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Parashat Achrei Mot / פרשת אחרי מות (US) Parashat Kedoshim / פרשת קדשים (Israel)
Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 6:43 PM, May 6, 2016 Nissan 28, 5776



Join us as we celebrate the 37th (HaLev)
Year of Ateret Cohanim - May 31, 2016
Terrace on the Park-Flushing Queens

honoring
The Honorable Bruce & Segal Blakeman
Dr. Steve & Hedy Rubel
Drs. William & Farla Frumkin and
Joseph & Dr. Gail Frumkin Notovitz
Rabbi Joseph & Anne Stamm

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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](#)

This Yerushalayim

Our parsha begins with a description of the most sacred of all services – the Kohen Gadol’s service on Yom Kippur. This service differs from the average routine of the Beit ha-Mikdash in two ways. First, the Torah establishes an ambitious goal for the Yom Kippur ritual – nothing less than complete atonement for the accumulated sins of the people. This unique goal requires a unique service. Therefore, included in this service is the Kohen Gadol’s dangerous entry into the Holy of Holies, a place normally forbidden to humans due to its intense sanctity. The Gemara records that entry into the Holy of Holies required strict obedience and pure intentions and any deviation would result in a certain death of the Kohen Gadol.

Considering the lofty ambitions and inherent dangers of the Yom Kippur service, what guarantee did the Kohen Gadol have that he would be safe and successful? The Midrash[1] grapples with this question straight away in the first verse of the parsha:

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATERET COHANIM / JERUSALEM CHAI
INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE 37TH (הלב) YEAR OF ATERET COHANIM
Tuesday Evening, May 31, 2016 | 23rd of Iyar, 5776
Terrace On The Park | 52-11 111th Street | Flushing Meadows, Queens, New York
Dinner Reception 6:00 PM
Program 7:30 PM followed by Dessert Reception
The dinner is dedicated to the memory of Rabbi Mechemia Lavi z"l and to the rebirth of the Yemeneite Village in the Shiloach
GUESTS OF HONOR AND BONEI YERUSHALAYIM HONOREES:
The Honorable Bruce & Segal Blakeman
Dr. Steve & Hedy Rubel
Drs. William & Farla Frumkin and Joseph & Dr. Gail Frumkin Notovitz
Continuing the legacy of their great great grandfather, Israel Dov Frankel
Rabbi Joseph & Anne Stamm
Special Appearances by:
Danny Danon, The Honorable Ambassador of Israel to the United Nations
and the Honorable Governor Mike Huckabee
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For Reservations:
Please Call 212-216-9270
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"With this (*be-zot*) Aharon should enter the Holy" – Rav Yudan interpreted the verse that when the Kohen Gadol enters the Holy of Holies he has bundles and bundles of mitzvot in his hand. In the merit of the Torah as the verse says "This is the Torah" (*zot ha-torah*). In the merit of Milah as the verse says "This is my covenant" (*zot beriti*)... In the merit of Yerushalayim as the verse says "This is Yerushalayim" (*zot Yerushalayim*).

The midrash is commenting on the word "with this" (*be-zot*) in the initial description of Aharon's entry into the Holy of Holies. While the simple meaning of verse is that "with this" refers to all of the sacrifices that Aharon is obligated to offer throughout the day, the midrash adds that it is only in the merit of the mitzvot that are also referred to as "this" (*zot*) that Aharon can successfully and safely execute his mission.

What is the significance of the word "this" and what merit do these mitzvot and concepts provide? Perhaps one can suggest an interpretation based on a series of other midrashim regarding the word "this".

When Hashem relates the mitzvah of Rosh Chodesh to Moshe he uses the term "this month" (*ha-chodesh ha-zeh*). The Midrash^[2] interprets the emphasis of the word "this" to mean that it was as if Hashem showed the new moon to Moshe with His finger. In several other places as well, the Midrash interprets the extra word of "this" (*zeh*) to mean that the item was clearly in front of the person and was being point to.^[3]

Let us now apply the above definition of "this" to Aharon's service on Yom Kippur. When Aharon entered the Holy of Holies he needed to have a clear vision in his mind's eye of Yerushalayim and the other items mentioned – clear enough that it is as if he would be able to point to it. It is this ability to keep Yerushalayim and the other items in the forefront of his mind that would ensure his safety and success in his awesome mission.

This teaches us of the crucial significance of simply keeping Yerushalayim in our consciousness. Even simply thinking about our Holy City and spending some time creating a mental image of the ideal city is valuable.

[1]Vayikra Rabbah, Acharei Mot 21:6

[2]Mechilta d'Rebbi Yishmael, Masechte D'Pis'cha, parsha 1.

[3]See, for example, Sifre Bamidbar piska 61 and piska 136.

[click here for a pdf copy](#)

Children preparing for Yom Haatzmaut at our Wittenberg Center

In the chug we talked about different Jewish symbols. Normally we focus on the menorah because it's our most ancient symbol and represents the desire to return to Yerushalayim. Today we focused on the origin of the Israeli flag (Herzl, David Wolfson, the tallit etc), and different kabbalistic meanings of the Magen David....including the 2 triangle seder plate of the Arizal.



Learn what Ateret Cohanim is doing!!

Become our Partner and support our ongoing Projects

- Beit Wittenberg Childrens and Older Youth Activities Center \$3,000
- Four Yaldei Tzion V'Yerushalayim Nurseries \$2000
- Monthly Hosting of Students in our neighborhoods for Shabbat: \$1,200
- 3 Closed Circuit TV Surveillance Systems \$70,000

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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Continuing the cleanup in the Yemenite Village Thanks to Rabbi Ben Packer and his team of volunteers



Cleaned up building debris in front of the Yemenite Synagogue in Silwan





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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.

SHOW THE WORLD THAT WE ARE PROUD AND NOT AFRAID
Plan your tour of Jerusalem on Yom Haatzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim
[CLICK HERE](#)

Walk the same streets and alleyways of the previous generation (1945) as they prayed in the Old City for the victims of the Shoah



סרטון נדיר משנת תש"ה של העיר העתיקה בירושלים ורחבת הכותל המערבי. באדיבות ישראל גליס

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