



RABBI GIDEON

**Machon Puah for Fertility and
Gynecology in Accordance with Halacha**

WEITZMAN

Remembering the Childless

While there are many themes related to Rosh Hashanah, one of the most powerful and ubiquitous is the theme of having children. This is so integral to the message and nature of the day that the Gemara (Rosh Hashanah 11a) tells us that on Rosh Hashanah Sara, Rachel and Chana became pregnant. The Talmud deduces this from the verses “God remembered Rachel” (Bereishit 30:22) “God remembered her” (Shmuel I 1:19) “God remembered Sara” (Bereishit 21:1). Rosh Hashanah is called by the Torah a ‘Day of Memory’ (Vayikra 23:24) and this memory is related to remembering those who are in need of a special Divine salvation.

On Rosh Hashanah we have the opportunity to come close to God and ask for our deepest needs and desires to be fulfilled. This is felt strongly by those who have no children or who are struggling with fertility challenges. And this was the case since the beginning of the Jewish people. Rosh Hashanah was a day for remembering and a day on which God remembers those who could have been forgotten, those who need to be remembered.

The Torah portion chosen for Rosh Hashanah is in keeping with this theme; we read of the birth of Yitzchak after many years of infertility. The Haftarah relates Chana’s challenge of having a child and the eventual birth of Shmuel.

The Haftarah of the second day speaks of Rachel’s endless tears in seeing her children being led into exile. She will stop crying when her children return back home to their Land, the Land of Israel. In the next verses the entire Jewish people are described as being “a dear son” (Yirmiyahu 31:19) whom God recalls and thinks of constantly.

Birth, having children, raising children, and developing hopes and dreams for our children are integrally connected to our prayers for the coming New Year. Children are our future, and we are willing to go to great lengths to ensure that we have a good future by investing in our children.

Those who suffer from infertility are willing to try many things in order to have children. Those who face secondary infertility, who have children but are now experiencing difficulties having more children, look at their children and want them to have another sibling. Those who have genetic problems want to have healthy children. They seek

out new treatments in order to ensure that they will not pass on their genetic abnormalities to the next generation.

Rosh Hashanah is a day to remember our relationship with God and to bring to mind those who could be forgotten. ■

The Puah Institute is based in Jerusalem and helps couples from all over the world who are experiencing fertility problems. Offices in Jerusalem, New York, Los Angeles & Paris. Contact (Isr) 02-651-5050 (US) 718-336-0603 www.puahonline.org

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