

# American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai

....Making the Old City young Again



[Our Website](#) | [Tours](#) | [Donate](#) | [Advocacy](#)

Parashat Ha'Azinu / פרשת האזינו Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 5:52 PM September 25, 2015 Tishrei 12 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 Yom Tov table, please [click here](#). To sponsor a Dvar Torah please [click here](#)*

## The Top of the World

Parshat Ha'azinu succinctly tells the story of Jewish history. The first leg of the story is that Hashem will bring the Jews to the Land of Israel and grant them military and economic successes. One of the verses describing these successes is: [Hashem] would make him ride on the heights of the Land and have him eat the ripe fruits of the fields; He would suckle him with honey from a stone, and oil from a flinty rock.

What are “the heights of the land?” One opinion in the midrash understands it as signifying the Yerushalayim and the Beit ha-Mikdash:

He would make him ride on the heights of the Land - this is the Beit ha-Mikdash which is higher than the whole world as the verse states: “And you shall arise and ascend to the place” and it says “Many nations will go and they will say let us ascend to the Mountain of Hashem.”

This midrash is probably not referring to topography as there are many mountains in the world that are taller than Temple Mount. In what way, then, is the Beit ha-Mikdash and Yerushalayim the top of the world?

One set of commentators explain that since the world is spherical there is not actually a defined top or bottom. Rather, the notion of “height” refers to the starting point from which all else emerged. The first place that Hashem created on the globe that contained the rest of the world in potential was the “foundation rock” in the Beit ha-Mikdash. Commenting on the Mishna that refers to the rock in the Kodesh ha-Kadashim by this name, the Gemara quotes the following Braissa:

A Baraissa taught: Because from [this stone] the world was founded. We have learned in our Mishna a confirmation of the view that the world was created from Zion.

In the words of the Chatam Sofer – the Beit ha-Mikdash is “the center and the middle point.”

This point is not mere cosmology. Just as Hashem created the world through the Beit ha-Mikdash and Yerushalayim, He continues to sustain the world through them. Hashem bestows his material and spiritual bounty through Yerushalayim. Avot de-Rebbi Natan relates the following:

Whenever the service in the Beit ha-Mikdash exists, the world and its inhabitants are blessed, and rain comes down in its proper time.

The Alshich explains that the entire city of Yerushalayim as well, functions as a pipeline through which Hashem sends his blessing. From here we see the importance of what occurs in Yerushalayim and particularly on Temple Mount. May what occurs there change for the better!

1) Devarim 32:13. Translation from Stone edition.

2) Sifrei Devarim piska 317.

3) Devarim 17:8.

4) Yeshayahu 2:3

5) Shut Chasam Sofer Yoreh De'ah 234. See also Ba'al Me'or to Rosh HaShanah 20b for a possible halakhic ramification for the placement of the international dateline, and Beit Yitzhak volume 36, page 108 for an elaboration in the name of Rav Hershel Schachter.

[click here for a pdf copy](#)

*We Announce With Sorrow the Passing of*  
**Rabbi Eliyahu Avichail zt"l**

beloved father of Etya Dan, wife of Ateret Cohanim founder Mati Dan  
Rabbi Avichail was a dynamic religious leader who founded Amishav, the organization that helped  
the Bnei Menashe community to become full members of Israeli society

*This Succot help us build a canopy of protection  
over our children's playgrounds in East Jerusalem.*



PARTNER WITH  
**AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATERET COHANIM**

**block** by **block**  
**courtyard** by  
**courtyard**  
**neighborhood**  
by **neighborhood.**

Children living in the Shiloach (Silwan) and East Jerusalem are subject to:

**DAILY HARASSMENT • STONES AND ROCKS • FIREBOMBS**

We respond by building  
**SAFE AND PROTECTED PLAYGROUNDS**

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS: **\$18 • \$36 • \$72 • \$180 • \$360**

248 West 35th Street • NY, NY 10001 • 212-216-9270 • [jeruchai@gmail.com](mailto:jeruchai@gmail.com) • [www.jerusalemchai.org/donate](http://www.jerusalemchai.org/donate)

*Making the Old City young Again*

**VISIT ISRAEL NOW**

Book a Tour With Us During Succot [CLICK HERE](#)  
See our Jerusalem!

**Take a tour with us during Succot, YOU WILL NEVER forget the experience!**  
**Our View of the Old City from Kfar HaTeimanim**



[Our Website](#) | [Tours](#) | [Donate](#) | [Advocacy](#)

---

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

---

American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai  
248 West 35th Street  
New York, NY 10001  
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

**vertical**  
**response**  
A DELUXE COMPANY  
**Free Email Marketing >>**