

American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem ChaiMaking the Old City young Again



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Parashat Vayishlach / פרשת וישלח Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 3:55 PM, Nov 27, 2015 Kislev 15, 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 Promises to Yerushalayim

Yaakov Avinu received many promises from Hashem in his lifetime. When he was fleeing to Charan, Hashem appeared to Yaakov to tell him that He will protect Yaakov and bring him back safely to the Land of Israel. Upon his return to Beit Eil, Hashem once again promised Yaakov that He will give the Land of Israel to Yaakov's descendants. Finally, when Yaakov was once again traveling down to Mitzrayim to see his son Yosef, Hashem promised him to accompany the family on their journey and that He will eventually bring them back to the Land of Israel. As we know, all of these promises were fulfilled, some in Yaakov's lifetime, and some many centuries after Yaakov passed on.

The Midrash notes that there was one more promise made to Yaakov – and this one by an Esav's angel. Commenting on the verse in Yeshayahu: "He confirms the words of His servant, and fulfills the counsel of His messengers; He says of Jerusalem 'It shall be settled,'" Rabbi Levi says:

מזל טוב

Mazel tov to Sarah Litman and Ariel Bigel on their marriage last night, Thursday, November 26.

BY TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF November 26, 2015

Sarah Techiya Litman and Ariel Beigel married in Jerusalem on Thursday night, having invited the entire world to their wedding, which was postponed after Palestinian terrorists murdered the bride's father and brother. The couple had said they hoped "multitudes will come to make us happy."



Litman's father, Rabbi Yaakov Litman, and 18-year-old brother Netanel were shot dead in a November 13 terrorist attack while driving on Route 60 in the southern West Bank.

Other family members in the car — the mother, a 16-year-old boy and three young girls aged 11, 9 and 5 — were lightly wounded, suffering mostly from bruises and shrapnel injuries.

The family had been headed to a celebration in southern Israel to mark the imminent marriage.

Sarah Techiya and Ariel were due to be married on November 16, just four days after the attack, but the celebration was postponed as the Litman family sat shiva (Jewish mourning period) for Ya'akov and Netanel.

Among the well-wishers on Thursday night was Rabbi Mark Fishman of the Congregation Beth Tikvah in Montreal. The rabbi brought 11 of his congregation from Canada to Israel to join the wedding festivities.

"Instead of mourning, the Jewish people will dance. Instead of

One angel appeared to our forefather Yaakov and said to him, 'In the future, the Holy One blessed is He, will appear to you in Beth-el and He will change your name, and I too will be standing there.' And the Holy One, blessed is He, appeared to Yaakov to confirm the words of the angel. We may thus conclude that regarding the rebuilding of Yerushalayim, concerning which all the prophets prophesy, how much more so will He confirm the words of the prophets!

Rebbi Levi connects the fulfilled promise of Esav's angel to be present at Yaakov's official name-change, to the promises of the prophets that Yerushalayim will be redeemed and rebuilt in the future.

The lives of the Avos are prefigurations and lessons for the Jewish people. Yaakov lived the most troubled life of all of the Avot. He spent a significant number of years fleeing, fighting, and mourning his live son. His self-evaluation of his years is clearly expressed in a conversation with Paroah: *"The years of my sojourn [on earth] are one hundred and thirty. Few and hard have been the years of my life..."*

However, despite these trials and tribulations, and at times through them, Hashem fulfilled His promises. Yaakov was physically protected throughout his journeys and his children eventually returned to the Land of Israel, just as Hashem promised.

This is a model for the Jewish people as a whole. Hashem made many promises regarding the redemption and ultimate rebuilding of Yerushalayim. Since those promises were made, the Jewish people and Yerushalayim have experienced centuries of trials and tribulations. It would have been easy to look back at the prophecies of thousands of years ago as mere unrealistic dreams, but not something that could possibly become the reality.

The promises to Yaakov can strengthen our resolve. Just as Hashem fulfilled even the most distant promises to Yaakov Avinu, so too, we are certain that Hashem will completely redeem Yerushalayim, no matter how bleak current situation seems.

May we soon see the fulfillment of Hashem's promises to Yerushayim!

[1] Bereishit Rabbah 82:2. Translation is from the Artscroll edition.

[2] Yeshayahu 44:26.

[3] Bereishit 47:9 Translation is from the JPS edition.

[click here for a pdf copy](#)

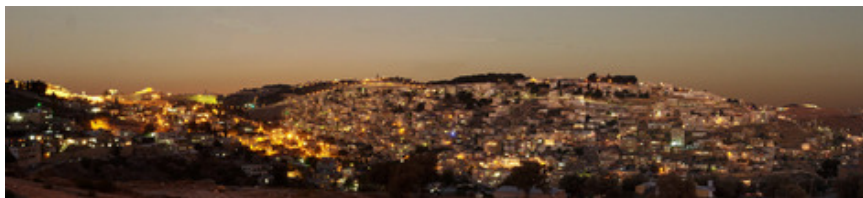
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View of Jerusalem from the Yemenite Village

crying, the Jewish people will sing. Instead of fear, the Jewish people will have courage. And like Sarah Litman, showing us and leading us with her example, we will go from distress to relief, from darkness to light, from subjugation to redemption," he told his congregation.

Hundreds of Israelis attended the wedding celebrations at the International Convention Center.

The public wedding invitation, which the couple posted on social media, begins with the biblical quote: **"Do not rejoice over me, my enemy, for I have fallen but I have gotten up"** (Micah 7:8)

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



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Arts & Crafts Activity with Children In The Wittenberg Play Center



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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