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JERUSALEM CHAPTER
DIRECTORS

"WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?"

We begin this week's parasha, *Ki Tavo*, learning about the laws of *Bikkurim*. *Bikkurim* were the first fruits that farmers in the Land of Israel would collect from their fields and bring to the *Beit HaMikdash*.

It states in Devarim (26:1–3):

"וְהָיָה כִּי־תָבוֹא אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר הּק אֱלֹקיךְ נֹתֵן לְךְ

נַחֲלָה וִירִשְׁתָּה וְיָשַׁבְתָּ בָּהּ: וְלָקַחְתָּ מֵרִאשִׁית כָּל־פְּרִי

הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר תָּבִיא מֵאַרְצְךְ אֲשֶׁר ה׳ אֱלֹקיךְ נֹתֵן

לָךְ וְשַׂמְתָּ בַּטֶּנֶא וְהָלַכְתָּ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר ה׳

אַלֹקיךְ לְשַׁכִּן שׁמוֹ שׁם:"

"When you enter the land that Hashem your God is giving you as a heritage... you shall take some of every first fruit of the soil, which you harvest from the land... put it in a basket and go to the place where Hashem your God will choose to establish His name."

Rashi comments that the mitzvah of

Bikkurim only applies to the fruits of the Land (shivat haminim) and only once we have entered and conquered the Land of Israel. We see here the importance of the Land and the special mitzvot we are privileged to fulfill in it. The Or HaChaim adds that the Torah emphasizes that Hashem gave us this portion of the Land—it is His gift to the people of Israel.

Bikkurim is our way of showing gratitude and saying thank you! Hashem has given us an incredible Land, where miracles happen every day. By declaring and separating the first fruits of the Land, we recognize and appreciate Hashem's role in establishing the Jewish people in Eretz Yisrael.

As we go about our daily lives, whenever we see something beautiful in the Land of Israel, let's take a moment to pause, appreciate, and thank Hashem for His blessings.



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״וְלָקַחְתָּ מֵרֵאשִׁית כָּל פְּרִי הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר תָּבִיא מֵאַרְצָרְ אֲשֵׁר ה׳ אֱלֹקִירְ נֹתֵן לַרְ״

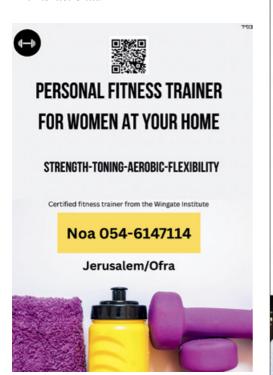
"And you shall take of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which Hashem your God gives you."

At the start of our parasha, we are commanded to bring *Bikkurim*, the first fruits, to the *Kohanim* in the *Beit HaMikdash*.

But why the first fruits? They are the "firstborn," the ones we've been anticipating and working so hard to grow. They represent the moment we finally see the results of our efforts. But is it really just our effort?

Imagine receiving your first paycheck after working long, hard hours, only to be told to give from it as *Bikkurim*. You might ask yourself, "Why give from my very first paycheck and not the second or third? It's my hard work." Precisely because it's the first and means so much to you, it reminds you that Hashem gave you the opportunity in the first place. And for this, we say thank you through *Bikkurim*.

Just like the first fruits, we pause and remind ourselves that our success is not solely our own. We thank Hashem, who has brought us to where we are, and we continue to give thanks for all that is yet to come. *Am Yisrael Chai!*



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