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American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai ...Making the Old City young Again

Parashat Vayishlach / פרשת וישלאַך Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 3:57 PM, December 16, 2016 16 Kislev 5777
5777 - תשע"ז May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (עיר) of Gold. (זהב)

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](#). For all the Divrei Torah, [click here](#). To sponsor a Dvar Torah please [click here](#)

This week's Divrei Torah are dedicated l'zecher nishmat Frimit Esther bat Ephraim Fishel (Rebbetzin Florence Leibtag), who was nifteret last week in Yerushalayim. We were unable to print last weeks Dvar Torah so it follows Vayishlach.

Yerushalayim's Patience

In this week's parsha we learn about Jewish patience. When Yaakov and Esav conclude their dramatic meeting and are readying to travel on, Esav invites Yaakov to accompany him to Esav's home at Seir. Yaakov responds that due to his young children and sheep he will have to travel at a slower pace than Esav, and therefore Esav should go ahead until "until I come to my master, to Seir."^[1] Esav leaves but the Torah never records Yaakov traveling to Seir to reconnect with his brother. What of Yaakov's word to Esav? Rashi explains that Yaakov intended to fulfill his promise at the end of time:

He told him of a longer journey, although he intended to go only as far as Succoth. He said [to himself], "If he intends to harm me, he will wait until I come to him," but he did not go [to Seir]. (Gen. Rabbah 78:14) So when will he go? *In the days of the Messiah, as it is said (Obadiah 1:21): "And saviors shall ascend Mt. Zion to judge the mountain of Esau."*^[2] Yaakov is willing to wait for millennium to assert his proper sovereignty over Esav.

We also find this idea appearing at the conclusion of the parsha. In listing the chieftains and kings of Esav, the Torah makes a point of noting that there were seven Edomite kings "before there was a king in Israel."^[3] The sovereignty of Esav must precede the kingship of Yaakov, who has the patience to see the long picture of history. The same Esav who cannot wait for his lentil soup and therefore sells the eternal birthright for the immediate but passing pleasure will rule in the short term. But eventually the kingship will pass onto Yaakov who has the patience and foresight to prepare for a leading role for all of eternity.

Chazal often set up Esav and Yaakov as dichotomous paradigms. The rise of one simultaneously means the fall of the other. The Gemara says that one should not believe a person if he says that Caesarea and Yerushalayim are both destroyed or both settled. The only possible reality is that one should be settled while the other destroyed.

For many centuries Yerushalayim has patiently waited for her time to come. It is only after to two thousand years since the beginning of Roman rule over Yerushalayim that the city's star has begun to rise. Our patience is being finally rewarded. However, while the full redemption could come at any moment, as of yet it has been unfolding as a slow and gradual process, filled with setbacks and stagnation. In this time period it is crucial to not lose the faithful patience that we have exercised for the past two thousand years.^[4] We pray that full redemption should come speedily, but in the event that it is delayed, we must remain steadfast and confident in our belief that the world will one day reach the utopian era with Yerushalayim as its capital.

^[1] Bereishit 33:14.

^[2] Translation from Chabad.org.

^[3] Bereishit 36:31.

^[4] Based on Rav Shlomo Aviner's article "Mahi Yerushalayim" available at http://www.daat.ac.il/he-il/kitveyet/bisde_hemed/aviner-yerushalayim.htm.

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(last week) **Parashat Vayeitzei** ([click here](#))

### People and Place

People and place are intimately connected. The Navi records that the people of Yericho related to Elisha that their city water was bad and was causing deaths among them. However, they preface their statement with the exclamation that "behold the city is a good place to live in, as my lord sees" and only then reach the point that "but the water is bad and the land causes people to die."<sup>[1]</sup> The Gemara notes their curious presentation – if the city's water was killing its inhabitants then why did they describe it as a good place – and concludes that "the charm of a place is on its inhabitants."<sup>[2]</sup> Rashi explains that even an objectively negative situation can be seen in a more positive light due to the warm feelings that one has toward their hometown.

A similar idea is expressed in one of the opening Rashi's to our parsha. On the word "And Yaakov left," Rashi comments: Scripture had only to write: "And Yaakov went to Haran." Why did it mention his departure? But this tells [us] that the departure of a righteous man from a place makes an impression, for while the righteous man is in the city, he is its beauty, he is its splendor, he is its majesty. When he departs from there, its beauty has departed, its splendor has departed, its majesty has departed.<sup>[3]</sup> Not only does the place influence a person, but humans can help elevate a city.

This connection between person and place relates to our bond with Yerushalayim. When Yaakov is fleeing from Lavan he "encounters the place" which Chazal teach us is Yerushalayim.<sup>[4]</sup> Perhaps the lesson is that each Jew needs to consider Yerushalayim as "the place" for him or her. No matter where one is located and no matter even if one has ever visited Yerushalayim, it is still "the place" for a Jew.

