



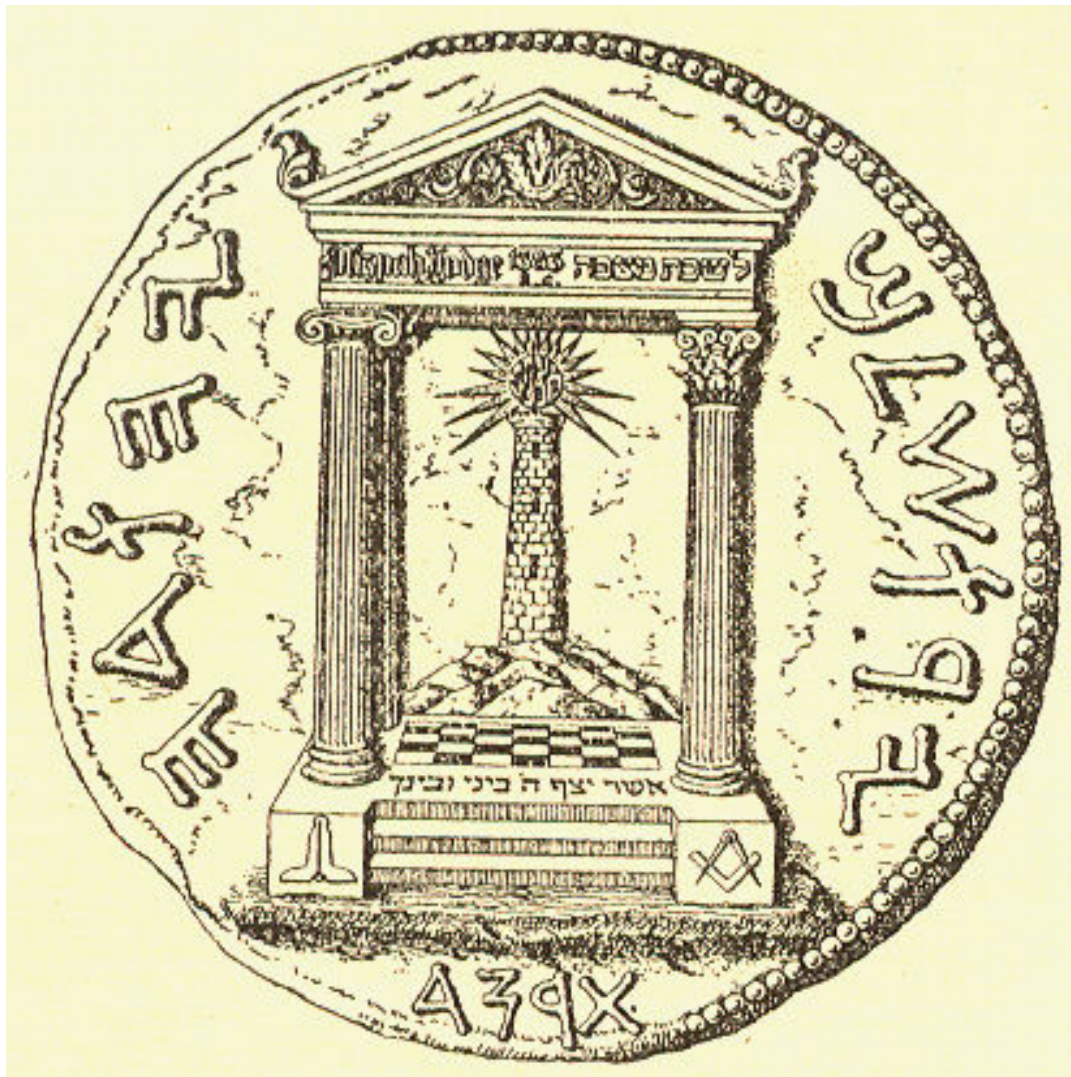
בשם האדריכל העליון של היקום
לשכת מצפה 6 - ירושלים
של הבונים החופשיים, קדמונים ומקובלים



What is the meaning of the name of our lodge, Mizpah?

A verse from the Book of Genesis is written in the symbol of the lodge:

„ And Mizpah; for he said, **The LORD watch between me and thee**, when we
are absent one from another ". (Genesis 41, 39)





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The word Mizpah appears there for the first time in the Bible.

We shall now concentrate on this unique word.

The commentators of the Hebrew Bible give us, among other interpretations, two meanings for this word, entwined with each other. The Torah tells us about the patriarch Jacob and his father in law, Laban. They became hostile foes to each other, since Laban has always tried to deceive his son in law. Jacob felt also that Laban doesn't want to let him and his family leave Haran, so he's running away. Laban, the pagan, is chasing after Jacob, his wives and children, and finally succeeded overtaking them on mount Gilead. Laban is blaming Jacob for stealing his Terafim, idols' figurines. Jacob, who knows nothing about his father in law's Terafim and that it was actually his beloved wife Rachel, the daughter of Laban, who had stolen them, gave an oath that he hasn't taken anything from Laban's property. After accusing each other, both Laban and Jacob agree that peace is the best solution, so they made a covenant. They erect a stone pillar. Jacob gives it the name Gal'ed, and Laban Yegar Sahaduta.

And here comes our verse from the beginning of this article, Mizpah, and to the two meanings that were given to it, keeping in mind that the commentators tried to interpret the meaning of the root of the word Mizpah, TS.P/f. Y. The first meaning that was suggested is TSiPiYa, which is the Hebrew for "expectation". Both of them had expectations that there will be no more conflicts in the future. The second suggested meaning is the root TS.W.F, "lifting up", a memorial for the reasons that led to the lifting up of this stone monument.

Both Jacob and Laban agree that the Lord will be the judge and arbitrator in a case that this agreement would face instability.

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