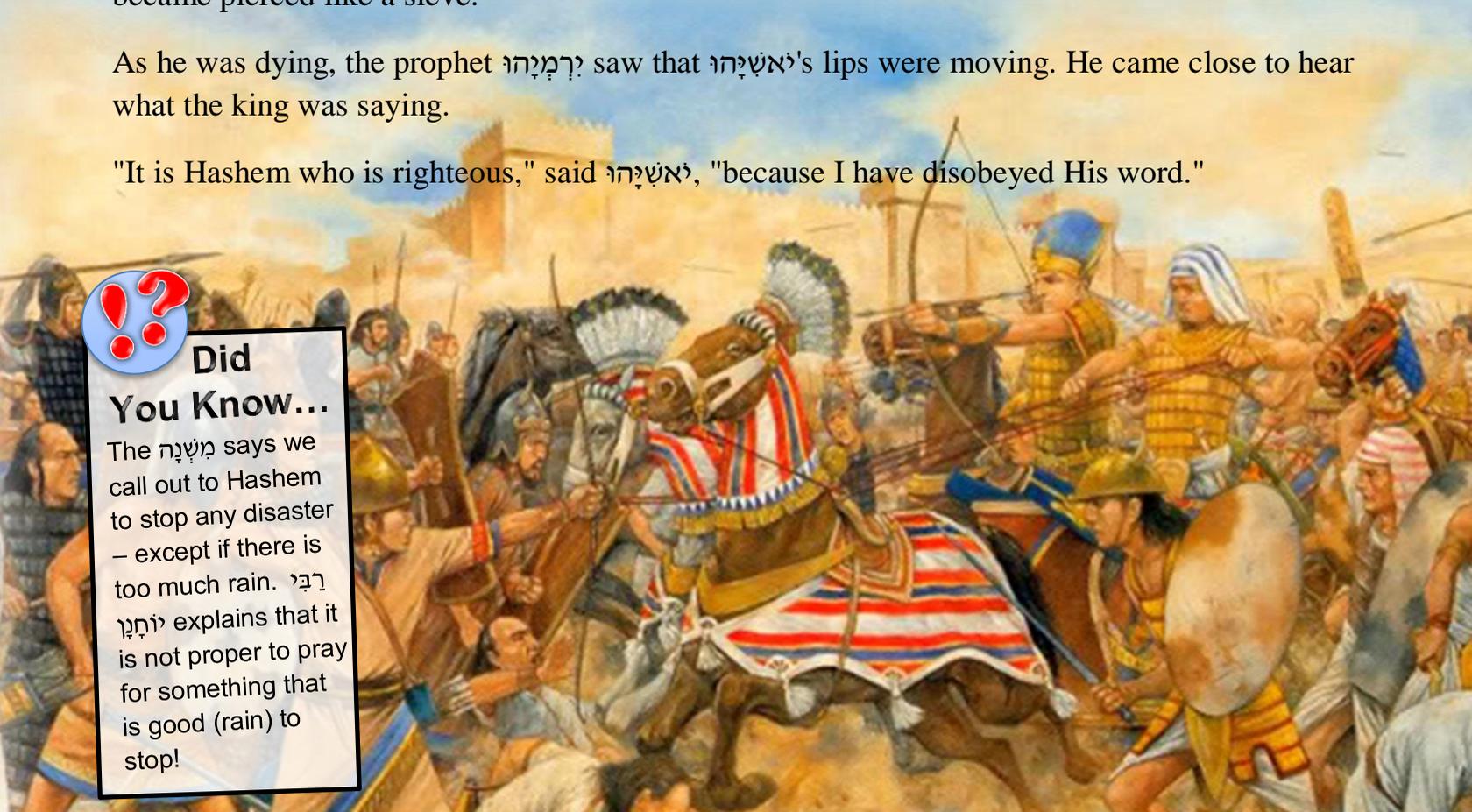
As he was dying, the prophet יְרֵמְיָהוּ saw that יֵאֲשֵׁהוּ's lips were moving. He came close to hear what the king was saying.

"It is Hashem who is righteous," said יֵאֲשֵׁהוּ, "because I have disobeyed His word."



Did You Know...

The מְשֵׁנָה says we call out to Hashem to stop any disaster – except if there is too much rain. רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן explains that it is not proper to pray for something that is good (rain) to stop!



The Comedians

רבי ברוקא was a regular visitor at the market of בני לָפֶט. Not only that, but אֵלִיָּהוּ הַנָּבִיא (Elijah the Prophet) would frequently appear to him there. In the past, רבי ברוקא would ask the prophet if there was anyone in the market place deserving of a share in the World to Come.



"These ones will go to the World to Come," רבי ברוקא told אֵלִיָּהוּ.

רבי ברוקא was curious what made these men so special. He went up to them.

"What do you do?" asked רבי ברוקא.

"We are comedians!" they said. "We cheer up people who are sad! Also, if two people are fighting we make a special effort to make peace between them."

One day two men walked by.

A Moment

The small town of Chortkov in Lithuania was known to be led by a very pious, and very serious, rabbi. Sometimes, the community was ill at ease with a leader who was known to never crack a joke. Still, the rabbi's scholarship and piety more than compensated for this perceived imperfection.

Imagine the shock this community had one afternoon as they passed their rabbi chatting idly with an old man in the middle of the street. It was certainly out of character for the rabbi to chit-chat as though he hadn't a care in the world. But the most shocking thing was yet to come.

The old man began to laugh. And not just any laugh, but a roaring belly laugh that could have only come if the rabbi had

told him the funniest joke he had ever heard!

The rabbi cracking a joke? Impossible. When the rabbi and the old man ended their conversation, some people went over to the rabbi to investigate. What was the meaning of his unusual behavior?

"This man is a very saddened person," explained the rabbi. "It is true that I am very serious and never crack a single joke. But do we not see in daf yomi today that two men merited reward in the World to Come simply for cheering up the depressed? It was in this spirit that I tried to cheer up this old man."

WORD OF THE DAY:

 חוץ

"EXCEPT FOR / OUTSIDE"

Games

Review Questions – תענית דף כ"ב

- Who wished to pass through King יאשיהו (Josiah)'s territory?

- In the marketplace, who was deserving of a share in the World to Come?

- Which disaster do we not cry out to Hashem to stop?



- I accompanied רבי ברוקא
- I used to frequent the market at בני לָפֶט
- King יאשיהו should have consulted me first
- All I wanted to do was invade Assyria!
- I shouldn't have gone to war against Egypt