

מסכת  
**מגילה**  
 דף ט

# DAF YOMI 4 Kids

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The Septuagint is a Greek translation of the Torah

Ptolemy, a Greek King of Egypt once gathered seventy-two Jewish Sages and placed them in seventy-two different rooms without telling them why they were gathered.

Finally, the king visited each Sage and told them one by one that he wanted them to write a Greek translation of the Torah. Ptolemy was afraid that if the Sages all worked together, they would change important sections of the Torah to please him. To make sure the Torah's translation was accurate, he had the Sages write the translation separately.

Hashem, however, made a miracle happen. Each of the Sages wrote the exact same translation. Not only that, but each of them made the same decision to mistranslate some verses which, if translated literally, might anger Ptolemy or create false ideas about Jewish beliefs.

For example, when Hashem created Man, He consulted with His angels saying, "נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם", "Let us make Man in our image and form" (בראשית א, כו, Gen. 1,26). But this can might sound to Ptolemy like there are many gods who are talking about creating Man. So the sages, all seventy-two of them, changed the translation to, "I shall make Man in image and form." That way, there is no mistaking that only one G-d created Man.



### Did You Know...

רַבֵּן שְׁמַעוֹן בֶּן גַּמְלִיאֵל says a Torah scroll may be written in Greek.

### WORD OF THE DAY:

**כֵּאן**

"HERE"



## High Places

The word, "בְּמָה" means "a high place," but in תנ"ך (the Bible) it usually means an altar other than the Altar that was in the מִשְׁכַּן (Tabernacle) or בַּיִת הַמִּקְדָּשׁ (Holy Temple). For most of Jewish history, one was not allowed to offer sacrifices on a בְּמָה.

There was one period of time when one was allowed to sacrifice on a בְּמָה: When the מִשְׁכַּן rested in the cities of גִּלְגָּל (Gilgal), נֹב (Nob) and גִּבְעוֹן (Gibeon).

During that period of history, one was allowed to offer almost any sacrifice on a private altar, known as a בְּמָה קְטַנָּה (small altar). For example, if someone volunteered to make a sacrifice, he was allowed to offer it on one of these altars. One exception was the (Passover sacrifice) which was only allowed to be offered on the Altar of the מִשְׁכַּן, even when the מִשְׁכַּן rested in גִּלְגָּל (Gilgal), נֹב (Nob) and גִּבְעוֹן (Gibeon).

### A מְדוּתָּה Moment

"Come, Dov," said his father, "it's time to go to synagogue."

"Do I have to now?" asked Dov. "I'm in the middle of a really important game!"

"One of the changes the Sages made when they translated the Torah into Greek," said his father, "was that Moses had his family ride on 'the carrier of man,' rather than on a 'donkey.' Moses did this when he sent his family into exile before returning to Egypt. 'The carrier of man,' meaning the mind, which 'carries' man to do the right thing by obeying the word of its Creator, even when one does not want to (like when one is sending his family away). The Sages sought to teach Ptolemy a great lesson in Jewish thought: We obey Hashem even when we would rather not."

(based on: עקידת יצחק, שער כא)

### Games

#### WHICH TWO ARE THE SAME?

ΓΤΙΩΞΖΔ ψωξπμκ θβπΩζφ ΔΣΦΔ	ΓΘΙΣΩΞΖ δωξπΩκ φθΤΠψΩ ζφδΦΔ	ΓΘΙΣΩΞΞΖ δξτψΩκ ωφθΤΠΩ ζφδΦΔ
ΘΤΙΩΔΞΔ βψωξπμ κΠΩζφδ ΣΦΖ	ΓΤΙΩΞΖΔ ψωξπμκ θβπΩζφ ΔΣΦΔ	ΘΤΙΩΔψ δβΠζωξ πμκΩβφ ΔΣΦΖ

#### Review Questions – מגילה דף ט

1. What did King Ptolemy ask 72 sages to do?

2. What is a בְּמָה?

3. According to רבן שמעון בן גמליאל, what language may the Torah be written in?