

2.1 רבי יוחנן (בן נפוחא)

הטיות נפוחות: לא ידוע.
 כינויים: בר נפחא. בן הנפח.
 דרך: 2.



Biography:

Rabbi Yochanan was born in Zippori. His father passed away during his mother's pregnancy, and his mother died at birth. Apparently, he was raised by his grandfather. When still in his mother's womb, Rebbe predicted that he would be a great Rabbi.

Rabbi Yochanan studied in the Bet Midrash of Rebbe in his childhood – he sat in the seventeenth row of the Bet Midrash and heard the disputes between Rebbe and Rav, but didn't yet understand a word. As he grew older, he sold his entire inheritance – fields and vineyards between T'veryah and Zippori – in order to study Torah. When the money ran out, he lived a life of poverty and want, but continued to study because, as the story is told, he once overheard a discussion between ministering angels in which he was mentioned as a future Torah leader of Israel.

His ten sons died during his lifetime, and often comforted mourners in their troubles by sharing his own horrible loss. He had daughters that survived him. He was said to be extremely handsome, and his beautiful appearance was said to have been a remnant of the beauty of Yerushalayim and the *Bet Mikdash*.

Rabbi Yochanan studied with Rebbe until about his 15th birthday, and then he continued his training with Rabbi Chanina, Rabbi Oshaya and Rabbi Yannai. He transmits many Tannaitic teachings – he didn't personally meet *Tannaim* other than Rebbe, but he learned their teachings from their students, and from their students' students. He had remarkable admiration and respect for his teachers, and even after his own appointment as head of the *Bet Midrash* in T'veryah, he would regularly come to learn with them.

Rabbi Yochanan established the *Bet Midrash* in T'veryah, which became the center of Torah learning in his generation, and he had hundreds of students who became central figures in the Amoraic period. Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish (known as "Resh Lakish") came to a life of Torah from less appropriate professions under the influence of Rabbi Yochanan, and became Rabbi Yochanan's student, brother-in-law and closest friend, and became one of the greatest Rabbis of the period as well. After the death of Rav and Sh'muel in Bavel, Rabbi Yochanan became the unchallenged leader of the generation, and a good number of Rav and Sh'muel's students came to *Eretz Yisrael* to learn with Rabbi Yochanan in T'veryah.

Rabbi Yochanan is the most oft-mentioned *Amora* in the two *Talmudim*, and his teachings are the basis of the *Talmud Yerushalmi*, the editing of which was begun in his day. Chizkiyya said about him that he was an angel, not a human being! Rabbi B'rechyah called Rabbi Yochanan and Resh Lakish "the greatest Rabbis ever." Rabbi Yochanan was also fluent in medicine and general sciences.

He lived a long life - according to tradition, longer than 100 years.

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Story or Statement:

Once, Rabbi Yochanan was walking from T'veryah to Zippori, helped along by Rabbi Chiyya bar Abba. They came upon a certain field, and Rabbi Yochanan said: this field was once mine, but I sold it in order to gain Torah knowledge. They came upon a certain vineyard, and Rabbi Yochanan said: this vineyard was once mine, but I sold it in order to gain Torah knowledge. They came upon an olive orchard, and Rabbi Yochanan said: this orchard was once mine, but I sold it in order to gain Torah knowledge. Rabbi Chiyya bar Abba cried.

Rabbi Yochanan asked him: 'Why are you crying?'

He said: 'You have left yourself nothing for your old age!'

Rabbi Yochanan said to him: 'I sold things that were created in six days, and I acquired things that were given in forty days! as it is said: "and he (Moshe) was there with *HaShem* forty days and forty nights," and it is said: "and I was on the mountain forty days and forty nights." Which is worth more?'

When Rabbi Yochanan died, his colleagues mourned him with a paraphrase of the verse from *Shir HaShirim*, and said: "If a man gives all his possessions for love like the love of Rabbi Yochanan for Torah, others will make light of him..." (*VaYikra Rabba* 30:1)

תוכן עניינים

2.1 רבי יוחנן (בן נפחא)

הטיות נפולות: לא ידוע.
כינויים: בר נפחא. בן הנפח.
דור: 2.



רבניט:

- רבי אושעיא (עי' קיסרין כרטיס 1.1).
 - רבי חנינא (עי' ציפורי כרטיס 1.2).
 - רבי ינאי (עי' עכברא כרטיס 1.1).
 - חזקיה (עי' טבריה כרטיס 1.2).
 - רבי חייא (עי' טבריה כרטיס 1.1).
 - רבי יהודה הנשיא.
 - רבי שמעון בן יהוצדק.
 - רבי יהושע בן לוי (עי' לוד כרטיס 1.2).
 - רבי בנאה.
 - רב (עי' סורא כרטיס 1.1).
 - רב חבר - שמואל (עי' נהרדעא 1.2).
- חכמים:**
אילפא.
רבי יונתן (עי' טבריה כרטיס 1.4).
- תלמידי רבי:**
תלמיד חבר - רבי שמעון בן לקיש (עי' טבריה כרטיס 2.2).

- תלמיד חבר - רבי אלעזר בן פדת (עי' טבריה כרטיס 2.3).
- רב דימי (עי' נחותאי כרטיס 4.1).
 - רב אושעיא (עי' טבריה כרטיס 3.6).
 - רב ירמיה בר אבא [ב] (עי' סורא כרטיס 3.2).
 - רבי אבהו (עי' קיסרין כרטיס 3.1).
 - רבי אמי (עי' טבריה כרטיס 3.2).
 - רבי אסי (עי' טבריה כרטיס 3.3).
 - רבי חייא בר אבא (עי' טבריה כרטיס 3.4).
 - רבי שמעון בר אבא.
 - רב חייא בר יוסף.
 - רבי זירא (עי' טבריה כרטיס 3.5).
 - זעירי.
 - רבי יהודה נשיאה [ב].
 - רבי יוסי ברבי חנינא (עי' טבריה כרטיס 2.4).
 - רבי יעקב בר אידי (עי' סולמה של צור כרטיס 3.1).
 - רבי יאשיה [ב].
 - רבי ביבי [א].

- רבי יעקב [ב].
 - אסי בר היני.
 - רבי יצחק נפחא (עי' טבריה כרטיס 3.1).
 - רבי ירמיה (עי' טבריה כרטיס 4.1).
 - רב כהנא [ב].
 - רב נתן בר אושעיא.
 - רבה בר בר חנה (עי' נחותאי כרטיס 3.1).
 - רבי/רב שמואל בר אבא.
 - רב שמואל בר יהודה (עי' נחותאי כרטיס 4.3).
 - רבי שמעון בן אליקים.
 - עולא (עי' נחותאי כרטיס 2.1).
- משפחה:**
גיס - ריש לקיש (עי' טבריה כרטיס 2.2).

Questions:

1. Is our love of Torah great and deep enough that we would be prepared to give up possessions and wealth?

2. How can we become more like Rabbi Yochanan, and acquire his remarkable characteristics?