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Parashat Vaetchanan / פרשת ואתחן ואתחן Shabbat Nachamu שבת נחמו Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 6:38 PM, August 19, 2016 15 Menachem Av 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](#).

Keeping Yerushalayim in our Hearts and Prayers

Tradition teaches that there is always a connection between the parsha and the haftarah. This week we merit to once again read the comforting words of Yeshayahu in conjunction with parshat Va'etchanan. What connection, then, is there between the haftarah of Nachamu and parshat Va'etchanan?

The haftarah opens with Hashem exhorting the prophets to comfort the people. Their message of consolation and redemption is directed "al lev Yerushalayim" which is often translated as "regarding the heart" or words that will put the heart at ease. However, the word "al" [1] usually denotes "on," rendering the verse that the message of the prophets needs to be "on" the heart. The Ma'or Einayim [2] understands this that the message must be "on" our hearts or in other words, felt very strongly.

Though he himself takes this understanding in a specific direction, the Me'or Einayim's interpretation of the verse can open a new perspective.

Perhaps we can understand that the prophets are telling the people that their consolation is inextricably bound with Yerushalayim being "al lev" –unified with their hearts. It is only when we constantly carry the thought of Yerushalayim on our hearts that we will merit the fulfillment of our beautiful haftarah.

The word "lev" also has a more specific connotation in the lexicon of Chazal – prayer. When the Torah speaks of serving Hashem with our hearts, the midrash is quick to note that this refers to prayer, which is the "service of the heart." When we care about something deeply it will naturally and automatically find its way into our prayers. This definition is extremely relevant to our context as well. Having Yerushalayim "on our hearts" is best expressed through our constant prayers regarding the city.

However, this recipe leaves space for disappointment. How is that for two thousand years we are supposed to be constantly and incessantly praying for the city and caring about it? One would imagine that when people saw that their ceaseless prayers and feelings went unanswered for so long that they were channeling their prayers and emotions in a futile endeavor?

Perhaps this is what the parsha comes to teach us. Moshe davened 515 times for his ability to enter the Land of Israel and all of his attempts were seemingly and exercise in futility. However, we are taught that Hashem had to tell him to stop his efforts as a single additional prayer would have "forced" Hashem to allow him to entry into the Land.

Fox News Contributor Pete Hegseth visits "Our" Jerusalem

with Chairman of the Executive Council Dr. Joseph Frager. and Executive Council member Dr. Paul Brody (Arutz Sheva)

'I'm here to tell the world the truth'

[Hegseth](#) visit Israel in effort to get to the 'ground truth' of the reality as it really is, not as presented in the media.



The purpose of the visit is for the journalists to get a genuine picture of Israel through guided tours.

Monday they visited the Muslim quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, the Western Wall, and houses of Jews living in the Muslim quarter.

One of the visitors, Pete Hegseth, is a rising figure in the American conservative media, a veteran of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, currently serving as Fox News Contributor and the author of the recently released book "[In the Arena](#)" profiling a new vision for America's role domestically and in foreign policy. Hegseth spoke about his motivations for coming to see the reality in Israel for himself.

"It's an honor to visit here as a friend of Israel to see what really goes on here in the Holy Land. It's our duty to show support and to come here to see things for ourselves, not through the media, so that we can present things accurately."

What possible difference could there have been between the 515th time Moshe prayed and the 516th time? This teaches us that we do not truly know the effects of a heartfelt emotional prayer. We may not receive the answer that we desire but our emotional prayers do not go to waste.[3]

The same is true regarding Yerushalayim. We need to constantly keep Yerushalayim "on our hearts" in prayer despite the fact that people for thousands of years have been praying for exactly the same thing. Perhaps our prayer will be the single additional one that will cause Hashem to return to His holy city.

[1]See Ibn Ezra to Yeshaya 40:1 and Rashi to Bereishit 34:3

[2]Me'or Einayim to parshat Ve'etchanan.

