

oifshand (uprising) uproar.

|32| At once he took his chaiyalim and centurions and ran down to them, and when the rioters saw the Roman tribune and the chaiyalim, they stopped beating Rav Sha'ul.

|33| Then the Roman tribune came near and took hold of Rav Sha'ul and ordered him to be bound with two sharsherot (chains), and the tribune was inquiring who he might be and what he had done.

|34| Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another, and the tribune was not able to have da'as of anything definite because of the noise, so he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.

|35| And when Rav Sha'ul was on the steps, it came about that he was carried by the chaiyalim, because of the violence of the multitude,
|36| For the crowd kept following and shouting, "Away with him!"

|37| And just when he was about to be brought into the barracks, Rav Sha'ul says to the Roman tribune, "Is it permissible for me to say something to you?" And the tribune said, "Ellinisti Ginoskeis? (Do you know Greek?)"

|38| "Then you are not the Egyptian who recently stirred up an intifada and led out four thousand assassins into the wilderness?"

|39| And Rav Sha'ul said, "I gufa (myself) am an ish Yehudi from Tarsus of Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city. And I ask you to allow me to speak to the people."

|40| And when the tribune had given permission, Rav Sha'ul stood on the steps and motioned with his hand to the people. And a great silence fell upon the crowd. Then Rav Sha'ul addressed the

multitude in the language of the Hebrews.

22 Rav Sha'ul said, "Anashim, Achim, Avot, listen now to my hitstaddekut (defense)."

|2| And when they heard that Rav Sha'ul was addressing them in the language of the Hebrews, they were even more quiet. And Rav Sha'ul said,

|3| "I am an ish Yehudi, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but having been brought up in a yeshiva in this city of Yerushalayim at the feet of Rabban Gamliel, having learned with irreproachable frumkeit according to all machmir chumra strictness the Torah of Avoteinu, and I have a kinat Hashem just as all of you do today;

[MELACHIM ALEF 19:10]

|4| "I brought redifah on this 'Derech,' even to the point of mavet, binding and delivering both anashim and nashim over to the beis hasohar,

|5| "As even the Kohen Gadol and all the Zekenim of the Sanhedrin could give solemn eidus for me. For from them I also was authorized with iggrot to the Achim in Damascus, and I was going there to lead away also the ones who were there in order to bring them bound back to Yerushalayim to have them punished.

|6| "And it happened to me while traveling and drawing near to Damascus, lav davka (approximately) noon, suddenly from Shomayim, a very bright ohr (light) shone around me;

|7| "And I fell to the ground. Then I heard a bat kol saying to me, 'Sha'ul, Sha'ul, why are you bringing redifah on me?'"

|8| "And I answered, 'Who are you, Adoni?' And he said to me, 'I am Yehoshua of Natzeret, upon whom you are bringing redifah.'

|9| "And the ones with me saw the ohr (light) but they did not have real hearing (understanding) of the voice speaking to me.

|10| "And I said, 'What shall I do, Adoni?'" And HaAdon said to me, 'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything which has been appointed for you to do.'

|11| "And because I had been blinded from the kavod (glory) of that ohr (light), I was led by the hand by the ones who were with me and who led me into Damascus.

|12| "A certain man, Chananyah by name, an ehrliche Yid (a truly pious Jew), charedi according to the Torah and with a shem tov with all the Yehudim living in Damascus,

|13| "Came to me and stood next to me, saying, 'Ach b'Moshiach Sha'ul, receive your sight.' And at that moment I looked up at him.

|14| "And he said, 'Elohei Avoteinu has chosen and appointed you to have da'as of His ratzon (will) and to see the Tzaddik [*Moshiach*] and to hear the kol (voice) from His mouth.

|15| 'For you will be an eidus (witness) to him to all anashim of what you have seen and heard.

|16| 'And now what do you intend to do? Get up and receive Moshiach's tevilah of teshuva and wash away your averos (sins) by calling upon SHMO.' [VAYIKRA 8:6; TEHILLIM 51:2;

YECHEZKEL 36:25; YOEL 3:5(2:32) ZECHARYAH 6:12]

|17| "And it happened that after I had returned to Yerushalayim and as I was davening in the Beis Hamikdash, that I fell into a trance,