



Shekalim in Moed?

The new *masechet*, *masechet Shekalim*, opens by explaining that on the first of *Adar*, *beit din* would send messengers throughout Israel to announce that everyone must bring their half-*shekel*. *Bartenura* explains that since on the first of *Nisan*, one month later, the *korbanot ha'tzibur* (public offerings) were to be offered from these new funds, everyone was given thirty days to supply the yearly obligatory fixed amount. This being the case, one might think that we are learning this *masechet* prematurely. We are currently learning the *seder* (order) of *Moed* which has a strong focus on the festivals. It would seem that *Shekalim* is more suited to be found in *seder Kodshim* that deals with the *korbanot*. The *Rambam* too follows the pattern of the *Mishnah* by placing *Shekalim* as part of *Zemanim* instead of *Korbanot*. Why is it here?

Rav Osher Weiss, in the *Minchat Asher*, explains that really the essence of the *mitzvah* of *Machatzit HaShekel* is not simply a means of funding the *korbanot*, but rather the giving it its own right. The *Rambam* writes about the *machatzit ha'shekel* in his *Sefer Ha'Mitzvot* (171) as follows:

Mitzvah 171 is that we have been commanded to give a half-*shekel* every year. As it states, "...every man shall give Hashem an atonement for his soul when counting them"...

Once again, it is listed amongst the laws of the festivals. Furthermore, the *Minchat Asher* notes that this *mitzvah* is explained differently to other *mitzvot*, like building the *Beit HaMikdash* and

wearing the priestly garments, where the *Rambam* writes that they were "for *avodah*". The absence of this expression when listing *machatzit hashekel* strengthens the assertion that the *mitzvah* is simply to give.

He continues by explaining that the *Rambam* later teaches (*Shekalim* 4:1) as follows:

The *trumot ha'lishcha* (the funds that were taken) what would they do with it? Purchase *korbanot*.

We find that the fact that it was used for *korbanot* is a law in the *trumot ha'lishcha* and not that which defined the *mitzvah* of *machatzit ha'shekel*.

The *Minchat Asher* brings a further proof. The *Rambam* writes there is only a *mitzvah* of *machatzit hashekel* in the times of the *Beit Ha'Mikdash*. The *Smag* bases this law on a *pasuk*. What is the need for a *pasuk*? If the *machatzit ha'shekel* was brought only for the purpose of *korbanot* then it should be obvious that if there are no *korbanot* then there is not *mitzvah*. If however it is a *mitzvah* independent of *korbanot* then we can understand why a *pasuk* is required.

We find therefore that since the *mitzvah* of *machatzit ha'shekel* is not defined by its funding the yearly *korbanot*, but rather seen independently as a yearly contribution, it is aptly found in the *seder* of *Moed*.

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Revision Questions

פסחים ט"ח – י"ט

- What should one do if the animal they set aside for a *korban pesach* got mixed up with other animals that were set aside for other *korbanot*? (ט"ח: ט')
- A group lost their *korban pesach* and told one member of the group to find it. What is the law if he finds it and slaughters it and the group take a replacement sacrifice and slaughters it? (List all eight scenarios.) (ט"ט: ט')
- What is the law regarding a case where two different groups' *korbanot* got mixed together? (י: ט')
- What is the law regarding a case where two individuals' *korbanot pesach* got mixed together? (י"א: ט')
- From what time on *erev Pesach* should one refrain from eating? (י"א: י')
- What *mitzvah* is listed in the *Mishnah* as obligatory irrespective of one's financial means? (י"א: י')
- Explain the debate regarding the order of *brachot* on the first cup of wine? (י"ב: י')
- Who are the *Tana'im* that are involved in the debate described in the previous question? (י"ב: י')
- What food is eaten immediately after *kiddush* at the *seder*? (י"ג: י')
- Which five foods are placed before the *ba'al ha'seder*? (י"ג: י')
- What occurs immediately after the second cup is poured at the *seder*? (י"ד: י')
- What are the four questions of *mah nishtanah* listed in the *Mishnah*? (י"ד: י')
- Complete the following formula of how one should teach the story of *Pesach*: (י"ד: י')
"מתחיל _____ ומסיים _____"
- According to *Rabban Gamliel* what must one say in order to fulfil the *mitzvah* of *maggid*? (י"ה: י')
- What are the reasons provided in the *Mishnah* for the *mitzvot* of *pesach*, *matzah* and *marror*? (י"ה: י')
- What does the *Mishnah* learn from the following *pasuk*: (י"ה: י')
"והגדת לבנך ביום ההוא לאמר בעבור זה עשה ה' לי בצאתי ממצרים" (שמות י"ג: ח')
- Explain the debate between *Beit Shammai* and *Beit Hillel* regarding how much of the *Hallel* is read prior to the meal. (י"ו: י')
- When were the third and fourth cups drunk? (י"ז: י')
- Between which cups of wine is one prohibited from drinking? (י"ז: י')
- What is the last thing eaten at the *seder*? (י"ח: י')
- If someone dozed at the *seder* can they continue to eat when they wake up? (Include both opinions) (י"ח: י')
- After what time does the *korban pesach* "*metameh yadayim*"? (י"ט: י')
- What other *korbanot* are "*metameh yadayim*"? (י"ט: י')
- According to *R' Yishmael* which *bracha* covers both the *korban pesach* and the *korban chagigah*? (י"ט: י')

שקלים א' – א'

- What was announced on the first of *Adar*? (א': א')
- What six things were done on the fifteenth of *Adar*? (א': א')

Local Shiurim

Melbourne, Australia

Sunday -Thursday

10 minutes before *Mincha*
Mizrachi Shul
Melbourne, Australia

Friday & Shabbat

10 minutes before *Mincha*
Beit Ha'Roeh
Melbourne, Australia

Efrat, Israel

Shiur in English

Sunday -Thursday

Rabbi Mordechai Scharf
9:00am
Kollel Magen Avraham
Reemon Neighbourhood

ONLINE SHIURIM

Rabbi Chaim Brown
www.shemayisrael.com/mishna/

Rav Meir Pogrow
613.org/mishnah.html

Rabbi E. Kornfeld
Rabbi C. Brown
<http://www.dafyomi.co.il/calendars/myomi/myomi-thisweek.htm>

SHIUR ON KOL HALOSHON

Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss
In US dial: 718 906 6400
Then select: 1 – 2 – 4

Next Week's Mishnayot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
6 th November ט' חשוון	7 th November י' חשוון	8 th November י"א חשוון	9 th November י"ב חשוון	10 th November י"ג חשוון	11 th November י"ד חשוון	12 th November ט"ו חשוון
Shekalim 1:2-3	Shekalim 1:4-5	Shekalim 1:6-7	Shekalim 2:1-2	Shekalim 2:3-4	Shekalim 2:5-3:1	Shekalim 3:2-3

