

Zevachim – Simanim

פרק ה – איזהו מקומן

Daf 54 – דף נד

1. Does **יסוד** mean **בבנין** or **בדמים**?

The previous Daf taught that the southeast corner of the מזבח had no **יסוד**, and Amoraim debate what this means. Rav says this means **בבנין** – there was literally no **יסוד** in the structure of the מזבח on that side. Levi says that there was a physical **יסוד** built all around, and the Gemara means **בדמים** – there was no legal base *regarding bloods*, i.e., no blood applications were valid on that corner (since it was not in Binyomin's portion). According to Rav, Yaakov's *berachah* to Binyomin is translated as **מדבחה יתבני באחסנתיה** – *in his inheritance the מזבח shall be built*, implying that no structural part of the מזבח will be built outside his territory. According to Levi, it is translated **באחסנתיה מקדש** – *in his inheritance, the "Mikdash" shall be built*, meaning **מקום מקודש לדמים** – *a place sanctified for blood applications*. Although part of the מזבח structure was outside his territory, that part could not receive any blood.

2. The מזבח's construction by filling multiple frames of different sizes

Rav is challenged from a Baraisa describing the מזבח's construction: They bring a **מלבן** – wooden frame measuring thirty-two *amos* by thirty-two *amos*, and one **אמה** high, and bring smooth, damp stones, and bring lime, lead glaze and tar, dissolve them together and pour the mixture over the stones, resulting in a solid block of 32x32, which forms the מזבח's base. This is repeated with a frame of thirty *amos* square and five *amos* high, and a third frame of twenty-eight *amos* square and three *amos* high, thus forming the three sections of the מזבח. Finally, a frame of one cubic **אמה** forms each **קֶרֶן**. This Baraisa apparently proves that the **יסוד** was a full thirty-two *amos* on each side!? The sections of the **יסוד** in Yehudah's portion could not have been cut off, because **אבנים שלמות כתיב** – *it is written for the מזבח to be "whole stones,"* i.e., perfectly smooth, which is impossible if the original block is cut!? The Gemara answers: **מתותיה מדי דמחית מידי מתותיה** – *he puts something into the frame in the place where there should not be a יסוד*, and later removes it, resulting in sides without a base. This is supported by the fact that Rav Kahana says the **קרנות** were hollow inside, based on a *passuk*, which likewise could only have been constructed this way.

