

# American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai

....Making the Old City young Again



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Parashat Noach / נח - CandleLighting in Jerusalem 5:26 PM, October 16, 2015 Cheshvan 3, 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](#)

### The Consolation of Yerushalyim

When Noach first appears in last week's parsha, Rashi explains that the etymology of the name is not *nehamah* (consolation), but rather *no'ah* (to ease).[1] However, there are many midrashim that do in fact associate Noach with the great prophecies of consolation. For example, Midrash Tanchuma[2] makes the following comment:

Noach Noach [why does the verse repeat the name Noach]? Noach in this world and Noach in the world to come. Hashem says "When we come to console Yerushalayim, I swear by Noach the righteous that I will never again subjugate her children, as the verse states 'for like the waters of Noach shall this be to me: As I have sworn never again to pass the waters of Noach over the earth, so have I sworn to not be wrathful with you or rebuke you.'"[3]

Citing a verse from this week's haftorah, the Midrash notes that Hashem swears by Noach of the flood that the future consolation of Yerushalayim will be complete. Once the children of Yerushalayim are redeemed, they will never again be subjugated by a foreign force.

While the etymological the connection between Noach and consolation is clear, the deeper meaning of this connection seems elusive. In what way is Noach linked with the future redemption and consolation of Yerushalayim?

Perhaps we can suggest the following answer.[4] The prospects for the world in the time of Noach would have seemed extremely bleak to the objective observer. There was rampant immorality pervading all of human civilization and even extending into the animal kingdom. Hashem tried time after time to convince people to change their course, but to no avail. Eventually, the final blow arrived – in the end of parshat Bereishit Hashem condemned all living creatures to utter annihilation and expressed "regret" that He created them. The beautiful vision that Hashem had when looked at creation and saw that it was very good was completely shattered.

But then the Torah changes its tone. Amongst all of the black bleakness there is finally a ray of hope – "But Noach found grace in the eyes of Hashem." "Noach was a righteous man." [5] All of humanity was doomed to destruction, but there was still a silver lining. Hashem had found the single human worthy of being saved from the deluge through whom He would rebuild the fallen world.

## OPINION PIECE - by Daniel Luria

In 1851 Rabbi Avraham Shlomo Zalman Zoref was murdered in the alleyways of the Old City for being a Jew walking in the alleyways of Jerusalem!

He is the first officially recorded terror victim in Israel. Since 1851, we have seen many of our people murdered by Arab terrorists for being simply Jews living in Jerusalem or in Israel. We have seen the hate-filled Mufti Haj Amin El Hussein, who was on the Nazi payroll, who incited Arabs to murder Jews and who instigated the pogroms of 1928-9 and 1936-7. He also wanted to make Jerusalem and Israel - "Judenrein"

The tactics may have changed but the concept is the same. The Arab world in general and especially the radical Moslem fundamentalist world, will not accept a Jewish State in this region.

**Violence-hatred-terror-war** and the ongoing incitement in the PA-Hamas-WAKF and in many places throughout the Arab world (Plus the media and education in the schools) are all justifying the spilling of Jewish blood and that the Jewish State must be destroyed!

Even as late as a month ago, the so-called "moderate" PA leader Abbas incited the Palestinians to kill Jews and that every drop of Arab blood dropped for Jerusalem is holy, and is Allah's will !!!

I'm waiting for a Government official or some "respected world body" to explain why he shouldn't be at least arrested or tried in the international court of law ?

I'm waiting for some Israeli official to simply say, that we have no partner whatsoever for any form of peace, and that LAND FOR PEACE (Oslo) is dead!

**I'm also waiting for the Government to make the only true Zionist response to Arab terror and allow for a Jewish building project inside the Old City. (Flowers Gate Project)**

**Arabs destroy Jewish life...we must immediately add and establish Jewish life.**

The lesson of parshat Noach is that no matter how depressing, how dire and hopeless the situation, the vision always lives on. Even when all of humanity needs to be swept away by the waves of the flood, there is always hope beyond hope. Hashem will never completely abandon His projects and His visions are eternal.

The same is true regarding the redemption and consolation of Yerushalayim. Even when the situation seems bleak, hopeless and depressing, we need to remember the lesson of Noach. Hashem will not forsake his promise to Yerushalayim and the consolation will come.

**May we merit to see the complete consolation of Yerushalayim.**

[1]Rashi to Bereishit 5:29

[2]Midrash Tanchuma, Noach siman 6 (Buber).

[3]Yeshaya 54:9

[4]Inspired by the drasha of the Tiferet Shlomo for Shabbat Nachamu.

[5]Bereishit 6:8-9.

[click here for a pdf copy](#)

**Children from Ateret Cohanim Communities join in a communal shiva in memory of Rabbi Lavi HY"D and Aaron Banito Bennet HY"D outside Beit Wittenberg**



The 7 days of mourning for the Lavi and Benita families are now over and the "tent of protest-mourning-strength-resilience-Jewish pride" that was set up by the youth of the Old City, at the place of the murder is also now over. **The message has been sent to the Arab world.**

- **We will not be driven from "OUR" Jerusalem.**
- **We will not show and feel any fear.**
- **We will not limit our steps in the alleyways of the Old City.**
- **We are proud, we will double our Jewish presence in the Old City**
- **We will gain strength from these acts of Arab terror.**
- **We are a strong nation ready for any long or short battle.**
- **We have seen empires come and go and will also see the end of our Arab enemy.**

Yesterday was one of the most inspiring days of my life.



