

Chevron Snail

Been going since the times of Yehoshua bin Nun!

Buy tzitzit from Avraham ben Elchanan!

Tzitzit made from the best wool!

Been serving the royal family for the past 30 years!

Has a chain business in Chevron, Yerushalayim and Beis Lechem!

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This little snail, going at small pace
not in a rush to any place
has a little paper to read with his tea
he's sharing it, too with you and me!

Shaul is Dead

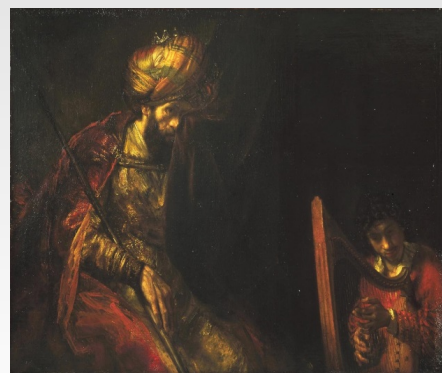
Despite all of Israel having mourned until yesterday evening for the passing of our illustrious King Shaul, no-one has actually heard how Shaul died. Yosef ben Ovad has gone to Ziklag to find out the whole story.

‘Shalom, I’m in Ziklag! I’ve talked to a few guards at the palace and it turns out that it was at the last battle with the Pelishtim that King Shaul had died. A young man whom some witnesses believe is Doeg the Edomite arrived with King Shaul’s crown and tefillin, dressed in mourner’s clothing (to show how sad he was) and he fell at David ben Yishai’s feet.

“I have come straight from the battlements,” he said sorrowfully, his eyes low. “Shaul came to me saying ‘kill me, for I am nearly dead.’ – and I killed him.” David was furious. He jumped up from his throne, hopping mad, glared down at Doeg, and roared, “How dare you kill the anointed of G-d! How were you not afraid, if you were born a Jew, to kill the anointed of G-d?” Of course, this was AFTER the mourning period. He was so angry, and no surprise with all that red hair, that he ordered a servant to ‘kill the rasha’, despite him protesting he was a Ger Amaleki.’ That was the story, and David has been crowned king in Chevron. David melech yisrael chai vekayom!

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“How dare you kill the anointed of G-d! How were you not afraid, if you were born a Jew, to kill the anointed of G-d?”

David Hamelech

David thanks Yavesh Gilad

David has just come back from the town of Yavesh Gilad, where the people there had buried the late king Shaul. David is known to have a great respect for Shaul, despite the latter having chased him for the past few years, even mourning greatly and taking revenge upon the man who had the audacity to kill Shaul. He went there on Yom Shlishi to thank the people of Yavesh Gilad and, so it's said, to get them on his side for the years to come. He blessed them and then went home on good terms with them. According to a townsman there, they were quite impressed by his kindness and generosity, and have vowed to come to David's side in times of hardships for the years to come.



Chevron Tourist Company

Coming to Chevron? Not sure of where to go? Visit Eliezer ben Meyer, the top tourist guide in Chevron! He lives on 34 Rechov ben Shimon, all roads go there! Only 3 Shekalim!

Grand Challah baking with Queen Avigayil!



Every Wednesday night, Queen Avigayil and the other wives of David Hamelech have a challah-baking day with their daughters, where they make challah! While their cooks make the rest of the food, the Queens cook Shabbos themselves, and have decided to get other women to cook with them! Every Yom Revi'i, 3-9pm. All invited!

Why Does Binyamin think Ish Boshes should be king?

David has just been crowned king, much to the ecstasy of his tribe. Meanwhile, Avner ben Ner has crowned Ish Boshes as king in Machanayim. The question arises: Why does Shevet Binyamin think Ish Boshes is deserving of being king?



