

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



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Parashat Vayeshev / פרשת וישב Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 3:54 PM, December 3, 2015 Kislev 22, 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](#)

### Slaves on Horses

"I have seen slaves on horses and nobles walking on foot like slaves."

[1] Kohelet delineates the absurd, paradoxical and inverted phenomena that Shlomo ha-Melech observed in this world. He describes these occurrences as "mistakes" that emerge from the One on High, things that should never occur but are yet part and parcel of this world. The natural order of things as understood by Shlomo should dictate one reality, and yet the opposite is the case on the ground.

The midrash[2] associates this description of an inverted world with two events. The first occurs in this week's parsha when the Midanim sell Yosef as a slave to the Egyptians. In the words of Rebbi Avin HaLevi:

The child of the maidservant is selling and the child of the slave is buying. Between the two, Yosef is sold and brought down to mitzrayim.

This absurd picture from the parsha is juxtaposed to another absurdity: I have seen servants on horses: This is Nevuchadnetzar who destroyed the Beit ha-Mikdash. That initially he did not enter in it because he was afraid. What did Michael do? He descended and held onto his horse and led him into the Holy of Holies.

Michael, the ministering Angel, lowers himself to lead Nevuchadnetzar into the most sanctified place on earth.

What is the purpose of this midrash? Granted, the sale of Yosef and the destruction of the Beit ha-Mikdash are unnatural and "absurd" events. But what

## Successful 3 on 3 Turkey Tourney 2015 Thank You

We just want to congratulate everyone on what we thought (and hope you will agree) was a successful 3on3 Turkey Tourney 2015 at North Shore Hebrew Academy High School Gym!

We want to first wish hardy congratulations to the UNDEFEATED winning Green team made up of Jake Elias and the Hakakian Brothers! They played a great, respectful and fair game! We thank you for your sportsmanship! Below is a picture attached of the winning team!



Next, we would like to let you know that we RAISED AROUND \$8,000 to be split between the two charities, Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai and Nahal Haredi! We appreciate everyone's generous donations and those who gave beyond the required as well as donations of those who didn't even play!

Lesson are we supposed to glean from this observation?

Perhaps the lesson is that we should recognize absurdities as absurdities and not accustom ourselves to unnatural situations. Human beings are cognitively flexible and things which at first are surprising or jarring can quickly become the new normal. While this is adaptiveness can lead to resilience and thriving in adverse environments, it can also jade our senses from things which truly should continue to be jarring.

While Nevuchadnetzar and his empire are long gone, his various heirs have stepped into his role. Since the second century BCE, other religions have built houses of worship on Temple Mount. Close to 1900 years of non-Jewish worship on Temple Mount has shaped the thinking of much of the world.

But this midrash teaches us that we at least have to recognize this phenomenon as absurd and unnatural. It was unnatural for Nevuchadnetzar to step foot into the Holy of Holies and the same is true for any other non-Jew who does so, no matter the number of times and years that it is done.

May we merit to see the natural reality come into existence.

[1] Kohelet 10:7. Translation from the Stone edition

[2] Midrash Tanchuma (Buber) Parshas Vayesheiv, siman 15.

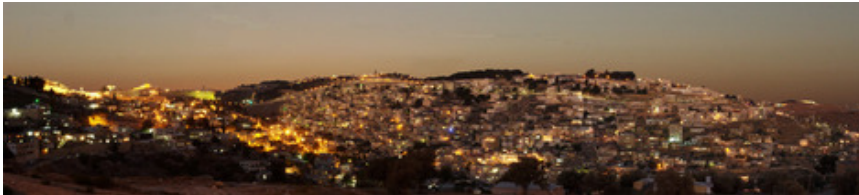
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Arts & Crafts Activity with Children In The Wittenberg Play Center

We would like to thank the Sponsors on the back of the Jerseys as well: Wellfleet Partners, Macho Mensch Movers, Ira and Paula Spodek, and lastly Silbowitz, Garafola, Silbowitz, Schatz, and Frederick Attorneys at Law!

Thank you to all the players who participated and woke up early on a day off of work/holiday to make this event happen! We hope we were able to make everyone happy and show that this can be a fun and competitive tournament for all! The referees and custodians came over to us after the event and told us that they enjoyed themselves and that the event was a pleasure to be a part of and hope that they can do it again next year!

We thank everyone for their respectfulness and consideration to them. We want to also thank North Shore Hebrew Academy High School for opening the doors to their gym on Thanksgiving morning to allow this tournament to happen. We couldn't have done it without your amazing facilities and six baskets! Thank you Maurice Setton and Rabbi Beitler for your help in securing the gym. It allowed the tournament to flow as smoothly as possible, considering we had 17 teams with double elimination.

Lastly, we would like to extend a thank you and round of applause to those who have been working on this tournament tirelessly the past 3 weeks and made it all happen so fast and smooth! We were cutting it close with all the plans and jerseys, but we were able to pull it off. Thanks to Benji Neren, Ari Spodek, and Mikey Brandsdorfer for organizing this event! We brought the idea to fruition! You were amazing to work with and made a great event team! Thanks to all those who stepped up to help the day of the Tournament keeping things moving along and allowing the games to run so efficiently, such as Glenn Zuckerman, Alex Lev, and Sruli Beitler, Rabbi Ismach and Mark Goldman. You guys were awesome! Thank you to any one else who we may have left out!

We hope you all had a great rest of the Thanksgiving Day and have a great weekend! Hopefully, we can have future charity tournaments like this on a bigger and better scale! We are open to any ideas to changing the tournament style, teams, rules etc...

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You can play a role responding to Arab terror by donating to help us with any of the following projects. These are your brothers and sisters - and these are OUR children. Please help them.

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- Sponsor a monthly Oneg Shabbat: \$180
- Sponsor the monthly shiur in memory of Rav Nechemiah Lavi hy'd on Sefer Nechemia: \$360

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

- 1) Security projects, emergency/medical equipment in compounds, self defense classes for youth, cameras, lighting, pepper spray
- 2) Beit Wittenberg Family needs - auxillary help for families in Beit Wittenberg affected psychologically and traumatized by recent terror attacks.
- 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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**WE THANK THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED THIS PAST WEEK**  
Help Us Reach Beyond Our Goal (Click the image below)

On Giving Tuesday Think Jerusalem

# ירושלים

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATERET COHANIM

**For the last 36 years,**  
American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai  
has been *the charity* that supports those who  
have returned to areas that were once predominantly Jewish.

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

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**חנוכה שמח**



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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