



PROBING

BY RABBI NACHMAN (NEIL) WINKLER

Faculty, OU Israel Center

THE PROPHETS

“*Roni akara...pitzchi rina v'tzahali...*”

Our haftarah opens with the Yishaya-hu's call to Israel to celebrate: “Sing... burst out into song and jubilate” he cries out. And by starting the haftarah with this call, the ancient scholars break away from the pattern established by the first four haftarot of consolation. Consider: after calling to Israel's prophets to comfort the grieving nation (“Nachamu, Nachamu Ami”), the openings of the readings that follow reflect the nation's refusal to be comforted (“Vatomer Tziyon azavani Hashem”, “Aniya soarah lo nuchama”) and Hashem's response that He would comfort them (“Anochi, Anochi Hu menachemchem”). But they never start by urging Israel to rejoice.

Yet, our haftarah does begin with that message – as do the introductions of the last two

of these haftarot (“Kumi Ori”, “Sos Assis”). Nonetheless, this clarion call that begins our haftarah can lead to confusion. A simple reading could lead one to believe that the barren woman should rejoice BECAUSE she hasn't given birth rather than the true meaning that such an unfortunate one may yet rejoice ALTHOUGH she hasn't given birth.

This was a hidden blessing that insured the survival of the Jewish nation

HaRav Soloveitchik, z”l, turns our attention to Tractate Berachot (10a) where a Sadducee misunderstood the pasuk as being one that told the barren woman how fortunate she was for NOT having borne children. The Rav contends that the heretic wasn't simply mistranslating the sense of the verse – rather, he had a deeper intention in posing his mocking question; in the Rav's words, it was meant as a “theological polemic”.

The Sadducee, he explains, was arguing that by Israel's stubborn adherence to their faith they were “rewarded” only with exile and persecution. The powerful and numerous Roman Empire was proof of their success while the barren woman symbolized Israel who had no hope for “children”, i.e. for any future, and the very fact that she had no children, that is, that she was so weak and

Property Sales | New Projects | Rentals
Property Management | Land Sales
Commercial | International Sales

ISRAEL

PROPERTIES

BY STAMELMAN & PARTNERS

www.israel-properties.com

Tel/WhatsApp IL +972 50 446 9515

Tel/WhatsApp SA +27 82 608 0168

trevor@israel-properties.com

small in number, was a clear proof that she – and her faith - had been rejected by G-d.

The Rav presented his response to the heretic's claim and said: "The answer is one attested to by Jewish history, but appreciated by only a few." The Rav goes on to suggest that, had there been no exile, no persecution, no assimilation, the Jews would number at least 150,000,000 by now and not 10-15,000,000. But this is precisely what was promised in Sefer D'varim (7; 7) "...ki atem ham'at mikol ha'amim"-that you were not chosen because you were the most numerous of the nations, for you are the fewest. And this was a hidden blessing that insured the survival of the Jewish nation.

Yes, we should rejoice for being the smallest of nations, for being "barren", because it was the reason which created committed and passionate adherents. It created the necessity of training students and scholars that carried on our Mesorah from parent to child, from year to year and from generation to generation. It was this "hidden" blessing that was left for us and that preserved us to this day.

And was caused us to sing, to celebrate and to burst out in song. ■

Rabbi Winkler's popular Jewish History lectures can be viewed by visiting the OU Israel Video archive: <https://www.ouisrael.org/video-library>

TRANSFER YOUR OLD FILM/VIDEO'S
(All formats) In Quality to Digital
Preserve Family History from Fading
Michael 052.286.8626
Photography with feeling
Facebook.com/L'Dorot Photography



Eiferman Properties Ltd.

JERUSALEM SALES

■ RECHAVIA / SHAAREI CHESED

- * 2 Bedrooms, 76 sqm, succah, elevator
- * 2 Bedrooms, renovated on Ben Maimon
- * 3 bedrooms, renovated, succah, on Radak Townhouses and Buildings

■ TALBIEH Spacious 3 bedrooms, 105 sqm, 1st floor, Shabbat elevator, NIS 2,590,000!!

■ OLD KATAMON 135 sqm duplex, private external elevator, succah!

■ GERMAN COLONY Existing building with permit to build 250 sqm on a huge lot!

■ CITY CENTER 4 Bdrms, renovated, elevator, balconies

■ HOLYLAND / RAMAT SHARET / BAYIT V'GAN Cottage 235 sqm, 9 rooms, large succah, view, parking !

■ HAR NOF * No steps! Spacious 3 bdrms., storage room, permit for a 12 sqm succah balcony facing the view.

- * 127 sqm duplex, private entrance + garden!
- building permits, lots of potential!
- * Unique Villa - 330 sqm with options! view!

■ KIRYAT MOSHE New 90 sqm duplex, 4 rooms including MB ensuite, succah, 4th floor, immediate

02-651-4030 www.eifermanrealty.com

30+ styles - all sizes
for women & girls



Cover what you want - in style!



MarSea Modest Swim & Casualwear Marci Rapp
www.MarSeaModest.net (NIS) 050-424-8359
www.MarSeaModest.com (\$USD)



28" Pencil Skirts
3/4 Tees/Tops
& more



Cover what you want - in style!

T"01

MAXI BOX

Storage

Your place for extra space

053-7272-815