



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



Gavriel Novick, Director of Regional Development **Patience My Friend**

“When you come to the Land and you plant any food tree, you shall not use its fruit; it shall be blocked from you for three years, not to be eaten.”

The Ramban explains the reasoning behind this mitzvah of orlah. It is similar to the mitzvah of bikurim where we bring our first fruits to Hashem to thank Him for what He has given us. However, by orlah we wait until the fourth year to bring the fruits to Hashem. During the first three years they are forbidden. The Ramban explains this is because the fruit of the first three years is inferior and not fitting to be brought to Hashem. One needs to wait until the fourth year until the tree can produce quality fruits which will be offered to Hashem to show our gratitude.

Perhaps this mitzvah is teaching us that “when you come to the Land” patience is needed. As we celebrate Yom Ha’atzmaut, commemorating 74 years of the State of Israel, I think about the patience needed to create such an incredible and thriving country. Just look at how far we have come in over 7 decades. But it has taken time. It did not happen overnight.

Even more relatable, I think about the modern-day Aliyah process. Those first

few years after you arrive in Ben Gurion always come with challenges. It takes time to adjust and come to a place not just of comfort but of growth. But with some patience, you can truly become the best version of yourself and someone that is most fitting to serve Hashem.



Ezra Bourkoff, 10th grade Modiin **How is Am Israel Similar to a Bone?**

On Yom Ha'atzmaut we celebrate the 74th year since Israel's independence, but why exactly is this day so important to us as Jews?

The word עצמותא comes from the word עצם which means bone - bones give us the ability to stand independently.

In 1947 the UN voted by a vast majority for a Jewish state following the Holocaust. The Jews all around the world started to rejoice, however the Arabs were not as happy, as they called the vote of a Jewish state ‘The Nakba,’ which means “catastrophe.” Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Syria all attacked Israel which was just a few days old. But with the help of Hashem, we came out victorious.

We say in Hallel: אבן מאסו הבונים היתה לראש “The stone that was rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.” Israel went from a resented nation of just a few people to being one of the world's leaders in agricultural farming and

technological advancement.

Just as bones strengthen after stress, wear, and tear, so too, our trials and tribulations have fortified and solidified us ישראל. We recognize the importance of not just any Jewish state but the land promised to us by הקב"ה for generations. May Hashem continue to bless our people and help us remember where our power comes from on this העצמאות! ■

NCSY Israel is the premier organization in Israel, dedicated to connect, inspire, empower teen olim to the Land of Israel by encouraging passionate Judaism through Torah and Tradition. Find out more at israel.ncsy.org

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