



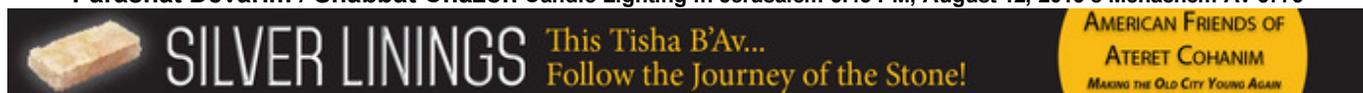
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## American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai ....Making the Old City young Again

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Parashat Devarim / Shabbat Chazon Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 6:45 PM, August 12, 2016 8 Menachem Av 5776



# וכל המתאבל על ירושלים זוכה ורואה בשמחתה

### 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 Gain of Pain

At the end of their forty year sojourn the Jews are finally at the cusp of entering the Land. We can all imagine their eager anticipation to see the Promised Land with their own eyes and commence with the next stage in their history. But before they are allowed to enter, Moshe embarks on a speech that comprises nearly a fifth of the entirety of Chumash.

One might expect Moshe to begin by delivering an inspirational talk about the importance of the Land of Israel, its sanctity and centrality. He might remind them of its physical and spiritual bounty. But while Moshe does emphasize these points later in Sefer Devarim, he begins on a decidedly different note.

Moshe begins his address by recounting all of the sins of people throughout their time in the desert. He berates them over their unfaithfulness and rebukes them for their questioning. We can imagine the deflation and emotional pain spreading through the audience. At the edge of the realization of their dreams they are forced to relive their worst moments. Why does Moshe, so to speak, ruin the mood with his depressing remarks?

Perhaps an answer can emerge from a deeper understanding of the fourteenth bracha of Shemona Esreih – *Boneh Yerushalayim*. Commentators to the siddur are troubled that we conclude the bracha in present tense – that Hashem is the builder of Yerushalayim. As a prayer for a future redemption the bracha might have been more appropriately formulated in the future tense – that Hashem should and will rebuild Yerushalayim in the future. After all, the rest of the bracha is indeed phrased in the future tense – “Hashem may you return to Yerushalayim your city and dwell there...”

Perhaps we can suggest that throughout the long exile Yerushalayim was constantly and still is constantly being built - but only at the end of the bracha. The process of rebuilding begins with feeling the loss of not having a proper Yerushalayim, a feeling that is hard to engender on a regular basis. But if we seize the opportunity that prayer presents to us and have the proper intentions when reciting the bracha then we will begin to truly mourn over Yerushalayim. And it is after this feeling of pain and loss that at the end of the bracha we can say *boneh Yerushalayim* in the present tense – that our pain and longing itself is part of the

### From My Heart to Yours, as Jews who Really Care About Our Brothers and Sisters:

Shani Hikind  
 Executive Vice President

The Three Weeks are upon us leading up to the saddest day on the Jewish calendar, Tisha B'Av, when we will mourn collectively for the destruction not only of two majestic Holy Temples in Jerusalem but also for all of the tragedies that have befallen our people over thousands of years. The tears that have been shed by the Jewish people could fill the oceans the world over. Are WE going to cry? Can we possibly feel the pain that millions of Jews have felt over the centuries at the hands of our enemies who tried to destroy us? Can we, in 2016, in the comfort of our air conditioned homes and shuls, living in a country blessed with unlimited freedom and liberty, harness the emotion that enables us to feel for lives cut down in their prime due to unmitigated hatred, prejudice and ignorance?

Can we, in any way, possibly comprehend the tragic loss of such magnificent holy temples and the accompanying slaughter and dispersion of the Jewish people, not once, but twice? We know that "in every generation they rise up to destroy us," and sadly, this is as true today as at any time in our history.

So what is the answer friends? Is there an antidote to all this pain and anguish? Are we destined to mourn forever and ever?

Will we ever reach that yearned for time when there will be ahavat chinam versus sinat chinam and thereby merit the rebuilding of a magnificent bait hamikdash in our eternal capital? Can we possibly envision a time when the Jewish people will herald the coming of moshiach and Rabbi Akiva's vision will be realized of sacrifices being made to Hashem in a third Holy Temple?

