

Guide to Derech B'Yam HaTalmud

Derech B'Yam HaTalmud is a guided approach to aid in the learning and teaching of גמרא בעיון. The materials are arranged to provide the tools to encourage independent study of the גמרא and its commentators. They were written on the first פרק of מס' גיטין.

The materials are divided into 30 **Sections** which follow the order of the משנה and the גמרא from the beginning of the פרק. Each Section is divided into **Units** which focus on specific topics. A **Table of Contents** page at the beginning of each section lists the specific units within it.

Each section is divided into two segments. The first is a guide for the **Preparation** of the גמרא and the commentators. The second is the **Analysis** of these sources.

The **Preparation** segment begins with the page(s) of the גמרא covered in the section. The particular text which will be covered in the section is highlighted.

Following the גמרא page is Unit One. It begins with an **Overview** which provides a summary of the particular issues which will be covered in the unit.

Below the Overview is a list of מראה מקומות sources which should be learned in preparation. The sources will be analyzed and explained within the Analysis portion.

The מראה מקומות do not list every comment of רש"י, but we recommend learning all of his comments on the piece of גמרא since they provide essential background information. Specific comments of רש"י are highlighted in the lists of certain units. These should be learned in depth since they will be analyzed in the text.

The comments of 'רש"י and 'תוס' can be found on the page of גמרא which appears at the beginning of each section. Additional sources (such as the רא"ש and the רי"ף and the ר"ן and the מהרש"א) can be found in the back of standard printings of the גמרא. Other sources (such as the ריטב"א and the פני יהושע and the תוס' הרא"ש and the רשב"א and the רמב"ן and the אוצר החכמה) can be found in קובץ מפרשים books. Remaining sources appear in their own books. The sources can also be found in databases such as אוצר החכמה.

Next is the **Points To Consider** page which highlights particular themes and topics which you should explore as you learn the sources. These items will be discussed in the analysis text of the unit.

The **Analysis** segment of each unit follows the Points To Consider page. It begins with an indented **Summary** of the specific section of משנה or גמרא which will be discussed. This is followed by the text which guides the learning and examination of the sources. Other citations of the משנה or גמרא appear throughout the analysis section as indented text.

Questions brought in the text explore specific issues which will be addressed. It is recommended to try to suggest answers to these questions on your own before seeing how the text answers them.

Definitions of Hebrew terms in the materials can be found in the **Glossary** file.

Please send comments and questions to derechbyam@gmail.com

We wish you tremendous success in your learning.

Yehuda Berinstein and Michael Gros
www.derechbyam.com

Sample of an Analysis Page

DERECH B'YAM HATALMUD
פרק א' - המביא גט

גמרא and משנה Summary

The משנה on דף ב. teaches: **המביא גט ממדינת הים** - a person who brings a גט from across the sea - is required to say (in בית דין) the words "בפני נכתב ובפני נחתם" - that the גט was written and signed in front of me.

רש"י explains that the משנה is speaking about a שליח who was asked by a בעל in ארץ ישראל to bring a גט to his wife.

רש"י further explains that the שליח is a להולכה. See the discussion of this topic below.

The beginning of the גמרא brings a מחלוקת to explain why it is necessary for the שליח to say the words "בפני נכתב ובפני נחתם":

רבה says: **אין בקיאים לשמה** - people outside ארץ ישראל are unaware that a גט must be written specifically for the particular people mentioned in it.

רבא says: **אין עדים מצוין לקיימן** - it may be difficult in the future to find גט עדים to verify the signatures of the עדים on the גט.

(In the future, if the בעל challenges the גט and says that it is מזוייף — forged — it will be necessary then to verify the signatures. At that point it might be difficult to find עדים to do so.)

QUESTION: Are areas which are physically close to ארץ ישראל included in this הלכה?

Summary and explanation of the משנה

Text examining the משנה

Summary and explanation of the גמרא

Elucidation of a particular point in the גמרא

Question to encourage analysis