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American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai

....Making the Old City young Again



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Parashat [Mishpatim](#) פרשת משפטים - [Shabbat Shekalim](#) שבת שקלים Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 4:43 PM February 13, 2015
Sh'vat 24, 5775

Jerusalem Divrei Torah

The centrality of Jerusalem to the Jewish People is indisputable and is the core of our mission. Our Divrei Torah by [Rabbi Yosef Bronstein](#) focus on Jerusalem and its connection to the weekly Torah portion. For a pdf to discuss at the Shabbat table, please [click here](#). To sponsor a Dvar Torah please [click here](#)

The Central Station

Jewish holidays are multifaceted. Every holiday contains several overlapping themes that each adds a unique dimension to the nature of the day. For this reason, the annual calendar of holidays is presented several times in the Torah, with every rendition highlighting a different aspect of the holidays.

In *parashat Mishpatim* the Torah emphasizes the agricultural significance of the cycle. *Pesah* is noted to occur in "the month of springtime" and *Shavu'ot* and *Sukkot* are referred to respectively as "Festival of the Harvest" and "the Festival of Ingathering." [1] The commentators explain that this integration of the agricultural and holiday cycles is intended to accentuate the holidays as opportune times to express our gratitude to Hashem for our agricultural/financial success. [2]

It is striking that in this agricultural/financial context, another aspect of the holidays is introduced - the pilgrimage to the *Beit ha-Mikdash*. Interwoven into the description of the farmer thanking Hashem for his crops is the obligation to travel to Yerushalayim three times a year and be seen by Hashem. While the centrality of the *Beit ha-Mikdash* is readily apparent regarding other aspects of the holidays, in what way is it connected to the agricultural cycle? Why can't each person thank Hashem in their own fields and home for their agricultural success?

One approach can be developed based on a deeper understanding of the pivotal role that Yerushalayim and the *Beit ha-Mikdash* have in our agricultural/financial

Jerusalem-Myth of the Two Cities

We presented this this video from [Honest Reporting](#) last week that exposes the myth of what is known as Arab East Jerusalem, interviewing Jews who survived Israel's War of Independence in 1948, when the eternal Jewish capital was divided for the first time in history. If you did not watch it or even if you did, it is important to know and teach the facts. As the Israel Apartheid Week movement starts up again next week, we present it again to educate our readers and their families.



Flower's Gate Playground and new Rooftop Playground for Beit Gavriel



Our children need to get outside, run and play and be children. Our Flowers Gate Children's Playground is the perfect antidote to escape from the stones and rocks (human missiles) thrown at them as they venture outside to enjoy some time in the sun. Our playground is in need of a drastic facelift.

We are now planning a rooftop

endeavors. Commenting on the verse "May Hashem bless you from Zion," [3] the Zohar notes that all blessings are sourced in Yerushalayim. [4] Hashem first sends down his blessings to Yerushalayim and from there they emanate to the rest of the world.

The Ramban expands on this idea in his introduction to Bereishit. He cites a midrash that the first point of creation was the *Even Shetiyah* (Foundation Rock) in Yerushalayim and from there the rest of the world was unfurled. There are still direct lines that connect even the most far flung places to Yerushalayim which allow for the life forces to travel from the center to the farthest extremities. Shlomo, who was aware of the precise location of these connecting lines, was able to successfully cultivate vegetables in Yerushalayim that were indigenous to even the most distant places.

Perhaps it is for this reason that the destruction of the *Beit ha-Mikdash* had such a tremendous impact on the level of material blessing in the world. The Mishna relates that the absence of the *Beit ha-Mikdash* directly affected the descent of the dew and the taste of fruits. [5] A different Gemara connects the destruction of the *Beit ha-Mikdash* with the cessation of proper rainfall. [6]

With this background, the reason for the Torah's insistence that the farmer thank Hashem for his bounty specifically in the *Beit ha-Mikdash* is clear. It is not enough that we simply thank Hashem, we need to recognize the pathways that He uses to bestow his blessings. We need to travel from our homes to Hashem's home, to the channel between heaven and earth which serves as the central station of the blessings. It is only there that we can properly thank Hashem for all that he does on our behalf.

[1] Shemot 23:15-16

[2] Ramban 23:16; Rashbam *ibid*; Seforno 23:17.

[3] Tehillim 128:5

[4] Zohar parashat Va-Yehi.

[5] Sotah 9:12

[6] Bava Batra 25b

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Book a Tour With Us [CLICK HERE](#)
and see our Jerusalem up front and close

playground for Beit Gavriel in the Yemenite Village.

More information to follow

Donate Now

Help us improve the safety and purchase more toys and equipment so our children can be children.

Thank You



The New Yemenite Village Website
click the picture to learn more



Our current projects in the Old City of Jerusalem and areas adjacent to the Old City actualize our mission of "Making the Old City, Young Again"

Donate Now

Today, the walled city of Jerusalem (the Old Yishuv) and the areas immediately adjacent to it, have

come back to life with children and families due to the work of Ateret Cohanim. The miracle that was the rebirth of the State of Israel in 1948, the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967 and the continued growth of the Jewish community in these areas, are constant reminders of the eternity of our religious belief. Help Us Continue Our Work.

Established in 1978,

We Support and Encourage you to Support our Chayalim

OUR 15TH YEAR! **Bring the Joy of Purim**

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Our Kotel Compass



Always pointing in the direction of Jerusalem (and follows the halacha in Israel). A phone app and companion for your trip to Israel. The Kotel Compass App (Available in the ISTORE or ANDROID MARKET is free and you can book your tour from the App.

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משנכנס אדר מרבין בשמחה

This year is our "double chai" year



American Friends of Ateret Cohanim / Jerusalem Chai

Our Mission

The Old City is home to nearly 35,000 people.. The Jewish population of the Old City numbers 5000 of which 4000 reside in the Jewish Quarter. The additional 1000 are living and learning in the area of the Old Jewish Quarter (Referred to as the Moslem and Christian Quarters in East Jerusalem)

For nearly four decades, the efforts of American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai have been instrumental in meeting the social, recreational, and educational needs of the families and Yeshiva students who have returned to areas that were once predominantly Jewish.



תשע"ה- 5775

May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (עיר), of Hashem. (ה')

May G-d's City - Yerushalayim, be rebuilt and restored to its previous glory for Am Yisrael.
 Next year in a united Jerusalem with a flourishing Jewish life centred around religious educational institutes.
 Lehiraot BaAretz

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