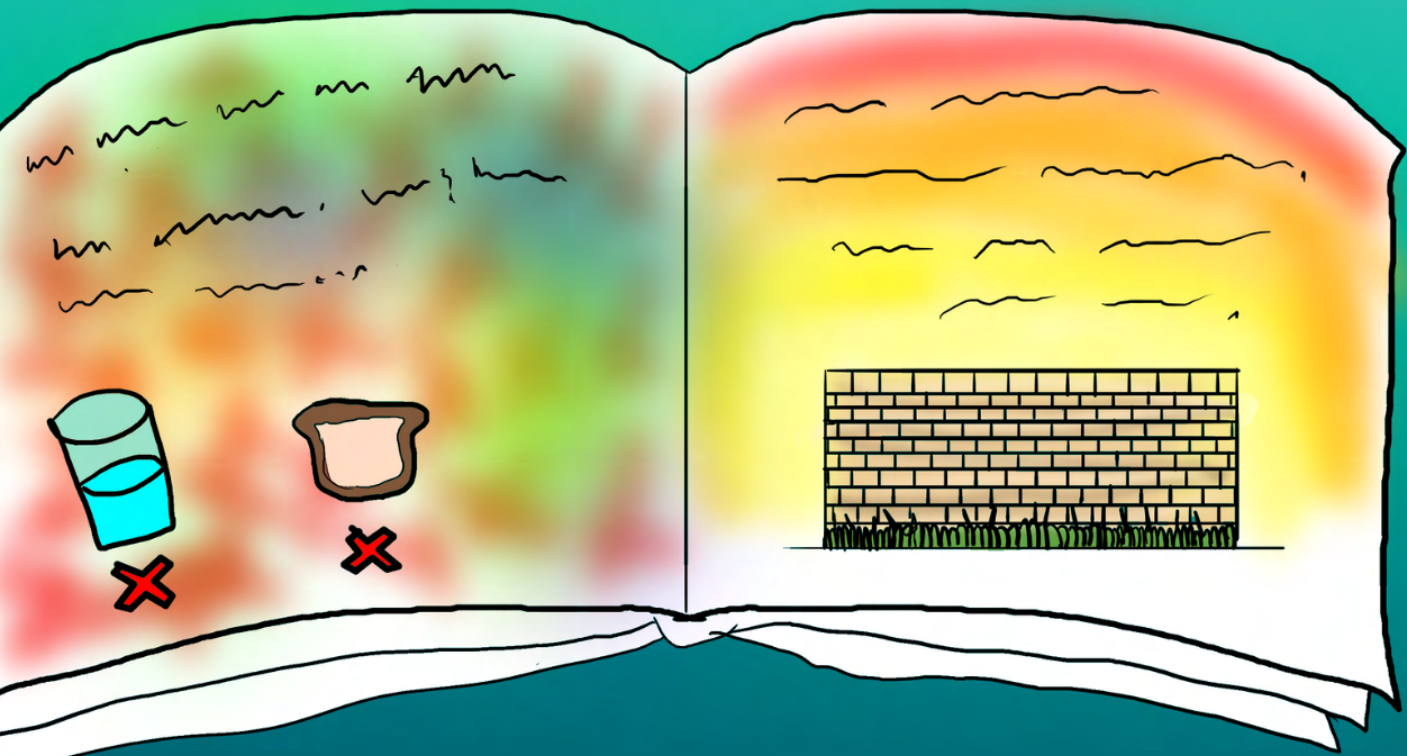


# BKids

## SURROUNDED

# ASARA B'TEVET



ISSUE #11



Be'Ezrat  
HaShem  
[www.BeEzratHaShem.org](http://www.BeEzratHaShem.org)



MTD

# Hi, kids!

Days of fast are not fun. The adults don't eat or drink, the kids avoid candy and snacks, and everyone is more serious. But if we knew what Asara b'Tevet is all about, it would be easier for us to feel the pain of the people in Jerusalem during the siege. In this issue you will find out why we fast on Asara b'Tevet, along with other fun things that will keep you busy during the fast.