[3]Devarim Rabbah parsha 11 together with the explanation of the Mabit in *Beit Elokim*, Sha'ar ha-Tefilah perek 17.



at the Kotel



with Mati Dan, Chairman Ateret Cohanim in Israel, Dr. Joseph Frager, Ken Abramowitz and Mark Rubin

From the Wittenberg Play Center
Our play center brings out the best in creativity



Children visit the Natural History Museum in Beit Shemesh

Made possible by the generosity of Auntie Vivian - Vivian Singer of Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn



When asked what he thinks of CNN's coverage of Israel, Hegseth replied: "Well it's very one sided. We see it in the American media covering our conflicts, it's a one sided story very often. Our job here is to get down to the ground truth. I was a soldier in Iraq and there's a big difference between what you read in the New York Times and what's actually happening. You have to get in there and get your hands dirty and see it, so that you can give a really accurate reflection of what's happening."

more of their visit that included meeting with Government Officials, Chevron and Sderot can be found by [clicking here](#)

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SECURITY CAMERAS
NEEDED ASAP

The Police of the Old City approached Ateret Cohanim requesting 12 cameras on very strategic rooftops in order for the Police to have "eyes" over the rooftops.

Many attacks by local Arabs have been from these rooftops and the alleyways. In the Old City having these cameras is a life saver.

- 9 static cameras required at \$3000 each (5 cameras already sponsored as of mid July 2016)
- 3 moveable-rotating cameras required at \$8500 each

SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Help subsidize all our children and youth activities .Kids need a "break" from the pressures, tension and difficult security situation of the Old City and neighborhoods outside the Old City. Help us give them an enjoyable summer.

- Young children (3-12 yrs) - \$8700
- Girls: 13-16 years - \$7600
- Boys: 13-16 years - \$8100

PINAT CHAM

Kaytana Visits Migdal David



Our Girls on Top of the World, Migdal David

First ever PINAT CHAM in the Old City for all security personnel and Policemen. Help us establish a critically needed this most needed rest and refreshment spot at the entrance to Beit Wittenberg.. They protect us. Let's show them our appreciation. (projected cost \$42,000)

- Serving 100 security personnel
- 8 hour schedule
- Free food, coffee and a restroom which will accomodate 100 security personnel working an 8 hour shift.
- Outside of Beit Wittenberg on the spot where Rabbi Nechemia Lavi HY"D was murdered last September.

SCENIC OVERLOOK

The most spectacular scenic view of Jerusalem (from the South) overlooking the Temple Mount, the City of David, the Kings Garden and the Mount of Olives, is from Beit Rachel in the old Yemenite Village.

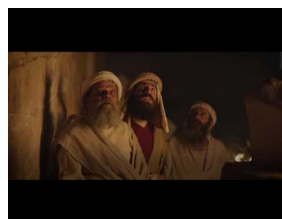
Help us establish the scenic outlook with all-weather model of historical Jerusalem.. Naming rights available. (projected cost \$35,000)

As always, your generous support is greatly appreciated

Plan your tour of Jerusalem During the Summer Months

[CLICK HERE](#)

Visit our New Buildings- Beit HaNof in the Old City



SILVER LININGS
a movie produced by American Friends of Ateret Cohanim for Tisha B'Av

(you can still donate to this fundraising endeavor on behalf of the children of Our Jerusalem - [Click here](#))

See All of Our Videos on You Tube



**FROM ANY ANGLE,
NORTH, SOUTH, EAST OR WEST
JERUSALEM LOOKS BEAUTIFUL**

VIEW FROM BEIT HANOF

**THIS SUMMER TOUR WITH US
AND SEE OUR JERUSALEM!**

VIEW FROM BET HATZALAM

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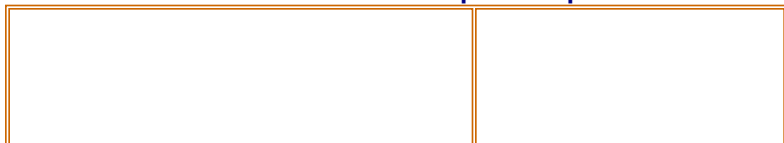
**Remembering Rav Shlomo Gottfried,
Israeli War Hero And Chassidic Jew**

Past Guest of Honor and Bonei Yerushalayim Awardee memorialized in the Jewish Press [please click here](#)



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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