



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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Our *Sedra* this week of course opens with the passing of *Sara Imeinu*. *The pasuk tells us:*

“*V’Tamat Sara B’Kiryat Arba, Hee Chevron...*” “*And Sara died in Kiryat Arba, which is Chevron....*”

Rav Kook zy’a explained that *Chevron* is from the word- *Chibur* - *to be joined together and connected*. *Chevron*, represents the eternal connection we feel with our ancestors. It is in *Chevron* where David begins his royal reign, and it is David’s descendant who will, b’ezrat Hashem, soon be revealed as *Mashiach Tzidkeinu*, and usher in a transformation in the world to a time of pure goodness, decency and spiritual clarity. *Chevron*, therefore, represents the joining together of both the roots of Jewish history, and the foreshadowing

of Jewish destiny.

On this Shabbat when our hearts turn toward *Chevron Ir Hakodesh*, the city of *Chibur*, it is also the time for us to contemplate this idea of *Chibur* in relationship to one another. How, during this period of social distancing, can we truly both feel connected and demonstrate that connection to one another?

During these past many months, my dear colleagues here at OU Israel, have worked tirelessly to ensure that despite the need to be distant from one another, our connections and sense of community remain intact. Each member of our dedicated team continues to work around the clock to create programs and opportunities for us to continue to feel that eternal bond which connects and unties each one of us. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any of our incredible OU Israel team should you have any suggestions or feedback or need any further support.

Yehi Ratzon, as we read *Parshat Chayei Sarah* this *Shabbat*, may our hearts and minds reflect on the eternal message of *Chevron Ir HaKodesh* - and may the eternal bond that unites us be a source of strength and inspiration during these trying times. ■

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Thanks to all who have helped during the Corona

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