



## **NATIONAL BIBLE CONTEST 2022/5782**

Dear Educators, Teachers, Principals, and Coaches,

Enclosed please find the syllabus for the Dr. Shimshon Isseroff USA National Bible Contest (Chidon Hatanach) for the 2021-2022 academic year (5782) as well as other important information.

### **Goals of the Chidon Ha'Tanach**

As Jews, we must learn and study the Tanach, the Jewish people's richest resource. The Tanach is the basis of our existence as a people. It connects us to our past and contains our hopes for the future. The study of the Tanach increases our student's identity with the Jewish people, their love of the land of Israel, their love of text, and their love of Torah. What better way to encourage students to study and learn the Tanach than by involving them in a National Bible competition? And like the Tanach itself, the Chidon Ha'Tanach unites young Jews from all over the country, through study and mastery of a shared text and our shared heritage!

### **National Bible Contest**

The United States National Chidon Hatanach (Bible Contest) has existed for over 60 years! Students from many different schools and communities around the United States study throughout the year and national finalists advance to the United States National Chidon, both a contest and a full day event held once a year in New York. Several top finishers in each division are announced as "national champions" for the United States, and receive prizes for their achievement. This year we will continue to run additional programming throughout the day for students to showcase their Tanach knowledge. In 2019, over 230 students traveled to New York City to compete and participate in the US National Bible Contest. [HERE](#)'s some footage from that unique event. Due to circumstances surrounding COVID 19, these past two years the National Finals have been transformed into a full day nationwide virtual event. [This past year's final event was attended virtually by more than 800 people around the country!](#) We are committed to ensuring that this year's National Finals is a memorable event for all involved whether it's held in-person or virtually.

### **Resources**

We have worked hard to develop resources for the Chidon Ha'Tanach over the course of the coming year. For supplementary material, please see the book of study questions on this year's material created by Dvir Dimri, Jacob Colchamiro, and Avi Shaver, and sponsored by the Chidon Ha'Tanach. **The material will be sent out in its entirety to schools that have**



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**registered and paid for this season of the Chidon Ha'Tanach.** This material is paid for by the Dr. Shimshon Isseroff USA Chidon Ha'Tanach.

### **International Bible Contest**

First-place winners in each division of the national competition are the U.S. representatives to the International Bible Contest in Israel, along with the second-place winners in the high school division. The International Bible Contest brings together the national winners from the Diaspora and Israel for a two week all-expenses-paid Tanach Camp, during which they tour the country. The competition itself is attended by the Prime Minister of Israel and is broadcast on Israeli television on Yom Haatzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

### **National Bible Quiz National Bible Contest Fees**

In order to maintain the Chidon Ha'Tanach and continue to enhance the National Finals we are instituting a small registration fee this year. If you are registering as a private registrant or as a club/school with less than three students the rate is 50 dollars per student. The flat rate for all other remaining schools/clubs is 150 dollars. Please see the link to paypal on the registration form. Students who qualify for the national finals are responsible for their own travel to New York. See registration form [here](#) to register and for links to pay.

### **Divisions**

The United States Chidon Hatanach is coordinated by the Jewish Agency for Israel. Students in the U.S. competitions may participate in one of three divisions:

- 1) *Hebrew Grades 6-8*
- 2) *Hebrew Grades 9-11*
- 3) *English Grades 6-11*

The Hebrew divisions are open to students in Jewish day schools, while the English division is open to students in supplementary schools and those in no formal Jewish educational institution. *Community Day Schools with minimal textual study of Judaic texts in the original Hebrew may also apply for special permission to participate in the English Division.*

All questions in English are based on the NJPS translation – Tanakh: A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures According to the Traditional Hebrew Text. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1985.

### **Regional Bible Contest**

Over the course of the year, three exams are administered on the material listed at the bottom of this email. Qualifying for the National Finals is based purely on the cumulative results of the three written tests composed by the Chidon Ha'Tanach staff. Students who score above the



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national cutoff score on regional exams advance to the national finals. The cutoff score for each division varies slightly each year. *This year, a cumulative score of 65/90 on the regional exams will automatically qualify for the national finals.* Anything below that score will be invited to the finals on the basis of the final cutoff score determined in March. Qualifiers for the National Finals will be notified in late-March. Samples of the regional exams as well as other study resources can be found on our website. A slightly more detailed explanation of qualifying for National can be found [here](#).

## Eligibility

In order to be eligible to compete in the *National Finals*, students must take all stages of their regional examinations, and score above that year's cutoff for students in their division.