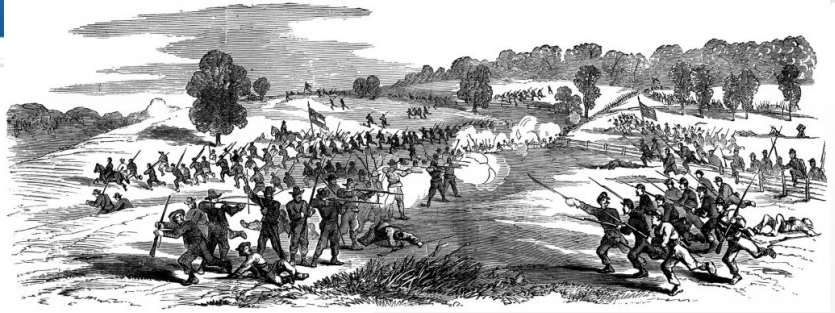
"It is suspected that Avner had some hand in this, since he has a very wily tongue, and has always had a talent at convincing others."

It has come to our notice that Avner ben Ner, the General of the belated King Shaul (*zecher tzadik livrocho*), has taken Ish Boshes, Shaul's son, a great tzaddik, aged 40, to Machanayim, and crowned him as king. The tribe of Binyamin believes that he has a right to the crown as he is Shaul's oldest son after the late Yehonasan, and that as it's written in Bereshis (35:11) "יצאו מחלצריך ומלכים" and kings shall come forth from your loins, which Avner interpreted that it was talking about Binyamin, who wasn't born yet. Many Jews sided with Avner, as it seemed more plausible to them, and, it is suspected that Avner had some hand in this, since he has a very wily tongue, and has always had a talent at convincing others. Some others side with David, including the tribe of Yehudah, who believe that David has the most right to the throne, since Hashem had said that the kings shall come through Yehudah, and anyways, David had been anointed first. Henceforth, the Nation has been split in half, each saying that their side is right.



Machanayim

The Play Fight: Asahel gets killed



Two days ago, Avner ben Ner and the supporters of Ish Boshes left Machanayim and went to the shore of Brechas Givon. The supporters of David met them at the other side of the pool. Avner was the general for the supporters of Ish Boshes, and Yoav was the general for David's supporters. Avner said to Yoav, "Let us have a 'play fight', and we shall see who is deserving of the crown." Yoav nodded silently and motioned his soldiers to move forward. Each person grabbed another from the other side by the head and thrust their swords into each other, killing each other instantly. The place was henceforth named "Chelkas Hatzurim" – the territory of the slain by the sharp swords. As it turned out, Yoav's side won over Avner's.

There were three sons of Tzeruah who were there on the battlefield – Yoav, the general, Avishai, and Asahel, who was light of foot as any deer in the wood. Asahel ran after Avner, who turned around and called to him, "Is that you, Asahel?" "Yes," Asahel answered. "Why don't you take the clothes of one of the boys to your right or left?" Avner suggested. Asahel shook his head and continued pursuing Avner. Avner glanced back and said "Asahel, please stop chasing me! Would you like me to strike you down? How will I be able to look your brother Yoav in the face again?" but Asahel wouldn't stop, and Avner drew his sword, and struck him under the fifth rib; Asahel dropped to the ground, pale, blood gushing from where he was struck, dying instantly. Everyone came up to where Asahel had died, and an odd silence followed, as everyone had stopped short, shocked and sickened by the sight.

Avner and Avishai ran after Avner, anger raging in the hearts. Shevet Binyamin went over to Avner and gathered around him, in a sort of protective circle, so as to stop Yoav and Avishai from attacking Avner. They stood on the hill of Ammah, arms folded, the pinkish glow of the setting sun reflecting in their eyes. Avner called to Yoav, and said, "Will you forever live by your sword? Didn't you know that it wouldn't end well?" "As G-d lives," Yoav replied, "Had you not had this idea about having this 'play-fight', this would not have happened, and each one would have gone home." and Yoav blew the horn, and all knew that the battle was over.

That night, Avner and his troops went back to Machanayim. Yoav gathered his men, and found out that nineteen men and Asahel were missing; Asahel was said separately since he was equal to the rest of the men. Of all the men who had come, 360 men died. Asahel was buried next to his father in Beis Lechem. Yoav and his men left that night, and they arrived as the purplish-grey light of dawn broke on them as they arrived in Chevron.

