

Ideas Arc of Masechet Bava Batra

Perakim 1-3: Relating to someone else's property –

Relationships: Shutafin, Neighbors, Buyer/seller

Focus: Property Use; Neighborhood

- Perek 1 – shared financial responsibilities among residents (e.g, building mechitzah, בית, שער, דלת, חומה, etc.)
- Perek 2 – be careful how I use my own property based on how it impacts my neighbor (e.g., don't plant too close to neighbor's property, no bad smells, etc.)
- Perek 3 – chezkat 3 shanim – how do I gain ownership over someone else's property?

Perakim 4-7: Technical Sale Protocol -

(4-5: What's included; 6-7: measurements and use)

Relationships: Buyer and seller

Focus: Sale Process and Assumptions; Transactions

Notice ABBA structure (Perek 4 and 7 re: land; Perek 5 and 6 starts with non-land)

- Perek 4 – land (e.g., שדה, עיר, חצר, בית)
- Perek 5 – non-land (e.g., בהמה, ספינה – but even אילנות when land isn't included); ארבע מידות במוכרים – when can buyer/seller renege; at what point is the sale complete (such that the current owner bears financial responsibility)
- Perek 6 – what if the fruit goes bad? What's a rounding error? What if seller has property within my property and can only get there by walking through my property? (interesting – buyer and seller have become neighbors of sorts...)
- Perek 7- how do we measure land?

Perakim 8-9: Inheritance –

Relationships: Family & someone who is dying;

parents and children, husbands and wives, siblings, also people relate to someone who is dying (regardless of being a relative) (also sivlonot which is interesting – it's a transaction that is expected based on familial relationship...or anticipated familial relationships)

Focus: Continuity

- Perek 8 – introduction – the basic requirements of inheritance law (e.g., who inherits/gives inheritance; getting around inheritance)
- Perek 9 – Contested/Divided inheritance (e.g., daughters and sons, older sons doing business, house falls on two relatives); but also מתנת שכיב מרע

Perek 10: Shtarot -

Relationships – SO MANY: Spouses, Lender/Borrower, Buyer/Seller, Sharecropper/Farmer, Litigants, 2 random people with the same name!

Focus: Evidence

- Spouses – גט, שובר, תנאים (שטרי אירוסין), כתובה ונדוניה (שטרי נישואין)
- Sharecropper – שטרי אריסות וקבלנות
- Litigants – שטרי בירורין, מעשה בית דין, שטר קיום
- Two random people – both named יוסף בן שמעון