Enjoy,

Miriam Tamar

Questions or comments are welcome to be sent to [bhkids@beezrathashem.org](mailto:bhkids@beezrathashem.org)

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*And much more...*

# Doing Mitzvot with Danny



Hi, kids!  
When going to bed,  
we say the prayer of  
Shema Yisrael.



**Shema Yisrael HaShem  
Elokeinu HaShem Echad.  
Baruch Shem Kevod Malchuto  
l'Olam Vaed. v'Ahavta ...**



**TIP:**  
Hang up a sign near  
your bed with the  
words of Shema on it.



Goats are amusing animals. Have you ever noticed how they constantly try to escape from their enclosures? When they want to follow you, they will return no matter how many times you push them away. They nibble on virtually everything: your clothes, their fence, and even your hair if you get too close. What's the reason for all this seemingly silly behavior? It's their determination. Goats never give up, regardless of the obstacles they face.

When a goat tries to reach a delicious patch of grass on the other side of a fence, it will persist, using its intelligence and agility to find a way over, under, or around the barrier. Goats are renowned escape artists. They use their determination and cleverness to find weaknesses in fences, gates, or enclosures before making their dash to freedom. When goats seek food or water, no obstacle deters them. They climb down steep banks to reach water and scale steep mountains, rocky cliffs, and even trees to access the most appealing leaves.

We can learn much from goats. When facing challenges or obstacles, we might feel tempted to give up. However, goats demonstrate that with HaShem's help, persistence, and determination, we can overcome any obstacle.



# Silly Gilly

## A'SARAH' B'TEVET



# Friends

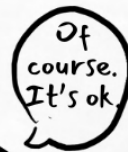
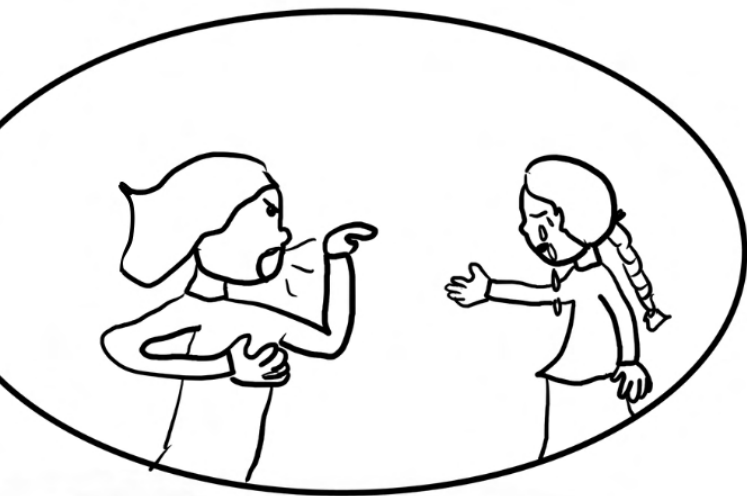
# Forever

If you hurt your friend and things went wrong,

Don't be afraid to admit and be strong.

Say you're sorry, do what's right,

And soon you'll both forget about the fight.



# REMEMBERING The Beit HaMikdash ON ASARA B'TEVET

A long time ago, the Jewish people had a special place called the Beit HaMikdash. The Beit HaMikdash was like a house for HaShem where His holiness could dwell among us. It was a beautiful building that contained many beautiful objects, most of them made of pure gold, which the Kohanim used in their service to HaShem.

For example, there was a beautiful golden Menorah that the Kohen Gadol would light every day (this is the same Menorah we discussed in last month's issue, which was involved in the miracle of the small jug of oil that lasted for eight days instead of one).

There were also two types of altars: one made of gold used for the incense service, and another made of copper used for bringing sacrifices before HaShem.

The Kohanim who performed the service wore white clothes, and the Kohen Gadol had beautiful additional garments. These included a crown made of pure gold and a breastplate made of pure gold with 12 beautiful gems on it.