Yesterday, Neta Lavi (wife of Nechemiah hy'd), her children and the wider Lavi family, made the emotionally charged walk and returned to the Old City, to Beit Wittenberg and the place of the horrific murder of her husband.

Yesterday, Neta was "home" with her wider "family" of friends, the Old City youth and the general Ateret Co-

haniim community.

Yesterday, Neta and her family saw the empathy, the resilience, the strength and the power of the youth of the Old City, and of Am Yisrael, the Jewish People. She acknowledged the youthful group as did Nechemiah's mother.

Songs of Jerusalem, the soul of the Jewish People, never to despair, and songs of faith were sung by over 100 boys

and girls on the main thoroughfare of the Old City, for hours into the late afternoon and evening. Words of wisdom from the previous Chief Rabbi Amar uplifted all who attended.

Yesterday, Neta was given a very warm and teary hug from Tali Kerman whose husband Chaim hy'd, was also murdered by an Arab terrorist, 17 years ago in a nearby alleyway, also in the Old City. In that embrace, each tried to console and give or gain strength to one another.



Only them - two special, brave, resolute and regal ladies alone, could truly understand the loss, the pain and the struggle. They were in their own world for those few moments. Many in the crowd breathed deeply, sighed and some even cried. If emotions could speak - the words spoken were " I know, i feel for you, and we will not be broken" !

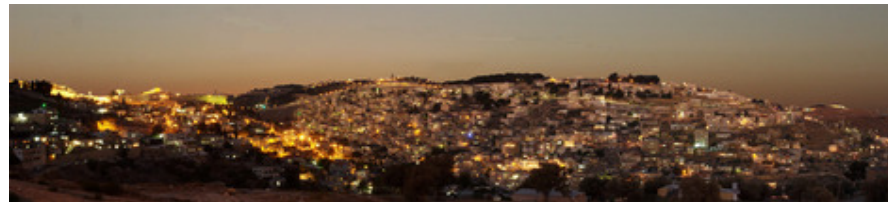


**SHOW THE WORLD THAT WE ARE NOT AFRAID**

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View of Jerusalem from the Yemenite Village

The Arabs may have cruelly taken the life of Rav Nechemiah hy'd. YES - They may have sent a pure person, a husband, a son and father, a Torah Jew who lived, breathed and taught Torah, from this physical world, BUT they can never take the soul, spirit or land from Am Yisrael-the Jewish People.

**We will not be disheartened or crushed. We will not be driven from Jerusalem or from Israel.**

We will carry on with the realization of the centuries old Zionist dream, of the return of the Jewish People to our land, we will invest and add more Jewish life to the heart of Jerusalem and we will push Moshiach forward!

As i write this email, hundreds of religious ideological youth (The Future of this country !!) have spontaneously come with Israeli flags and are singing songs of joy and of hope and Jerusalem, in Zion Square. In an atmosphere of tragic and horrific terror attacks by knife wielding sick Arab terrorists, this is one of the "Jewish medicines" and is raising the spirits of all around.

***This son - the true son of Abraham, the "lion of Judah", who was given this beautiful Land of Israel by G-d, has returned home, and we are here to stay!***

**FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO RESPOND TO ARAB TERROR HELP OR BE INVOLVED WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1) Security projects, emergency/medical equipment in compounds, self defense classes for youth, cameras, lighting, pepper spray
- 2) Beit Wittenberg Family needs - possible "auxillary" help for families in Beit Wittenberg affected psychologically and traumatized by recent terror attacks. And also possible project in area in memory of Rabbi Nechemiah Lavi hy'd.
- 3) Youth activities in the Old City and its environs.
- 4) Renovation and dedication of apartments in the area to ADD JEWISH FAMILIES OR STUDENTS.
- 5) Invest in our efforts to modernize apartments and **ADD JEWISH LIFE TO THE AREA** of old Jewish Quarter.
- 6) Major restoration of Beit Wittenberg as a monumental heritage house (Mark Twain also stayed in the building in 1867)

**We cry and mourn Rav Nechemia Lavi HY"D, but we still carry on living and redeeming.**

**Now, more than ever, We need YOU to help us  
Protect the Children living in East Jerusalem**



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*Making the Old City young Again*

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**AM YISRAEL IS NEEDED NOW.  
TOMORROW IS TOO LATE.**



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*The tragedy in the Old City has traumatized many of our children and their parents. However, they are committed and determined to continue to live and learn in the areas so called East Jerusalem which we refer to as the Old Yeshuv. Help them as they go through this difficult time in their lives.*

**Donate Now**

*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, including the Old City, Maaleh HaZeitim, The Yemenite Village (Shiloach) and Kidmat Zion



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.

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