3. Dovid and Shmuel's efforts to determine the site for the Beis Hamikdash

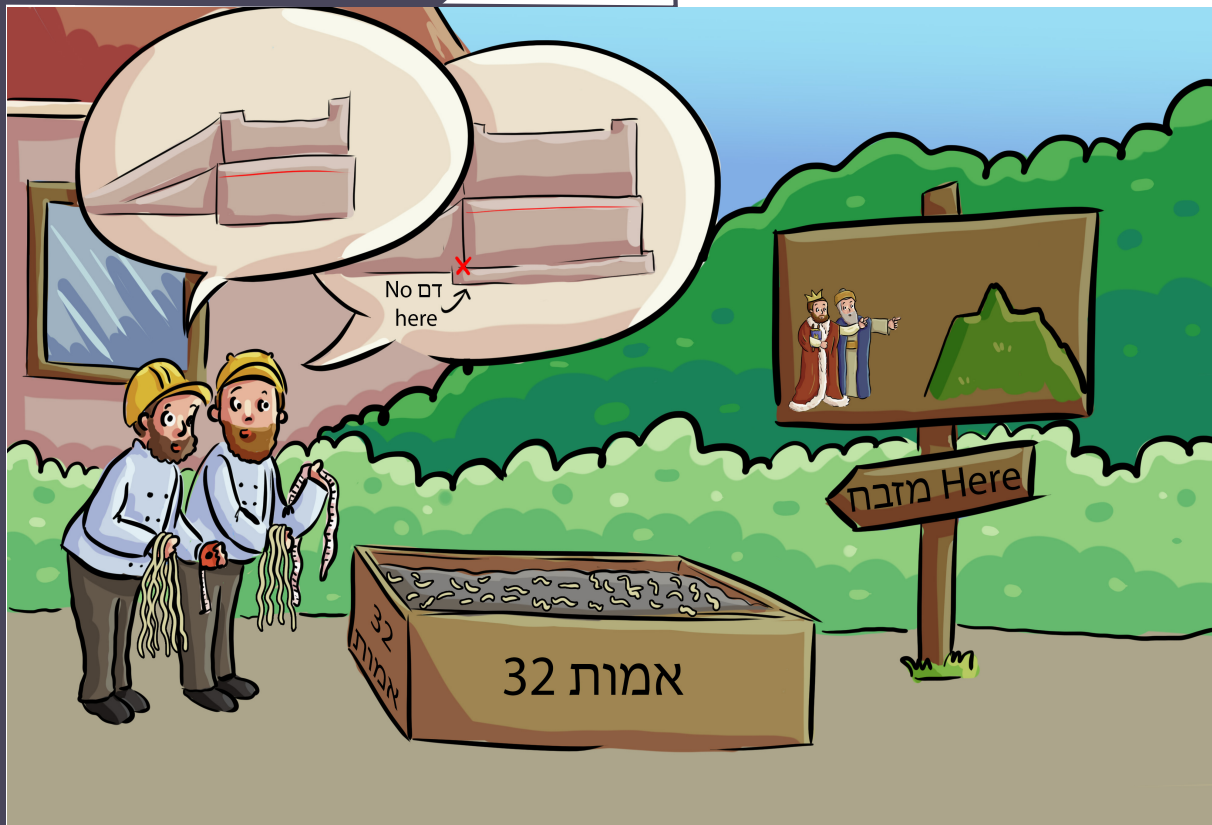
Rava quoted a *passuk* describing Dovid and Shmuel residing in "נויות רמה", which is two different places, and explains that they were residing in Ramah, **ועוסקין בנויו של עולם** – *and were involved with the "adornment of the world,"* the Beis Hamikdash. The *passuk* says **"וקמת ועלית אל המקום"** – *and you shall rise up and ascend to the place* (which Hashem will choose), which teaches **שביית המקדש גבוה מכל ארץ ישראל** – *that the Beis Hamikdash must be higher than all of Eretz Yisroel*. They did not know where this was, until studying **ספר יהושע** and finding that the border of Binyomin's portion (with Yehudah's) is uniquely described only as "ascending," but not "descending," and they realized that the site must be there. They considered building it in **עין איטם**, the highest point there, but concluded to build it somewhat lower down, because of the *passuk* **"ובין כתיפיו שכן"** – *and He resides between his shoulders*, i.e., not at the very top. Alternatively, since they knew from a tradition that the Sanhedrin must be in Yehudah's territory and the **שכינה** is in Binyomin's, building the Beis Hamikdash in **עין איטם** would result in a distance between the two, so they concluded to build it lower.

Siman – Noodles

While some construction workers using **noodles** to measure the *mizbeiach* they were building **argued if they should skip the יסוד on the southeast corner or build it**, others added dry **noodles** to the stone mixture making up the foundation of the *mizbeiach*, on the **exact spot determined by David Hamelech and Shmuel Hanavi**.

דף נד | DAF 54

Noodles



While some construction workers using **noodles** to measure the *mizbeich* they were building argued if they should skip the יסוד on the southeast corner or build it, others added dry noodles to the stone mixture making up the foundation of the *mizbeich*, on the exact spot determined by David Hamelech and Shmuel Hanavi.

3 things to remember

1. Does **אין לה יסוד** mean **בבנין** or **בדמים**?
2. The **מזבח**'s construction by filling multiple frames of different sizes
3. Dovid and Shmuel's efforts to determine the site for the Beis Hamikdash The southeast

