

Inside The Daf

A מְדוּת Moment

Playing ball was what Joseph liked to do best on Sunday afternoons. With glove in hand he was off to the park to play with the other boys. This Sunday he happened to meet Rabbi Speigler on the way.

"Hello, Joseph," the rabbi said. "On your way to serve Hashem?"

"Actually, I'm going to play ball," Joseph said.

"I know," laughed the rabbi. "But still...are you on your way to serve Hashem?"

Joseph scratched his head. What did Rabbi Speigler mean?

"Let me explain," the rabbi said warmly. "Everything we do in life, even physical things like eating, sleeping or playing ball should be done with Hashem in mind. We should be thinking we are eating to serve Hashem better, sleeping to be well rested in order to serve Hashem...or playing ball for exercise and to relax so we could be at our best to serve Hashem."

"Oh, I see," said Joseph.

"I learned this in today's *daf yomi*," Rabbi Speigler explained. "We learn that the blood was poured on the west side of the Altar. Rav Hirsch explains the "west" represents Torah. Pouring the blood into the western base means you are giving all your physical energy to living a Torah life and serving Hashem!"

"So," smiled Joseph coyly, "playing ball might actually be like preparing to do a *mitzvah*."

"Only if you do it right!"

(רש"י הרש פרי אחרי מות)

The מְשֵׁנָה teaches that after the כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל daubed the blood on the corners of the מִזְבֵּחַ הַזָּהָב (Golden Altar) he sprinkled some blood on to the Altar's "טְהָרוֹ" (purity). The גְּמָרָא asks where the "טְהָרוֹ" is.

רַבָּה בַּר רַב שִׁילָא explains that the word "טְהָרוֹ" is similar to the expression people in Babylon use for "midday" ("טְהָרָא"). Therefore, the מְשֵׁנָה means that the blood was sprinkled at the "midpoint up the wall of the Altar" just like midday is the midpoint of the day.

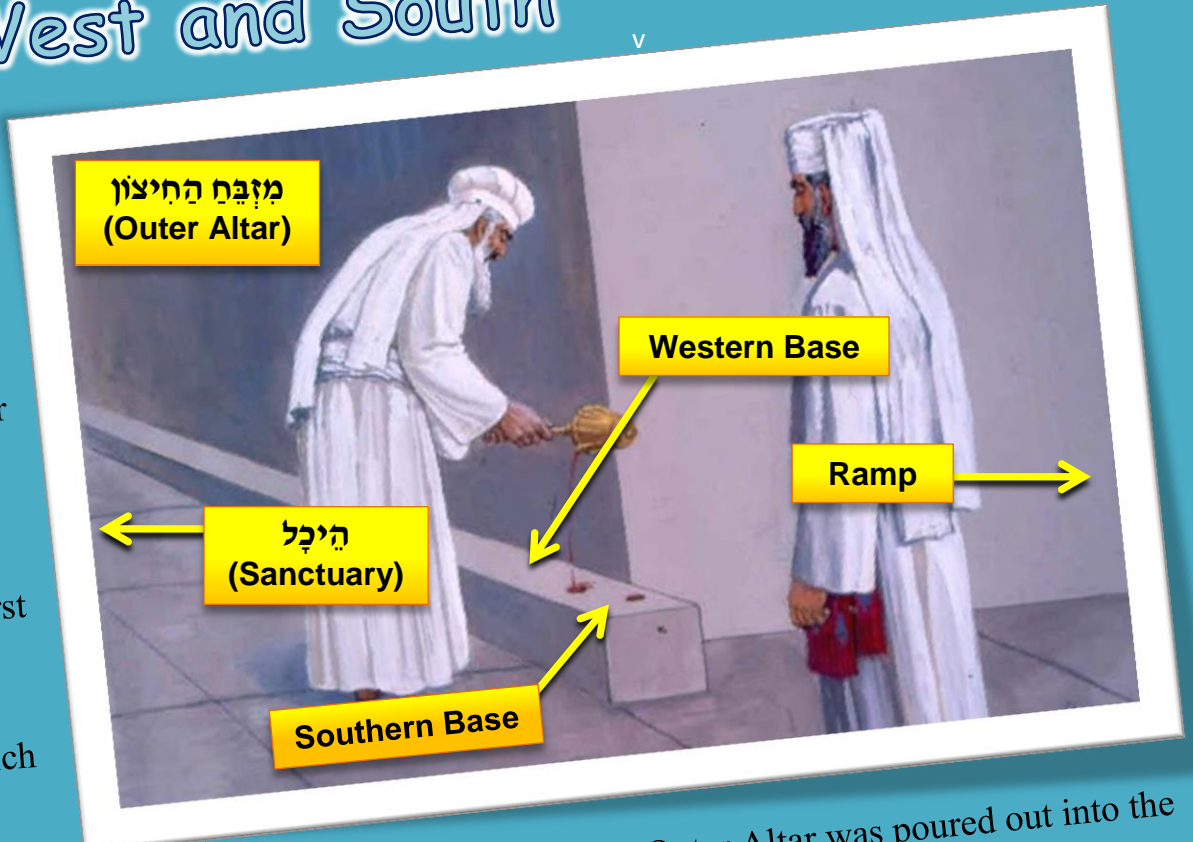
The גְּמָרָא has a problem explaining the מְשֵׁנָה this way. We can't say the blood is sprinkled on the wall of the Golden Altar because a בְּרִיתָא teaches that the coals on top of the Altar were moved aside and the blood was sprinkled there!

