



## A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Jesse Marcus



There is a joke in the *yeshiva* world I heard which goes as follows: a *Rav* was checking what his students were learning. One was learning a *masechet* of *gemara*; the other a *mishnah*. He gets up to one student who says: "I'm learning *tanach*". The *Rav* says: "well, I guess that is *torah* also."

The point is *tanach* isn't studied as much as it should be in *yeshivot* around the world. This applies especially for *nevi'im* and *ktuvim*, which is hardly ever spoken about, and seems to be mostly absent from many *batei midrash* (for some, studying *chumash* is practiced, but only as a third or fourth subject).

Over the past 6 weeks I have delved into the books of *Melachim* 1,2; *Shmuel* 2; and *Chronicles* 1,2; and have become fascinated with them - and what I am learning from them. Many people haven't read *Chronicles* 1,2, which has some of the most important details and history we need to know as part of *bnai yisroel*. We can learn so much about the importance of loving your fellow Jews from the story of *Rehoboam* and *Jeroboam*, and the splitting of the kingdom which led to civil war. (In *Chronicles* 2 King *Asa* and *Basha* fought a war, in which 400,000 soldiers from *Judah* faced 800,000 from the northern kingdom; most of the 800,000 were killed, this done by brother to brother.) For several centuries we were lead by numerous evil kings, with an occasional righteous king like *Hezekiah* or *Josiah*. Often *bnai yisroel* followed their evil leaders, and after they divorced *Hashem* they led themselves into the first exile. We need to implement all of this into our *yeshiva* study to know how not to repeat the same mistakes.

We are a nation as well as a religion, and therefore the study of our history is just as important as our rules and regulations.

I also began to study *Jeremiah* on my own, another book that many have read quickly, if at all. I am excited knowing I have the books of *Yechezkel* and *Ezra* to learn in the future, and the *torah* of *Shir HaShirim* and *Kohellet*, which is also on my list. Luckily I did find a *chavruta* to learn the book of *Job* with, and I actually need to meet him now! So I will finish this by asking the *yeshiva*

world to invest more time in *tanach*; even start with the classics that people haven't looked at since 6<sup>th</sup> grade like *Shmuel* and *Melachim*. There is limitless deepness there, and along with the studies of our great prophets, it is healthy and enriching for the mind. I recommend it for anyone wanting to broaden their learning.