



## TOWARDS MEANINGFUL PARENTING

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# Raising Children Who Yearn for the Beit HaMikdash

This week's parsha, *Va'etchanan*, opens with one of the most poignant moments in the Torah: after leading Am Yisrael through the desert for 40 years, Moshe Rabbeinu begs Hashem to let him enter Eretz Yisrael. He "longed," the midrash says, with 515 tefillot, yearning to step foot in the Land of Israel, to come closer to Hashem, and to fulfill more mitzvot.

That *longing* is something we can – and must – pass on to our children.

### POST-TISHA B'AV REFLECTIONS

We've just sat on the floor, cried, and mourned the churban. But Tisha B'Av isn't meant to leave us in sadness – it's meant to awaken a yearning that carries us forward. Right after Tisha B'Av, we move into the "Shivah D'Nechemta," the seven weeks of comfort, and start focusing on rebuilding that longing for geulah. This is the perfect moment to turn our own tears and hopes into something tangible for our children.

### LEARNING FROM THOSE WHO YEARNED BEFORE US

For centuries, the Jews of Ethiopia lived with a powerful, unshakable longing for Yerushalayim and the Beit HaMikdash. Believing the Mikdash still stood, they would tell their children stories of the splendor of the Avodah, of the Kohanim serving, of the

Shechinah resting there. That longing was so alive, so real, that when the gates of Aliyah opened, thousands set out on foot – walking hundreds of miles through deserts and danger, often risking and even losing their lives – just to reach Yerushalayim.

If they could pass down that dream for generations, how much more so can we, living in the land itself, keep that dream alive for our children?

### DO WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR?

Many soldiers returning home from fighting in Gaza have shared a striking observation: in nearly every single house they entered, there was a picture of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Their takeaway was simple but powerful: "They know what they're fighting for, we need to make sure we know what we're fighting for."

This statement should stop us in our tracks. It forces us to ask ourselves: Have we instilled in our children a clear understanding of what *we* are fighting for? Have we painted for them a vision of what we are dreaming about, longing for, and ultimately living for – the day when the Beit HaMikdash will stand once again, and Hashem's presence will be felt in the world with total clarity?

## HOW TO PAINT THE DREAM FOR OUR CHILDREN

If we want our children to truly long for the Beit HaMikdash, we have to speak about it – not once a year, not only on Tisha B'Av – but all the time. We need to weave it naturally into our conversations, into bedtime stories, into the way we talk about the future. We need to paint a tangible picture by saying things like:

*“One day, we will stand together and hear the Leviim singing in the Beit haMikdash.”*

*“One day, we will bring korbanot and feel an even deeper closeness to HaKadosh Baruch Hu.”*

*“One day, Hashem’s presence will be so clear in the world – there will be no more confusion, no more doubt.”*

We need to let our children see the dream. We need to hang pictures of Yerushalayim and the Beit HaMikdash in our homes and to sing songs about it at the Shabbat table. When we visit the Kotel, we need to speak not only about what once stood there – but about what will rise again.

Because if we don't talk about it, if we don't paint that picture, the dream begins to fade. But if we do – if we make the Beit HaMikdash as real and alive in their minds as Moshe's longing was in his heart – we give our children one of the greatest gifts of all: a yearning for the future. And in these days after Tisha B'Av, when the pain of the churban is still fresh but the hope of rebuilding is even stronger, we have the perfect opportunity to plant that longing deep in their hearts. If we do, they will carry that yearning through their lives – and maybe, with Hashem's help, they will be the generation to see that longing fulfilled. ■



### Hashayarot, Old Katamon

Magnificent Arab-style house, three levels with over 263 m<sup>2</sup> of registered space, and even more in reality. This near-entire building boasts a private entrance, high ceilings, a spacious wrap-around garden, and parking. In excellent, move-in-ready condition, Embrace historic charm with modern comfort in this extraordinary property. Contact for more information!

### King George, City Center

**Best Value in City Center!** 80 SQM, 3 rooms, 2 bath, fully accessible, shabbat elevator, storage and potential for additional bedroom! Asking 2,950,000 NIS

### Ibn Ezra, Rechavia

**Excellent apartment in Rechavia!** 54 SQM, 1.5 beds, 1 bath, AC in every room, high ceilings, balcony. Well-kept, 5 steps, prime location. Contact for more information!

### Cottage In Old Katamon

**Just Listed!** Rare family home, spacious 200 sqm, 55 sqm garden, 6 rooms (Large Saferoom), 3.5 bath. Private entrance, Parking, opt. for guest unit, best location!

### Shvil Hazahav, Ra'anana

**Amazing Listing!** 98.5 SQM renovated apartment with a private balcony in a fully accessible building, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 parking spots, and storage! Asking: 3,850,000 NIS

### Beit HaBechira, Tamar, Efrat



**Amazing Cottage!** Gorgeous, renovated duplex with private entrance. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, succah balcony, 2 parking spots and storage. Asking NIS 4,090,000

### Pitom HaKetoret, Zayit, Efrat

**One Of A Kind!** Standalone house, beautifully designed, 7 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms, with a pool facing a breathtaking view. Contact for more information

### Hagilgal, Ma'ale Adumim

**Free Standing House!** 355 sqm, 10 rooms, 5 bath. Pool, Jacuzzi, Sauna. Beautifully renovated and designed with a massive succah terrace. Contact for more information!

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