

CHAZAQ Weekly

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Vaetchanan
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In Memory of Shalom Tzvi ben Husni, Malkiel ben ImaShalom & Esther bat Sara

This Week's Issue of the
'CHAZAQ Weekly'
is Dedicated in
Loving Memory of
Moshe ben Sarah

It is OUR Fault!

This past week, Jewish communities around the world commemorated the destruction of both the first and second Bet HaMikdash (Temple). Men over the age of 13 and women over the age of 12 fasted for over 24 hours. Tens of thousands of people spent their day attending Torah lectures. Yet, here we are today, still waiting the

rebuilding of the 3rd Temple. What can we do to end this long wait?

The Haftarah this week starts with the words "*Nachamu Nachamu Ami*," "Be comforted, be comforted my people." The prophet informs us about the rebuilding of the 3rd Bet HaMikdash which will be a time of comfort for the Jewish people. Now, we normally comfort someone that suffered a loss that cannot be replaced. For instance, when one, G-d forbid, loses a family member, we try to ease the pain of the mourner through words. Though, these words obviously cannot replace their loss. The most it can do is show that there are people that care. Yet, the comfort we read about in the Haftarah is different, in that this comfort will be a true consolation, because it will involve a real replacement of the loss. In other words, the Bet HaMikdash will be 'back & better than ever.'

As we all know, the cause of the destruction of the 2nd Bet HaMikdash was 'baseless hatred.' Could we truly hate someone for no reason at all? All hatred has some basis to it!

The explanation is that when we harbor hatred towards others because of jealousy or the like (which believe it or not is the source of much hatred in the world) that hate is nothing short of baseless. For

instance, when we see a guy our age parking his new Lexus a block away from the Synagogue, many of us build negative feelings towards him. We see him as a show off and a big shot. We wish his car gets a 'nice little dent' just so that he wouldn't feel good. Why? Because he has what we don't. The reality is, this person did no harm to us. The negative feeling we have is baseless hatred.

Our Sages tell us that the Temple wasn't just destroyed because of what happened back then, rather, because of what's happening now. In each generation in which the Bet HaMikdash is not rebuilt, it is as if it was destroyed in that generation. So it is not the fault of those old timers. It is our fault.

"*Nachamu Nachamu Ami*." G-d is ready to comfort us with the building of the 3rd Temple. We simply have to show G-d we are ready. We must all work on eliminating this terrible epidemic of hatred. We must open our hearts to being happy when others get married, buy a new house, or have other positive occasions taking place in their lives. Once we share in the joy of others, then G-d willing, we will all share the joy of the rebuilding of the Bet HaMikdash, Amen.

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