

American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai

...Making the Old City young Again



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Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei / פרשת ויקהל-פקודי Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 5:05 PM, March 13 2015 Adar 23, 5775

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](#)

This week's Dvar Torah sponsored by the Essrog Family:

לז"נ העניע בריינע בת הרב צבי הירש ע"ה
 לז"נ יצחק שמואל בן הרב שמעון דוב ע"ה

Creating Sacred Space

The Mishkan is a microcosm of the world. The vessels and services of the Mishkan correspond to different aspects of creation, each vessel serving as a spiritual center for the section that it represents. [1] In this vein, there are many parallels between the Torah's descriptions of the six days of creation and of the Mishkan. [2]

One area of parallelism is regarding the qualities and character traits that are requirements for the builders of the Mishkan. Out of the entirety of the Jewish people, Hashem singles out Bezalel the son of Uri to be the chief architect of the Mishkan. The Gemara explains that Bezalel was able to "join the letters with which heaven and earth were created." [3] The creation of the Mishkan was just as arduous and complicated as the creation of the world. The same message emerges from God's own description of Bezalel as being endowed with "wisdom (*hokhmah*) and insight (*tevunah*) to know (*be-da'at*)." [4] The Midrash notes that these three cognitive qualities of *hokhma*, *tevunah* and *da'at* that were necessary in the building of the Mishkan were also used by Hashem to create the world. [5]

This parallelism between the creation of the world and the construction of the Mishkan brings an important facet of the latter into focus. While in Bereishit it is Hashem who creates the beautiful and complex world, in our parsha this is the job of the Jewish people. The command, inspiration and necessary qualities to build are bestowed by God, but ultimately it is the Jewish people who collect the materials and Bezalel and his crew that construct the Mishkan. Just as Hashem created our world, so too, the Jewish people construct the sanctified world of Hashem which is the Mishkan.

This teaches an important lesson regarding sanctity in general and Yerushalayim and the *Beit ha-Mikdash* in particular. While the uniqueness

Flower's Gate Playground and New Rooftop Playground for Beit Gavriel



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of *Har ha-Bayit* stems from a divinely bestowed gift, its specialness remained as raw, unrealized potential for much of human history. It is only when the Jewish people arrive on the scene and fulfill their role that this potential is actualized and the Shekhinah can descend upon the mountain. We human beings have an active role to play in the fashioning of *kedusha*.

In his seminal work, *Halakhic Man*, Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik beautifully expresses the role that humans have in the creation of holiness: Holiness is created by man, by flesh and blood. Through the power of our mouths, through verbal sanctification alone, we can create holy offerings of the Temple treasury and holy offerings for the altar. The land of Israel became holy through conquest, Jerusalem and the Temple courts – through bringing two loaves of thanksgiving... It is man who sanctifies space and makes a sanctuary for his Creator. [6]

May we merit to fulfill our roles

[1] *Nefesh ha-Hayyim* 1:4

[2] See, the following shiur by Rav Yitzhak Levi for a list of such parallels - http://etzion.org.il/ybm/archive/12-jeru/10toldot_a_rf

[3] Berakhot 55a. Translation is from the Schottenstein edition.

[4] Shemot 36:1. Translation is from the Stone edition.

[5] Shemot Rabbah 48:4.

[6] *Halakhic Man*, trans. Lawrence Kaplan, 47.

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MEET AT THE ENBAL
THURSDAY APRIL 2, SUNDAY APRIL 12 10:00 AM

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATERET COHANIM
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Making the Old City "Young" Again

The New Yemenite Village Website click the picture to learn more



Our current projects in the Old City of Jerusalem and areas adjacent to the Old City actualize our mission of "Making the Old City, Young Again"



Today, the walled city of Jerusalem (the Old Yishuv)

and the areas immediately adjacent to it, have come back to life with children and families due to the work of Ateret Cohanim. The miracle that was the rebirth of the State of Israel in 1948, the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967 and the continued growth of the Jewish community in these areas, are constant reminders of the eternity of our religious belief. Help Us Continue Our Work

Save the Date!!

JERUSALEM CHAI

ANNUAL YOM YERUSHALAYIM DINNER
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Established in 1978,
This year is our "double chai" year

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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.



תשע"ה - 5775
May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (עיר), of Hashem. (ה')

May G-d's City - Yerushalayim, be rebuilt and restored to its previous glory for Am Yisrael. Next year in a united Jerusalem with a flourishing Jewish life centred around religious educational institutes.
Lehitraot BaAretz

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