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Parashat Nasso / פרשת נשא Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 6:57 PM, May 29, 2015 11 Sivan 5775

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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](#)

Joyous Return to 130-Year Old Eastern Jerusalem Synagogue

Arutz Sheva May 26, 2015

By Hillel Fendel

First Publish: 5/26/2015, 12:44 PM

To Read the Story on Arutz Sheva, [click here](#)

Modeling the Mikdash

The Beit ha-Mikdash is the spiritual center of the world. Tanach and Chazal speak at length of its significance and uniqueness, often referring to it simply as “the chosen place.” It is the only place in the world where one could witness ten miracles daily. It is only there that the Jewish people as a whole can experience the Shechinah on the three Regalim.

However, all this notwithstanding, we find that this unique sanctity expands into each and every Jewish home. The simple table in one’s kitchen is treated in Halacha as being similar to the mizbeach. The Rema records that one should have salt on the table when cutting the bread, similar to the salt of korbnot. [1] The Mishna in Avot[2] writes that if three people are eating together and in the course of the meal converse in Torah, it is as if they are eating from the “table of Hashem.” The proof-text that cited is a verse from Yechezkel’s heavenly tour of the future temple: “The Alter was of wood, three amos high, and its length two amos, and its corner and its length and walls of wood. And he [the angel] said to me: ‘this is the Table that is before Hashem.’” [3] The context of the verse is quite clearly the mizbeach and yet the Mishna derives from it that one’s personal table can gain such an elevated status as “the table of Hashem.” Similarly, the Gemara in Chagigah[4] derives from this verse that just as the mizbeach achieves atonement, so too, one’s personal table can atone.

In this week’s parsha we find another area of regular Jewish life which can be imbued with the sanctity of the Beit ha-Mikdash. The Gemara in Sotah records:

Rebbi Akiva expounded: A husband and wife, if they merit it, then the Divine Presence is present between them. But if they do not merit it, then fire consumes them. [5]

Rashi explains that Rebbi Akiva is referring to the unfortunate episode in this week’s parsha of an unfaithful spouse. If the couple is faithful to each other then their marriage and house can be suffused with the presence of the Shechinah.

Several commentators[6] note that Rebbi Akiva’s formulation is not mere exaggeration. Halacha treats the sanctity of marriage in a similar way to the sanctity of korbnot and the Beit ha-Mikdash. For example, when one sanctifies part of an animal for a korban the sanctity spreads to the entire animal. Similarly, if a man is “mekadesh” half of a woman, then the Gemara initially assumes that the same process should apply. [7]

The expansion of the world of the Beit ha-Mikdash to everyday life should teach us the significance of both. The Torah believes that every aspect of human life can be sanctified and hence the modeling after the Beit ha-Mikdash. Simultaneously, we should realize that the center and pinnacle of sanctity is the Beit ha-Mikdash.

May we merit to experience sanctity in the Beit ha-mikdash as well as in everyday life.

[1]Orach Chaim, 167:5.

77 years after Arab riots followed by British expulsion and apathy, Jews return to Yemenite Village synagogue on slopes of Mt. of Olives

For the first time in 77 years, festive Jewish prayers were held on Monday in one of modern Jerusalem’s oldest synagogues: The long-hidden and inaccessible Hechal Shlomo of the Yemenite village.

Dozens of people took part in the joyous festivities, which marked the full circle of Jewish settlement in eastern Jerusalem. Minister of Agriculture Uri Ariel (Jewish Home) – amidst traditional Yemenite Jewish prayers, music and foods, and some Ashkenazim and Sepharadim as well – took part in the re-dedication of the synagogue. Affixing the mezuzah to the doorpost, he recited the traditional blessings, including “Blessed is He Who restores the borders of the widow.”



It was back in 1885 that Yisrael Dov Frumkin founded the village, built the synagogue, and paved the way for some 65 Yemenite Jewish families to live on the slopes of the Mt. of Olives. Most of the land had been contributed by a Zionist philanthropist known as Boaz HaBavli.

The settlement thrived, but in the 1930’s, the Arab riots that engulfed the Land of Israel did not pass over the Yemenite Village. The British rulers told the Jews that they could not protect them and that they must leave, but promised to look after their property and that they could later return.

Daniel Luria of the Ateret Cohanim Association, which oversaw the modern return to the synagogue, explained what happened next: “A year later, Shlomo Ze’evi – father of the famous Rehavam (Gandi) Ze’evi – stood in this very synagogue, and was shocked and angered at the destruction that the Arabs had wrought here.” There was also great bitterness at the British and their promises; the Jews were not allowed to return to their homes.

