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American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem ChaiMaking the Old City young Again

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Parashat Re'eh / פרשת ראה Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 6:21 PM, Sept 02, 2016, 2016 29 Menachem Av 5776

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](#).

Working for Yerushalayim

Our parsha opens with the command that the Jewish people perform a dramatic ceremony on their entry into the Land of Israel. On the same day that they cross the Jordan River they were to travel to Har Grizim and Har Eival and pronounce the blessings and the curses. This ceremony seems to be a reaffirmation of the covenants that the Jewish people made with God in the desert.

Immediately following the command to recite the blessings and curses comes the introduction of a central place of worship. In earlier stages of Jewish history each Jew was allowed to build a private altar in his backyard and worship Hashem upon it. However, after the Jews are settled in the Land, they are commanded to only sacrifice in the single place of Hashem's choosing.

On a simple level these passages are juxtaposed due to the fact that are both relevant to the Jews upon their entry to the Land. However, Rav Dani Eizek of Yeshivat *Beit ha-Orot*[1] suggests that a deeper thematic connection exists as well. He notes that both passages address an underlying tension regarding the entry into the Holy Land. After being told about the unique spirituality and characteristics of the Land for the past forty years, many Jews might have had the misimpression that the Land worked magic. Once they would be in the special environment of the Land of Israel, their service of Hashem would flow naturally and easily. They would no longer have to work hard to achieve closeness to Hashem – it would be given to them on a silver platter.

And while it is true that there is a unique closeness to Hashem that permeates the Land, Hashem wanted to counter this mindset from the outset. Immediately upon their entry Hashem commanded them to recognize the fact that they still have hard choices to make and the blessings and curses will flow from these choices. Human effort is still an absolute pre-requisite for the unique *avadat Hashem* of the Land of Israel.

And nowhere is this more emphasized than in the next section regarding Yerushalayim. It is quite blatant that the identity of the holiest spot on earth is kept hidden in this parsha. Instead of identifying the central place of worship as "Yerushalayim" the Torah keeps on referring to "the place that Hashem will choose." The midrash notes this omission and hints to the fact that this teaches us that Yerushalayim will only reveal itself to the people who search and seek for it.[2] Yes, the city has unique holiness and one can achieve unparalleled closeness to Hashem there. But it is not given to us on a silver platter. It is only through hard work and searching that we are able to finally recognize the true hidden nature of Yerushalayim – the place that Hashem has chosen.

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**SECURITY CAMERAS
NEEDED ASAP**

The Police of the Old City approached Ateret Cohanim requesting 12 cameras on very strategic rooftops in order for the Police to have "eyes" over the rooftops.

Many attacks by local Arabs have been from these rooftops and not the alleyways. In the Old City having these cameras is a life saver.

- 4 static cameras required at \$3000 each
- 3 moveable-rotating cameras required at \$8500 each

PINAT CHAM

First ever PINAT CHAM in the Old City for all security personnel and Policemen. Help us establish a critically needed this most needed rest and refreshment spot at the entrance to Beit Wittenberg.. *They protect us. Let's show them our appreciation. (projected cost \$42,000)*

- *Serving 100 security personnel*
- *8 hour schedule*
- *Free food, coffee and a restroom which will accomodate 100 security personnel working an 8 hour shift.*
- *Outside of Beit Wittenberg on the spot where Rabbi Nechemia Lavi HY"D was murdered last September.*

SCENIC OVERLOOK

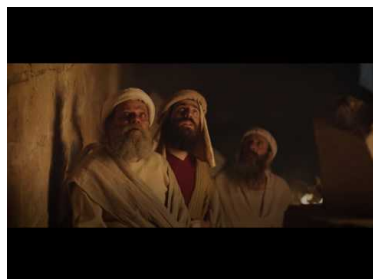
The most spectacular scenic view of Jerusalem (from the South) overlooking the Temple Mount, the City of David, the Kings Garden and the Mount of Olives, is from Beit Rachel in the old Yemenite Village.

Help us establish the scenic outlook with all-weather model of historical Jerusalem.. Naming rights available. *(projected cost \$35,000)*

***As always, your generous support
is greatly appreciated***

[1]Available at <http://www.beitorot.org/content.asp?pageid=248>

[2]Sifrei Devarim piska 62.



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to understand our unique connection
to Jerusalem

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5776 - תשע"ו May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem"
(עיר), and her residents. (ויושביה) May G-d's City -
Yerushalayim, be rebuilt and restored to its previous glory
for the Jewish People. Next year in a united Jerusalem with
a flourishing Jewish life centred around religious
educational institutes.

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American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai
248 West 35th Street
New York, NY 10001
US

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