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American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai

....Making the Old City young Again



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Parashat Tetzaveh פרשת תצוה Shabbat Zachor Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 4:55 PM February 27, 2015 Adar 7, 5775

A Purim Message

Daniel Luria, Executive Director, Ateret Cohanim, Jerusalem

Shalom from Jerusalem

In a few days we will celebrate the happy festival of Purim, our victory over the Amalek of that generation (Haman, his sons and others). The Jewish people are threatened with physical destruction, yet G-d works in mysterious ways and behind the scenes, and between Queen Esther and Mordechai, we pull off a great victory of survival and victory. Ever since, we send gifts to friends (Mishloach Manot), we have gifts for the needy (Matanot LaEvyonim), reading of the story - Megillah Esther, happiness, drinking to the point of real joy touched with a little confusion, and of course the eating of Haman's "ears" (Hamantashen) !!

That's in a nutshell.

But who knows the real story? Who has ever read the Book of Ezra to give some historical One quote to whet the appetite

:

"Also i make a decree concerning what ye shall do to these elders and builders -the Jews who are building the House of G-d,and Jerusalem.....that goods, tribute...expenses be given with all diligence...wheat, salt, wine...LET IT BE GIVEN....and anyone who alters this word, let a beam be pulled from his house, let him be lifted and fastened thereon and let his house become a dunghill..." (Ezra Chapter 6)

NO - It's not a fund raising call by Ateret Cohanim ! This was King Darius (son of Queen Esther) who called upon the Jews of the Persian Empire to help support the Jews of Jerusalem, by giving everything from gold and silver to food, to those pioneers and builders who were trying to rebuild Jerusalem, its walls and the Temple.

You see: King Achashverosh stops the building of Jerusalem and the Temple, due to letters of hate from the sons of Haman and the international community at the time. The story of Purim with Mordechai/Esther/Haman unfolds and it's the son of Queen Esther - King Darius who once again (following in the footsteps of the earlier Persian King Cyrus) allows for Jerusalem and the Temple-Beit HaMikdash to be rebuilt. Amazing ! Purim - It's all about Jerusalem!

New Family Moves in to Beit Ovadia in the Yemenite Village



Ateret Cohanim supporters and recent guest of honor Moshe Messner from Nachlaot and Monsey with the new resident of Beit Ovadia, Chana Zagah and her son. Chana's husband was in Yeshiva at the time.

So - Is there are a message for today?

I'll leave it for you to decide! Perspective? How many people know that the whole story of Purim really centers around whether we can, or can't build Jerusalem!

Its all about Jerusalem, belonging to the Jewish People who wish to rebuild and reclaim the city versus the Persians, the Samaritans, the sons of Haman who want to see the city internationalized and not in the hands of the Jewish People.

I recommend that everyone reads the Book of Ezra, before Purim.

continue reading, [click here](#). For a PDF Version, [click here](#)

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](#)

Yerushalayim – the Antidote to Amalek

The need to eradicate Amalek is mentioned twice in the Torah. While the accounts mostly overlap, the two passages seem to place the responsibility for this inter-generational battle on different parties. In Parshat Beshalach we are told “Hashem maintains a war against Amalek from generation to generation,” putting the onus on God himself. However, in Ki-Teitzei the obligation rests squarely on the Jewish people – “You shall wipe out the memory of Amalek.” How are we to understand this divided responsibility?

The simple resolution to this contradiction is that the Jewish people, as God’s terrestrial representatives, are obligated to fight Amalek on behalf of Hashem. The Pesikta, however, offers an alternative interpretation:

Rebbi Yehoshua ben Levi in the name of Rebbi Alexanderus said: “Once Amalek stretches his hand against the throne of Hashem – ‘And Yerushalayim was the throne of Hashem’ (Yirmiyah 3:17) – he is immediately uprooted from the world. Before [Amalek] stretches his hand to Yerushalayim then “You shall destroy.” Once [Amalek] stretches his hand [to Yerushalayim] then “a war between Hashem and Amalek.”

According to this midrash it is Amalek’s attack on Yerushalayim that will precipitate a fundamental shift in the war as Hashem himself will then enter the battlefield. Amalek and Yerushalayim are antithetical entities and therefore Amalek’s attack on Yerushalayim signifies the peak of the conflict and the beginning of its ultimate defeat in the hands of Hashem.

Amalek represents a philosophy of chance and happenstance, denying God’s involvement in the processes of our world. According to this outlook historical events occur at the whim of natural forces and arbitrariness, the miracle of life is a mere biological chance and consciousness amounts to nothing more than chemicals in the brain. When direct contact with God is lacking, it is possible to look at

A Message from the US Senate



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 playground for Beit Gavriel..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

the world around us and see its complexity and beauty as the result of meaningless randomness.