Michal is returned to David

One day, Ish Boshes found out that Avner had gone and married his father's concubine, Ritzpah. He was very angry as it was disrespectful to his father's name, and it showed a sign of rebellion, which he didn't like. He asked of Avner, "What are you doing with my father's pilegash?" Avner was very angry. "Is this how you treat me," he snapped, "after all I've done to make you king? You ought to be thanking me instead of telling me off for taking Ritzpah!" and with that, he stormed out. Ish Boshes stood frozen in his place, realizing that Avner was probably going to go to David's side now, which he did. He wrote a letter to David, saying that he saw Hashem had really chosen David as king and wanted to make a peace treaty. He got the Zekeinim and everyone to agree with him and David, happy that he wanted to make peace, agreed, on the condition that he'd get his wife Michal back, whom he loved more than all his other wives. Avner agreed, and ordered that Michal would go back. Her "husband", Paltiel accompanied her, crying tears of joy, happy that Michal is to be returned to her rightful husband, whom she was taken away from.

Avner makes peace with David Hamelech – subsequently getting killed

Here's the news for today. Avner was seen heading to the palace in Chevron with 20 men, where David Hamelech greeted them with a big feast. Avner made up with David that he'll bring all of Bnei Yisrael to his side, to which David agreed. David accompanied Avner to the door, and said "לך בשלום", which according to some knowledgeable Somebodies, is a hint that something ominous is about to happen. These knowledgeable Somebodies have added that there are similar phrases e.g. ויהי. Avner left and stopped to rest by the Bor Hasirah.

Yoav, who had just returned from war, heard about the state of events, and was furious. He marched into the throne room, his blood up, where David was sitting, playing on his lyre to himself thoughtfully, and he didn't notice Yoav until he had cleared his throat loudly. He smiled kindly, though his face was a little worn out, and his red hair was greying slightly.

"Good evening, Yoav. What could I do for you?"

"Well, your highness, I have heard that you have made a peace treaty with ben Ner."

The king nodded, his bright blue eyes burning as he looked at Yoav, who had the uncomfortable feeling that the king was x-raying him. "Ah, yes," David said at last. "The treaty."

"Yes, your highness, and if you wouldn't mind me asking, why induced you to do such an imprudent thing as to believe everything a man like that said? He is known to have convinced many people to do what he wants!" David didn't say anything.

Gritting his teeth, Yoav walked out, having the feeling that he hadn't achieved anything. He decided to take matters into his own hands.

The dusky light was waning into darkness as Yoav made his way through the streets of Chevron, his body creating eerie shadows against the cobbled paths as he headed towards the city gates. At the gates, two severe looking gards halted him, barricading his entrance with their spears.

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"Who goes there, sir?" Called one sharply.

"It is I, Yoav, general of our King David's army, and you know me, Nadav, you were with me by the battle with Avner by Brechat Givon," Yoav answered.

Nadav smiled at being recognized and they put aside their spears, allowing him to pass. As he passed through the gates, he suddenly stopped and turned back. "Nadav, about the battle with Avner, did you by any chance see Avner ben Ner pass through these gates? The King told me to go after him."

Nadav nodded. "We saw him going towards the Bor Usirah. Good luck finding him!" Yoav nodded and walked on, gripping his sword in its scabbard. It was almost completely dark, and he was only able to see by the silvery glow of the moon. Yoav and Avishai, who was with him, found Avner, and engaged him in a halachic conversation about tying shoelaces with one hand. While Avner was unsuspectingly explaining it, Yoav and Avishai drew their swords and slew him.

n.b. The Bor Usira hints to two episodes in Avner's life where David had come so close to Shaul who was chasing him that he once cut off a bit of his robe and took the jug of water near Shaul's head.

David was very distressed, having had nothing to do with it, and issued that Bnei Yisrael should mourn for Avner. They wore sackcloth and ashes and buried him in Chevron.

Letter from Some Correspondent – What I learned from the Navi

Hello there! What I learned from the Navi was the respect David had for his enemies, just because they were tzaddikim.