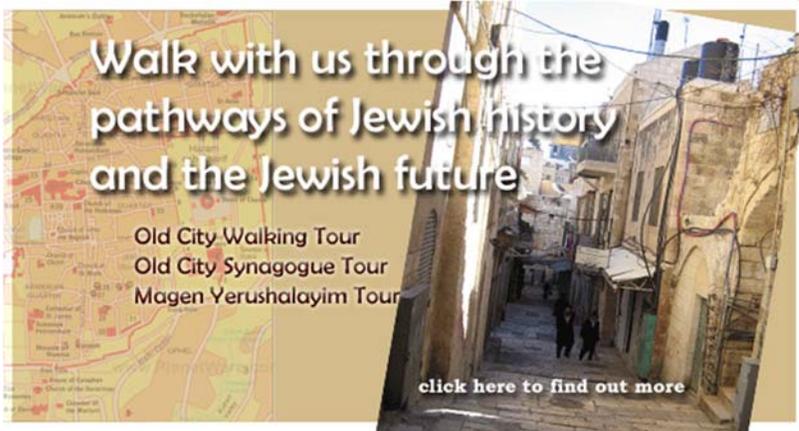
Now, years later, Ateret Cohanim and many happy Jews were able to return and celebrate another milestone in the national return of the Jewish People to their sacred homeland. This followed great efforts in re-purchasing the Jewish owned properties, resettling Jewish families in various buildings around the neighborhood, and carefully identifying each structure.

- [2] Avot 3:3.
- [3] Yechezkel 41:21.
- [4] Chagigah 27a.
- [5] Sotah 17a.
- [6] Rav Yosef Engil, Tziyunim le-Torah siman 39; Ha'amek She'alah 165:1.
- [7] Kiddushin 7a

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JOIN US AT THE ISRAEL DAY CONCERT IN CENTRAL PARK, SUNDAY MAY 31, 2015

[Click the image for a PDF](#)

"Over the years, many Jewish families have returned here," Luria said, "to Beit Yehonatan, Beit HaDvash, Beit Ovadiah, Beit Frumkin; it's not that Zionism was dead here. But now, we have the synagogue back! A place for prayer and Torah study for the entire community."

The synagogue has been renamed Ohel Yehonatan, in honor of Jonathan Pollard, now in his 30th year of a life sentence in American prison. He was convicted on a charge of passing classified information to a friendly country – Israel – a charge whose average sentence in the United States is between two and four years in prison.

Luria emphasized very clearly: "People must understand that this neighborhood was built by Yemenite Jews 130 years ago - way before any Arabs ever lived here." He pointed to a photograph taken at the time: "This shows the Jewish houses, and the synagogue itself in which we are standing now – and nothing else around them." Now, of course, the houses are surrounded by dense Arab construction, much of it illegal.

Minister Ariel's wife Chagit, another participant in the festivities, recounted how she traveled to a small village near Netanya several years ago "to find one of the original residents of this village, and I brought her here – even before any Jews had returned here to Beit Yehonatan, etc. - to find the exact building in which she had lived. It was so exciting and moving – and now, it's like a miracle that we also have the synagogue back!"

"With G-d's help, the Yemenite Village will return to be what it once was," Minister Ariel said, "just like the rest of the Land of Israel. All we need is true peace between Jews, and then we can work things out with everyone else."



The Beit Kneset complex (partially) has returned to its rightful heirs after 77 years !!

For more general information about the Synagogue and Kfar HaShiloach (Kfar HaTeimanim): www.yemenitesynagogue.com
 Stay tuned for Dedication Opportunities



... "רחל מבכה על בניה..."
 ויש תקוה לאחריהן... "There is Hope For Your Future..." (Jeremiah 31: 14-16)

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THE CONCERT WITH A MESSAGE

"לזרעך אתן את הארץ הזאת... לך אתננה ולזרעך עד עולם" בראשית 12:7
 "To Your Offspring, I Will Give This Land... To You I Will Give It And To Your Descendants Forever" Genesis: 12:7-13:15

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"PRAY FOR PEACE OF JERUSALEM, THOSE WHO LOVE YOU WILL BE SERENE" (PSALMS 122) "I AM PEACE WHEN I SPEAK, BUT THEY ARE FOR WAR" (PSALMS 120)

FOR SECURITY REASONS, NO LARGE BAGS OR BACKPACKS WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE CONCERT!

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"

Donate Now

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

*Established in 1978,
 This is our "double chai" year*



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.





To set up an event in your community
and for more information: www.unityprize.org



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 centered around religious educational institutes.
Lehitraot BaAretz

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