**Class # 29- Do all 18-year Olds have an obligation to enlist in the Israeli Army?**

Senior Fellowship Leadership Program

Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuGYQrapECI>

<https://www.jns.org/when-the-idf-lone-soldier-experience-becomes-a-family-affair/>

IDF combat in Gaza

1. How old are these Jews?
2. What is scary about the scenes in the clip?
3. How do you think Mrs Stufflebeam felt about her boys being in the tunnels of Gaza??

*The Petition of Reuben and Gad*

32:1 The descendants of Reuben and Gad had an extremely large number of animals, and they saw that the [Ya'azer](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3545) and [Gilead](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3546) areas were good for livestock. 32:2 The descendants of Gad and Reuben therefore came and presented the following petition to Moses, Eleazar the priest, and the community princes: 32:3 '[Ataroth](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32" \l "C3547), [Divon](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3548), [Ya'azer](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3549), [Nimrah](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3550), [Cheshbon](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3551), [El'aleh](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3552), [Sevam](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3553), [Nebo](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3554) and [Be'on](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3555) 32:4 [in] the land that God struck down before the Israelite community is livestock land - and what we have is livestock.'

*Moses Objects to the Petition*

32:5 They said, 'If you would [grant us a favor](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=32#C3556), let this land be given to us as our permanent property, and do not bring us across the Jordan.' 32:6 Moses said to the descendants of Gad and Reuben, '[Is it right that] your brothers go out and fight while you stay here?

4) What did Reuven and Gad want to do?

5) Compare and contrast Reuven and Gad and the feelings of most American Jews?

6) During the Holocaust, where were European Jews able to go to escape Nazi genocide?

7) Where do the European Jews plan to go in the face of the rise of anti-Semitism?

8) Where would we go if anti-Semitism arose in the USA?

[A May 2014 survey revealed that 74 percent of French Jews consider leaving France for Israel where of the 74 percent, 29.9 percent cited anti-Semitism. Another 24.4 cited their desire to “preserve their Judaism,” while 12.4 percent said they were attracted by other countries. “Economic considerations” was cited by 7.5 percent of the respondents]

Pesachim 25b

**A local official said to me: Go kill so-and-so, and if not I will kill you.** Rava **said to him:** It is preferable that **he should kill you and you should not kill. What did you think, that your blood is redder** and more precious than his? **Perhaps that man’s blood is redder.** Apparently, one may not save his own life by taking someone else’s.

# Rambam, Laws of Kings and their Wars- Chapter 5:1

A king should not wage other wars before a *milchemet mitzvah*. What is considered as *milchemet mitzvah*? The war against the seven nations who occupied *Eretz Yisrael*, the war against Amalek, and a war fought to assist Israel from an enemy which attacks them.

Afterwards, he may wage a *milchemet hareshut*, i.e. a war fought with other nations in order to expand the borders of Israel or magnify its greatness and reputation.

# Chapter 7:

...Then, the *meshuach milchamah* announces:

Is there a man who has built a new house?... Let him go home...

Is there a man who has planted a vineyard?... Let him go home...

Is there a man who has consecrated a woman?... Let him go home... (*ibid.* 20:5-7).

These words are related by the *meshuach milchamah*. Afterwards, an officer proclaims these words to the nation in a loud voice. the officer announces on his own initiative: 'Is there a man who is afraid or faint-hearted? Let him go home...' (*ibid.* 20:8). Another officer proclaims these words to the people…..in which instances are the above-mentioned individuals sent away from the battlefront? In a *milchemet hareshut*. By contrast, in a *milchemet mitzvah*, th**e entire nation must go out to war, even a groom from his chamber, and a bride from her pavilion.**

9) What is our “heter” our halachic dispensation for not enlisting?

10) What are three things we can do to be a more active communal Jew?