



5779 Divrei Torah on Jerusalem by Rabbi Yosef Bronstein Parashat Nasso / פרשת נשא

Yerushalayim, Shalom, and the Source of Blessings

The ultimate blessing is that of Shalom. It is for this reason that the priestly blessings conclude on this note: “And may He grant you peace,” a conclusion that we mimic in our daily prayers. Rambam even identifies Shalom as the ultimate goal of the entire Torah.¹

The Sefat Emmet² notes that Shalom is not only the ultimate manifestation of blessing, but it is the blessing’s actual source as well. We must try to create Shalom (translated both as “peace” and as “completion”). This Shalom-creation service within ourselves, our communities and the world at large, actually draws down the divine blessing that culminates in the ultimate Shalom. It is our job to begin by laying down the platform of human Shalom, and God will respond by gracing us with the highest level of completion and peace.

Continuing this theme, the Sefat Emmet identifies different aspects of our world that are associated with Shalom and hence are the root of blessing. Dedicating oneself to these things helps create the Shalom that triggers the divine flow of blessings.

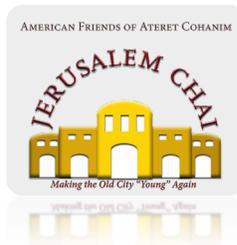
In the realm of space, the Sefat Emmet highlights the fact that Yerushalayim stems from the word “Shalom.” Yerushalayim is thus the spatial source of blessing. It represents perfection on earth: the balance between the physical and the spiritual, the bringing together of all of humankind into the service of God. Yerushalayim is the most perfect place on the planet. As he writes:

And the Beit HaMikdash and Yerushalayim is the root of the Shalom/perfection of the world and from there blessing emanates to all of the locations...

Following the Sefat Emmet’s argument, it follows that attaching oneself to Yerushalayim and working to bring out its inherent but latent qualities actively creates a reality of blessing in the world

¹ Rambam, hilchos Chanukah 4:14.

² Sefat Emmet, parshat Naso, 5750.



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as a whole. The actualization of Yerushalayim makes the world become more perfect, more attuned to its true core. And, ultimately, our infusion of Shalom into the world will elicit a divine response who will grant the true and ultimate Shalom to the entire world.