

## Your Toolbox for Success

### The Abridged Version

Useful Tips for Learning for the World Bible Quiz for Jewish Youth

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Find the full version (in Hebrew) at:

[http://meyda.education.gov.il/files/noar/toolbox\\_10\\_2016.pdf](http://meyda.education.gov.il/files/noar/toolbox_10_2016.pdf)

#### 1. **Preparing Tables:**

This tool will help you greatly during your studying. The principle is very simple and it will help you remember the details. When we open the book of Genesis (Bereshit), for example, we meet many personalities, quotes said by one person to another, names of places, names of people we are meeting for the first time, more and more details. Make a table with several columns (it's easier if you set the page to "landscape") and put all the details there. Every detail that I'm not sure if I know or not goes into a column. If there is a verse that I am sure I know and will definitely not forget, I won't put in a column. For example, לך לך מארצך ממולדתך ומבית אביך, - Go forth from your land and from your birthplace and from your father's house – I don't need to put into the table because I know who this was said to. But any name, place, number, etc. that I am worried I won't remember, must go into this table.

#### 2. **Table for Comparison**

Sometimes, even if we have prepared a table, like above, we might have some difficulties because of similar verses, and there are many of those in the Bible. So we need a table to compare similar details. It's best to prepare this table when we've got all our information and then we can see what is similar and confusing.

### **3. Listening**

Songs, prayers or prophecies of the former or latter prophets are some of the harder texts to remember. Do we have to start learning this all by heart? That is why Hashem gave us the wonderful gift of listening. Listen to the chapters over and over again. It will be easier to remember the verses. It might not seem like it at the beginning, but don't give up. Listen to entire chapters and especially the ones you have difficulty remembering or are less known. Instead of listening to songs on your cellphone, listen to the Song of David from Samuel II. You can't listen to the chapters at set times every day – listen to them during lunch, on your way to school, before bed, during a free period, on the bus, or at any other time.

You can download chapters or entire books at:

<https://www.mechon-mamre.org/i/t/tmp3.htm>

### **4. Learning with a Friend**

Most people think that when learning for a competition it is better to learn alone, because you could be helping your competitor and lowering your chances of winning. So, let me tell you that actually studying together can raise your chances of winning. Set time to learning with a friend, teach others, set up studying groups and teach each other. When you teach others, you learn better yourself. It has been proven. You will do well and your friend will do well also. A bit of competition between you will encourage you both, but remember that the quiz itself is an incentive to learn.

### **5. Ask Yourself Questions**

Most contestants look for previous quizzes because they believe that if they answer many questions, they will not be surprised by the ones presented to them at the quiz. But, I'll tell you a secret – most questions from previous years do not appear again as there is an endless number of questions to ask. It is good to go over questions from previous years, to get an idea of the style and test yourself – but the best suggestion is write your own questions. Being creative is the "name of the game." Try and be more

creative and you will remember more of the material. Ask yourself questions about the more complex verses. Leave past quizzes for your final revision.

## **6. Find Each Prophet's Special Style**

Are you having difficulty with the chapters of the Prophets? Each prophet had a special style for expressing himself. If you pick up each style, it will be easy for you to know "who said what," even if you don't remember the specific verse. For example: Isaiah (Yeshayahu) uses the term "Kadosh Yisrael" more times than in the entire Bible. Jeremiah (Yirmiyahu) uses the term "Betulat Yisrael," while Ezekiel (Yechezkel) mentions the Gilulim, which other prophets hardly use. Find the style of each prophet.

## **7. Songs and Stories**

The Bible is full of lists, from lists of generations in the first chapters of Genesis (Bereshit) to the list of the kings of Judah and Israel in the Book of Kings. It is difficult to remember lists of names, so be creative. Write a song or story with a well-known tune, to remember these.