

# Weekly Teaching

June 9, 2017

Jerusalem calls to us:

*Return to Your Temple, to Your Holy of Holies; the place where spirits and souls will unite, and sing songs and praises to God.*

Whenever I have a chance to travel to Israel I make my pilgrimage to the Western (Wailing) Wall, and take the opportunity to re-explore the excavations below the Wall itself, and additionally take a few minutes for both communal and private prayer.

I leave prayerful notes from the families that have entrusted me as their agent, and I also share my own private prayers and hopes with God.

Each time I visit this last remnant of our ancient Temple, I recall the words of Natan Sharansky, the Refusnik/ Prisoner of Zion, who upon finally reaching Israel declared:

*Now the next time I say, "Next year in Jerusalem," these words will finally have only symbolic meaning, for I—body and soul—now dwell in the capital of Israel.*

Sharansky's heartfelt words are from someone who suffered and waited for so many years in order to reach this special moment:

***"For I—body and soul—now dwell in the capital of Israel."***

"For I—body and soul—now dwell in the capital of Israel" are the perfect thoughts and expressions of prayerful gratitude that millions of Jews should contemplate each and every day as we express our gratitude to God for the re-establishment of our Jewish homeland.

My son made aliyah six months ago, yet I don't know if I will ever choose to make aliyah to Israel myself.

But, I do know that I will never rule it out.

There is an incredible spiritual power to walking and living in one's own Jewish homeland.

It is truly a place where spirits and souls unite.

I leave for Jerusalem after Shabbat on July 1 so as to officiate at a wedding and then study Torah for several weeks.

If you would like to give me a note to carry to Jerusalem, please do so. It will be my privilege to deliver it.

***"For I—body and soul—now dwell in the capital of Israel."***

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Mitch

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