

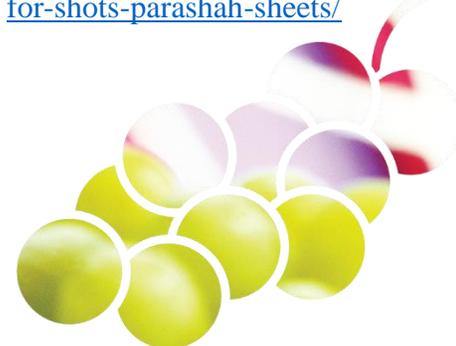
# Pshats for Shots

## A project of JewishDrinking.com



### Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of "Pshats for Shots", a one-page resource for helping providing brief, drinking-related *divrei Torah* for each parashah. Wonderful for kiddush clubs, Shabbas meals, or any other gathering in which you need to turn to *al regel ahat* parashah-related *divrei Torah*, "Pshats for Shots" is a project of [JewishDrinking.com](http://JewishDrinking.com). An archive of Pshats for Shots is available at <http://jewishdrinking.com/pshats-for-shots-parashah-sheets/>



### Why did Malkitzedek bring out wine and bread to Avram?

Following Avram's rescuing Lot (Gen. 14:14-16), we read of the king of S'dom coming out to meet Avram (Gen. 14:17). However, before the king of S'dom speaks with Avram (Gen. 14:21-24), there is a brief narrative interruption where Malkitzedek, comes out to Avram and blesses him (Gen. 14:18-20):

וּמִלְכֵי-צֶדֶק מֶלֶךְ שָׁלֵם הוֹצִיא לֶחֶם וַיִּין וְהוּא כֹהֵן לֵאלֹהֵי עֵלְיוֹן וַיִּבְרַכְהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר בְּרוּךְ אֲבִרָם לֵאלֹהֵי עֵלְיוֹן קִנְיָה שְׁמַיִם וְאָרֶץ וּבְרוּךְ אֵל עֵלְיוֹן אֲשֶׁר-מִגֵּן צְרִיךְ בַּיַּד וַיִּתֵּן-לּוֹ מִעֶשֶׂר מִכֹּל

And King Malkitzedek of Shalem brought out bread and wine; he was a priest of God Above. He blessed him, saying, "Blessed be Abram of God Above, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Above, Who has delivered your foes into your hand." And [Abram] gave him a tenth of everything.

What stands out here, in addition to the interruption of the king of S'dom approaching Avram is Malkitzedek's bringing forth bread and wine to Avram. This is the first time in the book of Genesis that we've seen wine appear since Noah got drunk in chapter 9.

There are some medieval commentators who wrote that bread and wine were brought out for those tired from battle (Rashi, Radak, and Sforno), however, why not bring out water? How well does wine quench one's thirst?

Perhaps this is a demonstration not just of feeding one's guests in an incredible act of providing for travelers, but also of showing them great hospitality with wine. Thus, Malkitzedek, described as a priest of God Above, was demonstrating that it's a Godly act of hospitality to wine and dine one's guests.

For an expanded discussion on this discussion, see <http://jewishdrinking.com/tanakh/genesis/malkitzedeks-bringing-of-wine-bread-to-avram/>

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