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



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Parashat Vaera / פרשת וארא Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 4:11 PM, January 8, 2016 Tevet 27, 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](#).

A Morasha Identity

Our parsha begins with Hashem's assurance that He will redeem the Jews from Egypt. The climax of the series of promises is that Hashem will not only bring them to the Land of Israel to live in, but that the Land will belong to them - "I shall give it to you as a heritage (*morasha*), I am Hashem."^[1] This rare word - "*morasha*" - can teach us a great deal about our relationship with the Land of Israel in general and Yerushalayim in particular.

The only other appearance of the word *morasha* in Chumash is in Moshe's final description of the Torah: "The Torah that Moshe commanded us is a heritage (*morasha*) for the Congregation of Ya'akov."^[2] The midrash^[3] comments that the phrase "*morasha kehilat ya'akov*" demonstrates the relationship between each individual and the Torah:

Lest one say: "there are children of elders, children of great people, children of prophets [and they are meant to study Torah]" the verse states "For if you observe..." which teaches us that all are equal in the Torah. And verse states "The Torah that Moshe commanded us is a heritage for the Congregation of Ya'akov."

A *morasha* is an item that all Jews have a share in. The Torah is so essential for the identity of a Jew that it could not be limited to a select few. It must be the heritage of the entire Jewish people.

The same can be said regarding the Land of Israel. When the Jewish people

Shani Hikind, Executive Vice President Invites You To Tour With Us When You Visit Jerusalem



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TOMORROW IS TOO LATE.

Daniel Luria, Executive Director of Ateret Cohanim talks about a new bold plan to build a Children's Center in the Yemenite Village

initially entered the Land each person received a portion that was to remain within that family's line forever more. Being connected to the Land of Israel is so essential to our identity as Jews that each individual Jew must own a portion of the Land. Even today when the majority of Jews are in exile there are still halachic ramifications of each Jew being connected to a specific parcel of land in Israel. [4]

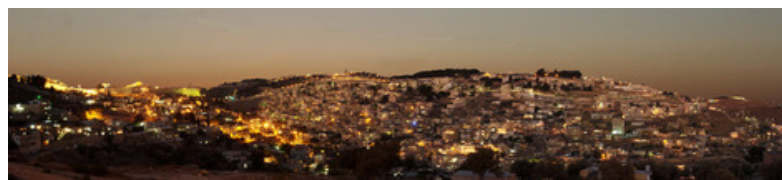
If this is true about the Land of Israel as a whole, it is all the more true regarding Yerushalayim. Through the system of pilgrimages, Yerushalayim is the only location in which all Jews must spend part of their year. While halachikly there is no obligation to visit Yerushalayim on a holiday when there is no Beit ha-Mikdash, there is an ancient custom to still make a point of visiting Yerushalayim on Pesach, Shavu'ot and Sukkot. [5] The Tzitz Eliezer [6] explains that this custom is based on the feeling that each Jew has that Yerushalayim is part of their identity.

It is because this place is the source of the nourishment of the sanctity of the Jewish people as a whole and of each individual that consciously or subconsciously [Jews still visit Yerushalayim].

May we all realize that Torah, the Land of Israel and the city of Yerushalayim are a fundamental part of our Jewish identity.

[1]Shemot 6:8.
 [2]Devarim 33:4.
 [3]Sifre Devarim piska 48.
 [4]See Tosfos Bava Batra 44b s.v. "delo havah".
 [5]See, for example, Shir ha-Shirim Rabbah 4:2.
 [6]Tzitz Eliezer 10:1:(93)

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View of Jerusalem from the Yemenite Village

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Arts & Crafts Activity with Children In The Wittenberg Play Center

In our children's chugim we spoke about ancient pottery and ancient Hebrew script. The kids sketched beautiful pictures on real ancient pottery that came from an archaeological excavation at Tel Azeka which overlooks Emek HaElah - the site of the battle of David and Goliath. Archeologists didn't need the ancient shards and left a huge pile for visitors to take. They kids wrote their names on the back of the shards they decorated in the ancient Hebrew.



Our Challenges for the Calendar Year Ahead

- Completing the Flowers Gate playground and Flowers Gate Garden
- Enhanced Security Projects
- Nursery in Beit Rachel
- Hospitality room which doubles as children's playroom in Kidmat Zion
- Playroom in Beit Ovadia
- Adopt A Family projects which include ceiling work, new kitchens, adding kitchen cupboards, redoing piping in kitchens.
- Neot David renovation.

Additional Ongoing Projects

Security Projects:

- Emergency/medical equipment in compounds,
- Self defense classes for youth,
- Cameras, lighting, pepper spray

Beit Wittenberg Family needs:

auxillary help for families in Beit Wittenberg affected psychologically and traumatized by recent terror attacks.

Youth activities in the Old City and its environs:

Renovation and dedication of apartments in the area to add Jewish families or students

Major restoration of Beit Wittenberg as a monumental heritage house (Mark Twain also stayed in the building in 1867)

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5776 - תשע"ו May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (עיר), and her residents. ('יושביה') 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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