Therefore the מְשֵׁנָה's use of the word "טְהָרוֹ" as the place the blood is sprinkled, comes from the word "לְטֹהַר" which means "clarity." The מְשֵׁנָה is teaching that the blood is sprinkled on the "clearest" part of the מִזְבֵּחַ – the top.



To the West and South

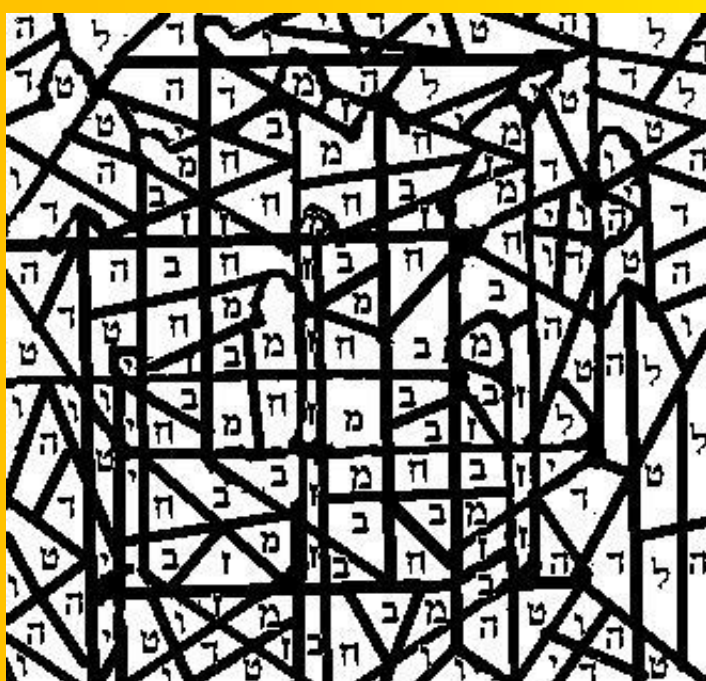
The מִשְׁנָה taught that any blood left over after the sprinkling on the Golden Altar was poured out on the western base of the מִזְבֵּחַ הַחִיצוֹן (the Outer Altar). The reason for pouring onto the western base is because that is the first base the כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל would reach after leaving the הֵיכָל which housed the Golden Altar.



We were also taught that blood left over from sacrifices on the Outer Altar was poured out into the southern base of the Outer Altar. The reason for pouring out the blood on the מִזְבֵּחַ הַחִיצוֹן's southern base is because as the person carrying the blood down the ramp of the Outer Altar would reach the southern base first.

HIDDEN PICTURES

Color in the letters of מִזְבֵּחַ to reveal the Golden Altar



WORD OF THE DAY:
סִיפָא
"THE LAST PART"

Games

Did You Know...

תְּנִינָא says the blood was sprinkled on the north side of the Golden Altar and רַבִּי יוֹסִי says it was sprinkled on its south side.

יומא דף נ"ט – Review Questions

- Which part of the מִזְבֵּחַ (Altar) does "טְהָרוּ" refer to?

- Where was the leftover blood from the Golden Altar poured into?

- Where does רַבִּי יוֹסִי say the blood was sprinkled on the Golden Altar?