May I humbly suggest that part of the prophecy has been fulfilled for over 37 years by the devoted Ateret Cohanim families who live with tremendous mesirut nefesh in the heart of Jerusalem, in the so called Moslem and Christian quarters of the Old City, in Yemenite Village - what the world refers to as Silwan – and in Kidmat Zion and Maalei HaZeitim (our new community on the Mount of Olives). These fearless Jews could live anywhere in Israel, but they choose to live in the neighborhoods closest to the Kotel, closest to where someday,

building process. It is as the Gemara in Ta'anit famously says, "whoever mourns over Yerushalayim will merit to see it in its joy,"<sup>[1]</sup> meaning to say that the very act of mourning is considered by Hashem to be another brick in the ultimate building. Feelings of pain, longing and mourning are not pleasant to experience, but they are necessary psychological and spiritual steps in order to attain the desired goal of a rebuilt Yerushalayim.<sup>[2]</sup>

The same is true regarding the Jewish people encamped right outside of the Land. Before they hear about the greatness of the land they need to relive the sins that caused their thirty-eight year delay. The pain, longing and mourning that they experienced were integral to their preparations towards entering the Land.

So while this Tisha B'av will not be a pleasant or easy experience, let us use the opportunity it presents to relive the tragedies and losses of Jewish history. And let us keep in the back of our mind that this very pain is part of the rebuilding.

<sup>[1]</sup> Ta'anit 30a

<sup>[2]</sup> A similar idea can be found in Rav Chaim Feinstein, *Bi'urim ve-Sichot be-Inyanei ha-Mikdash ve-HaGalut*, pg. 12.

**SILVER LININGS**  
a movie produced by  
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**From the Wittenberg Play Center**  
*Our play center brings out the best in creativity*

with G-d's help, the Jewish people WILL merit to see the Bais HaMikdash rebuilt.

In the meantime, their lives are imbued with holiness living in renewed Jewish neighborhoods out of a staunch commitment to keeping Jerusalem united with Jewish life. They can only do this because of a remarkable commitment to Torah, Eretz Yisrael and Am Yisrael, all the components necessary to bringing about the end of mourning for the destroyed Bait HaMikdash and the joy we will see with the rebuilding of the Bait HaMikdash.

But our brothers and sisters need our help. They need us standing by their side in words and deed. We cannot just cry and mourn. We must act! We must give! We must show Hashem that we care about Yerushalayim and it cannot be desecrated by the absence of Jewish life!



Therefore, now, during the 3 Weeks, give of yourself to help our amazing families who are living the dream of bringing Holiness to Yerushalayim by their presence in the Holy City. They are not just there for themselves. They are there for YOU! **Because Jerusalem is the heart and soul of the Jewish people. And it is not enough to cry and mourn. We have to CARE! And if one cares, one does something to show he cares. Otherwise, caring is simply meaningless.**

On a personal note, I just returned from a wonderful trip to Israel to surprise my brother for his 60th birthday. Family is important to all of us, and I joined the family in Efrat. But besides my terrific brother and his terrific family, I have lots of other family in Israel. I have a "sister", Nira Rabinovitch, who just moved into Beit Rachel in Yemenite Village. Talk about guts! Nira and her darling children and husband live around the corner from someone termed the "Snake of Silwan", responsible for the instigation of many terrorist attacks committed against our families in Yemenite Village. When I asked Nira how she can live in such close proximity to such a hate filled person, her answer was simple: "we have bitachon". Bitachon as in faith in G-d and bitachon as in a police presence round the clock in the village. Need I say more.

Please, please act now and donate to help us with one of the projects listed below. The next time you go to Jerusalem, you will see what a difference Ateret Cohanim is making in the heart of Jerusalem. We will mourn on Tisha B'Av, but we can also smile and be joyful witnessing the renewal of Jewish life in OUR Jerusalem.

Wishing all of you a meaningful 9 days, an easy fast and a meaningful Tisha B'Av. We pray for the end of bloodshed and only for besurot tovot - good news - for the Jewish people and for all good people throughout the world.

With love of Israel,  
Shani Hikind  
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**Donate Now**

**SECURITY CAMERAS**  
**NEEDED ASAP**

The Police of the Old City  
approached Ateret Cohanim requesting 12 cameras on very



Children visit the Natural History Museum in Beit Shemesh

**SHOW THE WORLD THAT WE ARE PROUD AND NOT AFRAID**

**Plan your tour of Jerusalem During the Summer Months**  
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**FROM ANY ANGLE,  
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 JERUSALEM LOOKS BEAUTIFUL**

VIEW FROM BEIT HANOF

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 AND SEE OUR JERUSALEM!**

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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.

- 9 static cameras required at \$3000 each (5 cameras already sponsored as of mid July 2016)
- 3 moveable-rotating cameras required at \$8500 each

**SUMMER DAY CAMPS**

Help subsidize all our children and youth activities .Kids need a "break" from the pressures, tension and difficult security situation of the Old City and neighborhoods outside the Old City. Help us give them an enjoyable summer.

- Young children (3-12 yrs) - \$8700
- Girls: 13-16 years - \$7600
- Boys: 13-16 years - \$8100

**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**



Shani Hikind, Executive Vice President speaking at YI of Great Neck

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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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