

Class #23 – Yom Yirushalayim: bringing Hashem’s Shechinah into the camp

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel Z”l
Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal - prepared collaboratively with Rabbi Yoni Sacks

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/50-years-later-soldiers-remember-iconic-six-day-war-photo/>

The David Rubinger photograph of three paratroopers standing in silent awe in front of the recaptured Western Wall after the battle for Jerusalem in 1967 has become the defining image of one of the most significant moments in Israel’s history. With the 50th anniversary of the Six Day War approaching, Zion Karasenti, Haim Oshri, and Dr. Itizik Yifat returned to the Old City this week to remember the moment.



Rabbi Yoel Bin Nun describes the taking of Jerusalem – July 7th, 1967

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40117270>

Dr. Rabbi Yoel bin Nun is one of the founders of Yeshivat Har Etzion. He received his rabbinic training at Yeshiva Merkaz HaRav and his Ph.D. from Hebrew University. In

1986, he established Herzog College for training Jewish Studies teachers, especially in Bible instruction. Between 2000-2006 he served as the Rosh Ha-Yeshiva of Yeshivat HaKibbutz HaDati in Ein Tzurim. He is viewed as the founder of the modern day Tanach revolution. One example, is the Herzog college sponsored weeklong Tanach conference which attended by 8,000 people annually. This has inspired other Tanach conferences to be run in Israel at other Yeshivot and institutions.

[Yemei Iyun in Tanach](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfTnLeom2Fg>





The Camp: Judah to the East

2:1 God spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: 2:2 The Israelites shall camp with each person near the banner having his paternal family's insignia. They shall camp at a [specified distance](#) around the Communion Tent. 2:3 Camping to the east (the direction of sunrise) shall be the divisions under the banner of Judah. The leader of Judah's descendants was Nachshon son of Aminadav.

2:4 The tally of his division was 74,600. 2:5 Camping near him shall be the tribe of Issachar, and the leader of Issachar's descendants was Nethanel son of Tzuar. 2:6 The tally of his division was 54,400. 2:7 [With them shall be] the tribe of Zebulun, and the leader of Zebulun's descendants was Eliav son of Chelon. 2:8 The tally of his division was 57,400. 2:9 The entire tally for the divisions in Judah's camp was thus 186,400. On the march, they shall go first.

Reuben to the South

2:10 The divisions under the banner of Reuben's camp shall be to the south... On the march, they shall go second. 2:17 On the march, the Communion Tent [and] the camp of the Levites shall then proceed. [They] shall be in the middle of the [other] camps. [The people] shall travel in the same manner as they camp. Each person shall be in his place, according to each one's banner... 2:18 The divisions under the banner of Ephraim's camp shall be to the west... On the march, they shall go third... 2:25 The divisions under the banner of Dan's camp shall be to the north... On the march, they shall be the last of the banners... 2:32 These then are the tallies of the Israelites according to their paternal families. The tally for all the camps in all divisions was 603,500. 2:33 The Levites were not registered among the [rest of the] Israelites, as God had commanded Moses. 2:34 The Israelites did all that God had commanded Moses. They camped under their banners in the prescribed manner, and each person traveled in a similar manner with his family, according to his paternal line.

- 1) Why does Hashem insist that the army organize the troops by tribes in a specific order? Why can't they all hang around with their own friends?
- 2) What is at the center of the camp? What does this placement say about the national priority given to the spiritual work done in Mishkan?
- 3) Who surrounds the Mishkan? Why? Who is at the outer circle of the camp? Why?
- 4) How does this division of labor exist today?



- 5) Which of the two kinds of Jews serving Hashem are the three paratroopers in the elite 55th Paratroop Brigade? Rabbi Bun Nun?
- 6) Yerushalayim of old was the center for three things: National sacrificial service, Tefillah and Torah. How has the liberation of Jerusalem impacted on these three areas?
- 7) How might have the liberation of Jerusalem motivated Rabbi Yoel Bin Nun to begin the “Tanach Revolution” in Israel, by founding Yeshivat Har Etzion and Herzog College and by teaching Tanach with the same rigor as the study of Gemara?
- 8) Why should we celebrate Yom Yerushalayim today? What should you personally be thinking about, this Yom Yerushalayim?