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



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Parashat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim / פרשת אחרי מות-קדשים Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 6:34 PM, April 25,  
2015 6 Iyyar 5775

## 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 week's Dvar Torah sponsored by the **Essrog Family**:

לז"נ העניע בריינע בת הרב צבי הירש ע"ה  
ה"לז"נ יצחק שמואל בן הרב שמעון דוב ע

## Yom Ha-Atzmaut

Many speak of the events of Yom ha-Atzma'ut as *atchalta de-ge'ulah* "the beginning of the redemption." The connection between the rise of the State of Israel and the beginning of the redemptive process has been concretized for many communities by the perek of Tehillim designated by the Israeli chief rabbinate to recite on Yom ha-Atzma'ut – "Ashrei Ge'ulei Hashem" This time period, then, is an appropriate time to delve into the concept of "ge'ulah."

In the beginning of Netzach Yisrael, the Maharal offers a basic definition of "galut" and "ge'ulah." He posits that, galut, at its core, refers to an unnatural state of being, while ge'ulah connotes a "natural" situation which jives with the divinely ordained "order of reality." For this reason, the Torah refers to the process of returning fields to their rightful owners as "ge'ulah." Each family has its "natural" plot of land as determined by the divine lottery and the recreation of this natural connection is an act of redemption.

What is true of an individual family is true of the nation. We should not think of the scattering of the Jewish people all over the globe and be bereft of political autonomy as a simple inconvenience or as a historical reality that impedes our full fulfillment of the Torah. The dissonance of *galut* is deeper than that. When the Jewish people are dispersed among the nations there is something unsettled about the proper order of the world. Things are not as they are meant to be. As things must revert to their divinely

## In Honor of Yom Ha-Atzmaut



**The New Yemenite Village Website**  
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ordained natural state, ge'ulah, in the form of the Jewish people's return to the Land of Israel must occur at some point in the future.

If this conceptualization of *galut* and ge'ulah is taken to its logical conclusion then the ultimate ge'ulah will only take place when Jews gain sovereignty over the entirety of Yerushalayim. Of all places in the world, Yerushalayim stands out as the city which naturally draws Jews and that all Jews can feel at home within. The Nefesh ha-Chaim notes that when Yirmiyah is charged by Hashem to "call out in the ears of Yerushalayim" the name of the city is a referent for the entirety of the Jewish people." He explains that Yerushalayim and the Jewish people are interchangeable terms because the source of all Jewish souls is the heavenly Yerushalayim which is linked with the city on earth.

What emerges from the Nefesh ha-Chaim is the identification of the city with the people. Yerushalayim is the ultimate natural place for the Jewish soul. If so, according to the Maharal the process of redemption can only be completed when the world reverts to its natural state, with the Jewish people as the sole sovereigns over a Yerushalayim that contains the Beit ha-Mikdash. May we see the fulfillment of this prophecy speedily in our days.

[click here for a pdf copy](#)

**Our smiling boys after a great activity**



**Pesach Kaytana (Camp) Sponsored by American Friends of Ateret Cohanim**



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"

**Donate Now**

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

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## 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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תשע"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



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