**Please note an important recent change regarding qualifying for the *International Finals*.**

Per discussions with the steering committee and the Jewish Agency, the following changes will be made to eligibility requirements for the *International Competition*. **In the Hebrew middle school division students in both seventh and eighth grade will be eligible to qualify as international finalists. In the English Divisions as well, students in seventh grade and up will be eligible to qualify as international finalists.** This year, all sixth graders from both the English and Hebrew division will compete against one another in the nationals. A sixth grade champion will be crowned, and awarded a significant prize at the National Finals. This participant will still be able to compete to qualify as an International Finalist in following years. Please be in touch if you have any questions about this new policy. As a general rule, in order to be eligible for the *International Contest*, students must also meet the following criteria:

- 1) *MUST NOT BE THE CHILD OF AN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE OR ISRAELI SHALIACH*
- 2) *MUST HAVE RECEIVED MOST OF HIS OR HER EDUCATION IN THE DIASPORA*
- 3) *MUST BE A STUDENT IN HIGH SCHOOL AT THE TIME OF THE COMPETITION IN ISRAEL (MAY, 2022)*
- 4) *MUST NOT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CONTEST IN ANY PREVIOUS YEAR.*

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding a student's eligibility.



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## Final Remarks Regarding COVID 19 and More Important Updates

At the end of this message, please find the Syllabus for USA National Bible Contest 2021-2022 as well as the dates for this year's regional tests and National Finals.

Thank you in advance for all of the hard work that you do for your students and on behalf of the Chidon Ha'Tanach, especially this year. We're confident that this will be another strong year for the Chidon Ha'Tanach. Please make sure to stay in touch for updates connected to COVID 19 and beyond. We plan on administering all regional exams in person this year. If your school is in need of a virtual option, please be in touch directly.

I would also like to note the passing of Dr. Shimshon Isseroff z"l this summer. Dr. Isseroff passed away at the age of 100 on Thursday, July 15th. We will continue to carry his name and legacy with pride. Students will have opportunities to learn more about him over the course of the year. For more on Dr. Isseroff see the recently published tribute in the [Jewish Link](#) and our website as well under the [About Dr. Isseroff](#) tab.

Stay tuned for updates throughout the year. **Stay tuned for some exciting additions to our programming. We plan to do some more virtual programming for the USA Chidon over the course of this year!** The date of the National Finals in New York is set, and we hope to be back in person. If necessary, we are ready for an even more robust day of virtual programming. As always, please be in touch with comments, suggestions, and questions. I look forward to collaborating with each of you on another wonderful year of the Chidon Ha'tanach.

## חזק ואמץ

*Rabbi Dovi Nadel*

Coordinator, National Bible Contest



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Syllabus for Dr. Shimshon Isseroff USA National Bible Contest - 2021-2022

**Hebrew Middle School Divisions Grades 6-8**

בראשית: הכל

מלכים א': פרקים א-ג, ה, ח-כב

תהלים: א, ק"ד, ק"כ - קל"ד

**English Divisions**

**Genesis:** All

**1 Kings:** 1-3, 5, 8- 22

**Psalms:** 1, 104, 120 -134

**Hebrew High School Divisions Grades 9-11**

בראשית: הכל

מלכים א': הכל

תהלים: א, ק"ד, ק"כ - קל"ד

יחזקאל: א-ד, י"ז-כ, ל"ג-ל"ט



הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל  
Jewish Agency for Israel

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**2021-2022 USA National Bible Contest Schedule at a Glance:**

*Regional exams will be administered on the following dates.*

**Regional Exam 1 – Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

*Material on Exam*

**בראשית/Genesis: Chapters 1-25**

**Regional Exam 2 – Wednesday, February 2, 2022**

*Material on Exam*

**בראשית/Genesis: Chapters 26-50**

**Regional Exam 3 – Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

*Material on Exam*

**מלכים א' - Kings 1 Chapters 1-3, 5, 8-22**

**תהילים - Psalms : Chapters 1, 104**

*Please note that for all divisions the remainder of the chapters in תהילים/Psalms included in the syllabus will not be on regional exams, but will be included in the National Finals. Please note that in the Hebrew High School Division יחזקאל and choice additional selections from מלכים will not appear on the regional exam, but will be included in the National Finals.*

*Please note that schools in the English division have the option of either taking one cumulative regional exam on March 6, 2022 or taking three regional exams over the course of the entire year on the dates listed above.*

**For more information about the Chidon be in contact with the coordinator of the Chidon Hatanach, Rabbi Dovi Nadel, at [Dovin@jafi.org](mailto:Dovin@jafi.org).**



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