



# SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR

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**T**his *Motzei Shabbat* we will celebrate the 55th anniversary of *Ichud Yerushalayim*-the reunification of Jerusalem, the miraculous military victory of the 1967 Six Day War. For nineteen years, the joy that had permeated the Jewish People with the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 was tempered by the somber, humbling reality that the city of Jerusalem remained divided, the ancient city, the Western Wall, and the Temple Mount under Jordanian sovereignty. That all changed with the dramatic events of June 7, 1967.

Shortly after Lt. General Motta Gur's thrilling announcement, '*Har Habayit B'yadeinu, Har Habayit B'yadeinu!*' 'The Temple Mount is in our hands, the Temple Mount is in our hands', the students of the *Beit Aharon Yeshiva*, the yeshiva of the *Slonimer Chasidim* in *Meah Shearim*, were huddled together in the bomb-shelter in the basement of the yeshiva complex, where they were addressed by their illustrious *Rosh Yeshiva*, **Rabbi Shalom Noach Brazovsky zy'a**, who years later would succeed his father-in law to serve as the **Slonimer Rebbe**.

Below are a few short excerpts from the

*Rebbe's* inspirational message to the Yeshiva's students on that momentous day:

*...We are obligated to recognize and give thanks for the miracles that HaKadosh Baruch Hu has brought upon us during these days, miraculous revelations not experienced for tens of generations, and it is forbidden to ignore these great gifts from Hashem...*

*...Even those removed from our tradition, and **anyone with a brain in their head**, must acknowledge that these great events cannot be comprehended by the laws of nature....*

*...The return to Jewish control of both the Kotel HaMaaravi and the other sacred places- Kever Rachel and Maarat HaMachpela, in the miraculously swift six-day war, leave us in awe of these great miraculous events which God has revealed to us, and we must give thanks to the Ribono Shel Olam....*

*...At this great moment, when God has returned to us the place where our Temple stood, we must sing praises....*

The *Rebbe's* words help us to appreciate the significance of this incredible commemoration of *Yom Yerushalayim*. It was evident to see the *Yad Hashem*, the proverbial "hand of G-d" in the height of the events, and even in the days and months immediately following the events of June 7, 1967.

But today, even as we are still longing for the day when indeed we'll witness the complete ingathering of the Exiles and enter into that era of eternal peace, we must not turn

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a blind eye to the many incredible gifts that *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* bestows upon us each and every day. After 2,000 years of exile, each of us is free to visit, live, study and pray in the ancient city of *Yerushalayim*.

May the great gift that is *Yerushalayim Ir HaKodesh*, the united eternal capital of the Jewish People, ever serve as an inspiration for each of us to appreciate all of *Hashem's* gifts, and help us to see the subtle hidden miracles we experience each and every day....

***Yom Yerushalayim Sameach!* ■**

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**Thursday, May 19** - Rabbi Finkelsteins shiur was sponsored for לע"נ ר' עקיבא דוד בן נחום יוסף ז"ל

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