The Jews would go up to the Beit HaMikdash and bring sacrifices before HaShem three times a year: on Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot. They would also visit on special occasions for different reasons, such as bringing a sacrifice when doing Teshuva for a sin they had committed, or bringing a sacrifice to thank HaShem after recovering from an illness.

Life was great and peaceful then, as long as the Jews listened to HaShem and did His will. Once they began straying from HaShem's way, troubles began.



They started sinning gravely and neglected the service in the Beit HaMikdash. Corrupt people took over the position of Kohen Gadol, and the Beit HaMikdash became the subject of fights between Jewish factions.

HaShem sent the Babylonians to harass them, hoping the Jews would understand and improve their ways. But the Jews didn't take the hint and sinned even more. HaShem sent prophets to warn them that if they didn't do Teshuva, He would send enemies who would destroy the Beit HaMikdash and either kill them or take them captive. But the Jews were already too deep in sin, and they couldn't believe that HaShem would really destroy the Beit HaMikdash, so they didn't listen and continued sinning.

After realizing that the Jews were unwilling to change their ways, HaShem sent Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king, to punish the Jews and destroy the Beit HaMikdash.

On the 10th day of the month of Tevet, King Nebuchadnezzar and his army began a siege around Jerusalem, where the Beit HaMikdash stood. They surrounded the city tightly from all sides so that no one could enter or leave.

The Jewish people were trapped inside

the city without enough food or water. They were very frightened and didn't know what would happen to them. Yet they still didn't do Teshuva or change their ways.

The Babylonian army surrounded Jerusalem for 18 months, while the Jews grew weaker and weaker, and more people died from hunger and disease. Sadly, they still didn't do Teshuva.

On the 17th of Tamuz, the Babylonians broke through Jerusalem's walls and entered the city. They killed and destroyed everything in their path until finally, on the 9th of Av, they reached the Beit HaMikdash and burned it down.

Just as the prophets had warned, the Beit HaMikdash was destroyed, and the Jews were either killed or taken captive.

Today, we remember the siege of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash on three dates: the 10th of Tevet (when the siege began), the 17th of Tamuz (when the Babylonians breached Jerusalem's walls), and the 9th of Av (when the Beit HaMikdash was destroyed). On these days, we fast and pray, trying to do Teshuva and increase our observance of Mitzvot, hoping that HaShem will rebuild the Beit HaMikdash soon.



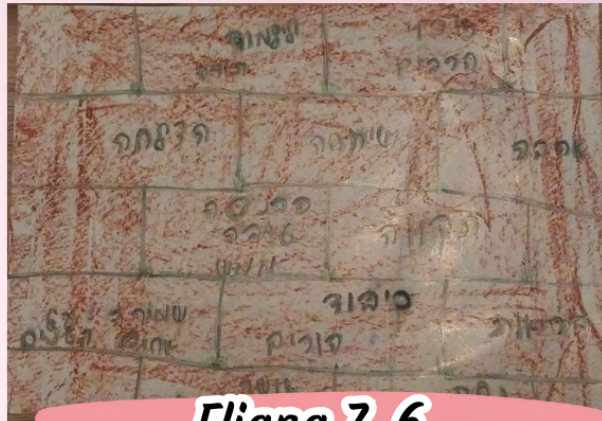


# BHKids

## ASARA B'TEVET

*art*

**Adding bricks to the  
Beit HaMikdash by doing Mitzvot**



*Eliana Z., 6  
Jerusalem, Israel*

If you want your Torah Art to be on next month's issue - Tu b'Shvat, please send the picture, together with a short description, your first name, last initial, age, and where you live (city + state/country), to [bhkids@beezrathashem.org](mailto:bhkids@beezrathashem.org)

Torah Arts should be submitted by February 6th, 2024.

# FUN TIMES

It's Asara b'Tevet and Mommy is fasting. Help her get home without passing by any food store on the way.