Yerushalayim is the antidote to such an attitude. As the "throne of Hashem" in this world Yerushalayim supplies us with the direct experience of Hashem which is transformative as it is overwhelming. Walking through the streets of this ancient-modern city and sensing its pulse can be a sufficient exercise to expel any vestige of doubt that Amalek has planted within us. One feels the presence of Hashem in His city and is changed. Thereafter, it is impossible to look at the world and ourselves and see anything but the direct hand of Hashem. Hashem reveals himself to us on His throne and through that revelation he assists us in defeating Amalek's ideology.

May we merit to realize the Divine providence that is centered on Yerushalayim.

1. Shemot 17:16. Translations are from the Stone edition.
2. Devarim 25:19
3. Ramban Shemot 17:14.
4. Pesikta Rabati (Ish Shalom) Piska 12 – Zakhor.
5. See Rashi, Devarim 25:18; Resisei Laiylah siman 18.

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See our Jerusalem!**

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" 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,
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 OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM IS CALLING

THIS PESACH VISIT THE CITY OF OUR ANCESTORS: OUR JERUSALEM

SHIELD OF JERUSALEM TOUR
 PART DRIVING PART WALKING
 VISIT NEW JEWISH NEIGHBORHOODS AROUND THE OLD CITY AND THEN WALK IN THE RENEWED JEWISH YISHUV OF THE OLD CITY (MOSLEM & CHRISTIAN QUARTERS)
 THIS TOUR WILL BE OFFERED BEFORE & AFTER PESACH
 MEET AT THE INBAL
 THURSDAY APRIL 2, SUNDAY APRIL 12 10:00 AM

OLD CITY ATERET COHANIM WALKING TOUR (RENEWED JEWISH YISHUV PLUS ZEDOKIAHS CAVE, MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN QUARTERS) AND/OR
NEW YEMENITE VILLAGE WALKING TOUR (SHILOACH)
 CHOL HAMOED PESACH, MEET AT JAFFA GATE
 MONDAY APRIL 6, TUESDAY APRIL 7, THURSDAY APRIL 9 10:00 AM
 DIFFERENT TIMES MAY BE AVAILABLE

PRIOR RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE
www.jerusalemchai.org/tours
 212-216-9270 ISRAEL 0546544407
ateret@juno.com dljerusalem@gmail.com

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATERET COHANIM


the families and Yeshiva students who have returned to areas that were once predominantly Jewish.

Save the Date!!

JERUSALEM CHAI

ANNUAL YOM YERUSHALAYIM DINNER
TUESDAY EVENING MAY 18, 2015
TERRACE ON THE PARK, QUEENS, NY

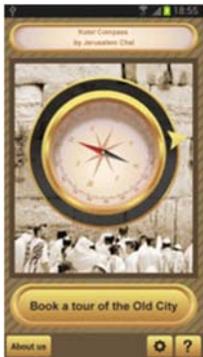
WWW.JERUSALEMCHAI.ORG 212-216-9270 ATERET@JUNO.COM



תשע"ה - 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.
Lehitraot BaAretz

Our Kotel Compass



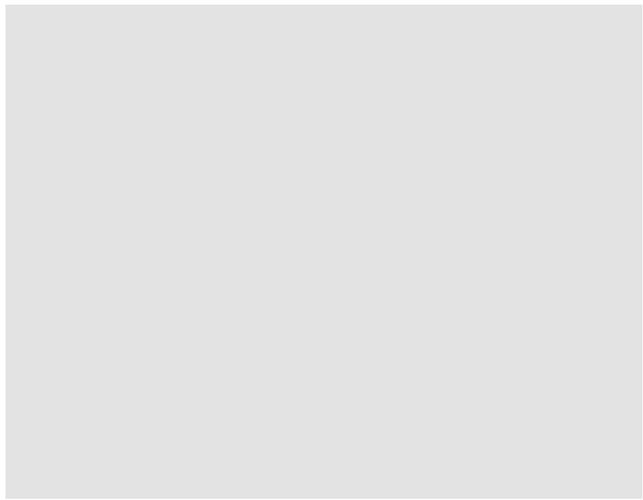
Always pointing in the direction of Jerusalem (and follows the halacha in Israel). A phone app and companion for your trip to Israel. The Kotel Compass App (Available in the ISTORE or ANDROID MARKET) is free and you can book your tour from the App.

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