If Yerushalayim is "the place" of every Jew then the bidirectional influence of person and place becomes relevant. Just as a person tends to look favorably on their hometown, the same applies about Yerushalayim. We must keep a positive outlook with warm feelings towards our capital city. And just as a tzadik influences his location, we have the awesome responsibility of helping elevate the holiest city in the world. Despite its innate sanctity, it is the duty of each Jew to uplift "the place" through our behavior and attitude towards it.

May we merit to see the upliftment of our people and our place!

- [1] Melachim 2, 2:19. Translations from Chabad.org.  
 [2] Sotah 47a  
 [3] Rashi to Bereishit 28:10  
 [4] Rashi to Bereishit 28:11



### *Upcoming Events. Mark Your Calendar*

***Shabbat Yerushalayim, January 13-14, 2017 at the Mikveh Israel (Historic) Synagogue in Philadelphia  
 Turn Super Bowl Sunday into Super Monday - February 6, 2017 at the Courtside Grill in Cedarhurst, NY  
 LIBI BAMIZRACH- Jerusalem Gala Dinner celebrating 50 yrs since the liberation of Jerusalem.  
 Wednesday evening 24th May (Motzei Yom Yerushalayim)  
 American Friends of Ateret Cohanim Annual Gala Celebration Dinner June 5, 2017 - Terrace on the Park***

### **A message from Ateret Cohanim in Israel**

**Ateret Cohanim welcomes the latest great news of David Friedman being appointed as the next US Ambassador to Israel.**

A proud Jew and exceptionally true friend and supporter of Israel, who believes in the natural right of Jews to live anywhere in their Homeland, including in United Jerusalem and Judea & Samaria - David will be a breath of fresh air, who will no doubt have a warm and close relationship with the Israeli Government, as the next US Ambassador to Israel.

Ateret Cohanim hopes that G-d will "keep" blessing David with wisdom, fortitude and strength, as "His Shaliach", in order to protect, and further the interests of Am Yisrael, B'Yerushalayim HaShleima and B'Eretz Yisrael.

**Hatzlacha Raba "Ambassador" David Friedman and Mazal tov to Tammy and the wider Friedman family.**

**Daniel Luria, Executive Director Ateret Cohanim**

**Mati Dan, Founder**

on behalf of the thousands of Jews living in the Old City of Jerusalem and its environs

*Statement from American Friends of Ateret Cohanim:*

The Executive Council of American Friends of Ateret Cohanim / Jerusalem Chai extends its heartfelt Mazel Tov and best wishes to Mr. David Friedman on being chosen by President-elect Donald Trump to be the next United States Ambassador to Israel. Mr. Friedman has been a staunch supporter and a vocal advocate for a united Jerusalem and has openly urged the president-elect to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the Jewish people. In a statement, Mr. Friedman said he was "deeply honored and humbled" that Trump selected him to represent the US in Israel, and that he aimed to "strengthen the bond between our two countries and advance the cause of peace within the region, and look forward to doing this from the US embassy in Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem."

Mr. Friedman has been a long and generous supporter to American Friends of Ateret Cohanim and we thank him for his past support and friendship.

We look to the Heavens and beseech the Almighty to guide him with "סיעתא דשמייא" (siyata d'shmaya- help of Heaven) in his work on behalf of the people and government of the United States of America.

**Dr. Joseph Frager, Chairman**

Members of the Executive Council:

Dr. Paul Brody, Dr. Jonathan Halpert, Robert Koppel, Ruben Margules, Mark Moerdler, Dr. Gerald Platt, Dr. Steve Rubel, Rabbi Joseph Stamm, Mel Wadler

**Shoshana Hikind, Executive Vice President**

### ***Jerusalem, always on our minds***

Leading up to the 50th Anniversary of the unification and liberation of Our Holy City and Capital we bring you pictures of Jerusalem today and yesterday

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The View from Beit HaTzalam



Dr and Mrs Irving and Tova Friedman



**Rosh Hashana 5777** marked the beginning of the 50<sup>th</sup> year since the redemption of Jerusalem during the Six Day War. It was our soldiers and our leaders who looked upward with trust and faith as they hoisted the Israeli flag on the Har Habayit and lovingly touched the stones of the Kotel, the Western Wall, after 2000 years of physical separation. Our commitment and deep appreciation to their service and sacrifice will IY”H ensure that Jerusalem always remains in the secure hands of the Jewish people. Protecting the families who live there today is our duty and responsibility. This cannot be their struggle alone. **Become their partner. Please Donate Now**

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**SILVER LININGS**  
a movie produced by  
American Friends of Ateret Cohanim  
to understand our unique connection to Jerusalem

