Menachos 20 – Good Morning Raboisai

1️⃣ Is Salt (מֶלַח) Mandatory in a Minchah?

We continue the discussion of which components of a **Minchah** are **מעכב**(mandatory).

Question raised:

- Is **salt** essential?
- The Torah does **not** repeat the requirement twice — normally a sign it's *not* ma'akev

Yet the pasuk says:

בְּרִית מֶלַח עוֹלָם

The word **בְּרִית (covenant)** signals something absolute and binding.

Key yesod:

"Bris" can create obligation even without repetition.

2️⃣ Reconciling the Mishnah — "Lo Malach"

The Mishnah says:

- If he did not do:
    - Yitzikah
    - Belilah
    - Petitah
    - **Melichah**
      → the Minchah is still valid

Question:

- How can this fit if salt is mandatory?

Answer:

- "Lo malach" does **not** mean salt was skipped
- It means:
    - A **non-Kohen** did it

Since:

- A Yisrael cannot access the Mizbeach to salt,
- Salt must still have been applied — just not by a Kohen

Thus:

Salt itself is required, but **who** applies it may vary.

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3 What Requires Salt? — The Scope of "Korban"

The Torah states:

עַל כָּל קָרְבָּנְךָ תַּקְרִיב מֶלַח

At first glance:

- "Korban" is a **general term**
- Could include:
  - Meat
  - Flour
  - Wood
  - Blood
  - Frankincense

But the Torah immediately specifies:

וְעַל מִנְחָתְךָ תִּתֵּן מֶלַח

This creates a **Klal–Prat–Klal** structure:

- General → Specific → General

Rule:

We include **only items similar to the prat (Minchah)**

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4 The Defining Feature — Requires Firewood

What is unique about a Minchah?

It:

- Requires **firewood**

- Is burned on the Mizbeach
- Functions as a **matir** (permits something else)

Therefore:

Anything that:

- Is burned with wood
- Functions like a Minchah
  → requires **salt**

5️⃣ Applications of the Rule

Require salt:

- Kemitzah
- Levonah (even when brought alone)
- Bezichin of Lechem HaPanim
- Ketores
- Eimurim of:
  - Chatas
  - Asham
  - Olah
  - Shelamim
- Minchas Kohen
- Minchas Chavitin (Kohen Gadol)
- Minchas Nesachim

Do NOT require salt:

- **Blood**
- **Wine (Nesachim)**

Reason:

- Blood is **sprinkled**, not burned with wood
- Wine represents **simchah**, not burning

- They do not share the Minchah's defining trait

6️⃣ Why Blood Is Excluded (Despite Being a Matir)

Challenge:

- Blood is also a **matir**
- Why doesn't it need salt?

Answer:

- Blood is not burned on wood
- It is applied to the Mizbeach directly

Thus:

Being a matir is **not enough** —
it must also involve **firewood**

7️⃣ What About Wood Itself?

Machlokes:

- One view:
  - Wood should **not** need salt
  - It is only fuel
- **Rebbi**:
  - Wood **is itself a korban**
  - Therefore:
    - Requires salt
    - Requires hagashah
    - Even requires **kemitzah** (by grinding into sawdust)

Conclusion:

- According to Rebbi:

Wood offerings require salt

8️⃣ Final List — Items That Do Not Require Salt

The Gemara attempts to list four exclusions:

- Blood
- Wine
- Wood
- Ketores

But this clashes with Rebbi, who requires salt for wood (and ketores).

Resolution:

- Depends on which Tanna you follow
- The exclusions are **not unanimous**

✨ Takeaway – Menachos 20

- Salt is **mandatory** in a Minchah
- "Bris" can create obligation without repetition
- The Torah uses **Klal–Prat–Klal** to define scope
- Items burned with **firewood** require salt
- Blood and wine are excluded
- Levonah and ketores require salt
- According to Rebbi, even **wood** is a korban requiring salt
- Definitions in Kodshim depend on **function**, not labels

לעילוי נשמת אמי מורתי רות בת הרב מנחם מנדל