

BS'D

ERETZ ISRAEL

QUOTES FROM THE BIBLE – TANACH

Due to the lack of Tanach study in our schools and Yeshivot, we thought it was important to present here passages of the Tanach that shed light on the importance and the centrality of Eretz Israel for the Jewish people. From these few passages a person can learn the many similarities to our present situation regarding enemies,

Apathy of well to do Jews of the exile to return to the Holy Land

Presence of rulers who did not follow the will of Hashem

Grave sinners among the population

It is our hope and our prayers that this may help clarify in the mind of our fellow brothers, that many of the excuses we give for not ascending to Eretz Israel are not valid reasons. Even if these reasons are espoused by orthodox Rabbis, their validity is null for we have already witnessed that at the time of the return of the exiles from Babylon, most of the observant Jewish population chose to remain in Babylon.

G-d forbid, what we mention here regarding the evil conduct of some in the times of the Tanach is only to let you see that it is not a new phenomenon that there were always those who chose not to follow the ways of Hashem. Yet the existence of these people does not diminish from our obligation to live in Eretz Israel. Because in those times, the prophets nor the Sages refused to live in Eretz Israel because there were evil people or evil rulers. And to employ

this reasoning in our days in order to rationalize our refusal to make Aliyah is not proper either. We pray to Hashem that we will merit to have clear thoughts and to discern the truth in these times where truth is so hidden .

May Hashem give us the merit to see the Beit ha Mikdash rebuilt speedily in our days, Amen

Listen well Jew of the exile to this Midrash:

R. Yosi bar Chanina said: "There are four categories with respect to names: There are those whose names are becoming and whose deeds are becoming. There are those whose names are ugly and whose deeds are ugly. There are those whose names are ugly and whose deeds are becoming. And, there are those whose names are becoming and whose deeds are ugly... 'Those whose names are ugly and whose deeds are becoming' refers to the people [who returned from the Babylonian] exile: The children of Bakbuk, the children of Chakufa, the children of Charchur (Ezra 2:51, Nechemyah 7:53). They were worthy to ascend and build the Beit HaMikdash." (Bereshit Rabba 71:3)

Their deeds are becoming because they were worthy of ascending to Eretz Israel and building the Bet ha Mikdash. What will you say when instead of going up to Eretz Israel and helping rebuild the Land you are in the exile in lands of impurity?

IT IS NOT NEW THE FACT THAT ARABS DISTURB US WHEN WE WANT TO REBUILD THE LAND

The following is a quote from Nechemiah regarding the time when the Jews came back from Babel and planned on rebuilding the Bet ha Mikdash:

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arab, heard of it, they laughed at us with scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king? 20 Then I answered them, and said to them: The G-d of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build; but you have no portion, no right, no memorial, in Jerusalem. (Nechemiah 2:19)

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF: THE JEWS BUILD AND THE ARABS AND THEIR ALLIES MAKE FUN OF US AND RAGE AND WANT TO DESTROY WHAT THE JEWS HAVE DONE WITH THE HELP OF HASHEM

33 And it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we built the wall, he was angry, and greatly enraged, and he mocked the Jews. **34** And he spoke before his brothers and the army of Samaria, and said, What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore things? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish which are burned? **35** And Tobiah the Ammonite, who was next to him, said, Even a fox climbing up on what they build, shall break down their stone wall! **36** Hear, O our G-d; for we are despised; and turn their taunt upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity; **37** And do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before you; for they have provoked you to anger before the builders. **38** So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height; for the people had a mind to work. **1** And it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabs, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being repaired, and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. **2** And they all conspired together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to cause confusion in it. **3** And we prayed to our G-d, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them. (Nehemiah 3:33-4:3)

Listen well, Nehemiah set up a watch, an army to protect themselves from the enemies. Sure he prayed to Hashem first, but He also established an army to defend themselves.

IT IS BY THE HAND OF HASHEM THAT WE HAVE RETURNED TO ERETZ ISRAEL, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES THAT IT IS ONLY MEN THAT HAVE DONE IT AND DETERMINED IT, HAS NO EMUNAH AND WORSE, THAT PERSON HAS NO KNOWLEDGE AND HAS NOT READ THE BOOK OF EZRA AND NECHEMIAH.

SEE THE FIRST FEW LINES OF EZRA (1: 1-5):

1 And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of Hashem by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, Hashem stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he issued a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and

put it also in writing, saying: 2 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, Hashem G-d of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he has charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Who is there among you of all his people? His G-d be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of Hashem G-d of Israel, he is the G-d, which is in Jerusalem. 4 And whoever remains in any place where he sojourns, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of G-d which is in Jerusalem. 5 Then rose up the chiefs of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all those whose spirit G-d had stirred to go up to build the house of Hashem which is in Jerusalem.

CYRUS ISSUED THE PROCLAMATION BUT ONLY BECAUSE HE WAS STIRRED BY HASHEM, NOT BY COINCIDENCE, NOT BY POLITICS, BUT BECAUSE HE WAS STIRRED BY HASHEM

As a further proof read how the prophet Yeshayahu (45:1) calls Cyrus:

1 Thus says Hashem to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him doors and gates; and the gates shall not be closed;

HASHEM CALLED CYRUS HIS ANOINTED (MESHICHO). NOW CYRUS WAS NOT ORTHODOX, HE WAS NOT SATMER, VISHNITZ, LUBAVITCH, LITVACK, HE WAS A GOY, AND YET HASHEM USED HIM IN ORDER TO BRING THE JEWS BACK TO ERETZ ISRAEL.

SO BECAUSE HASHEM USED HERZL AND OTHERS WHO YOU MAY NOT APPROVE OF TO ESTABLISH THE JEWS ON THE LAND, DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU ARE EXEMPT FROM LIVING IN ERETZ ISRAEL?

REALIZE THAT IF YOU REJECT THE LAND AND YOU STAY IN GALUT, IT IS ONLY YOUR FAULT, AND NOT THOSE OF THE ZIONISTS, THE GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER EXCUSES THE PEOPLE WITH TENDENCIES TO BEHAVE LIKE THE SPIES CLAIM IN ORDER NOT TO GO LIVE IN ERETZ ISRAEL

Do you think at the Time of Ezra those who made Aliyah had no sins? Do you think what you see today is a new phenomenon? Read in Ezra (9:1-3)

1 And when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not set themselves apart from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. **2** For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons; so that the holy seed have mixed themselves with the people of those lands; and the hand of the princes and rulers has been foremost in this trespass. **3** And when I heard this matter, I tore my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down appalled.

NOW IF THOSE WHO WENT UP FROM BABEL HAD THOSE SINS TO ACCOUNT FOR, THEN WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TODAY AFTER 2000 YEARS OF EXILE AMONG THOSE WHO WENT UP TO ERETZ ISRAEL?

QUOTES FROM VARIOUS PLACES IN THE TANACH

SEFER SHOFTIM

2 : 7 – 2 : 23

Israel rebelled continually against Hashem

And the people served Hashem all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of Hashem, that he did for Israel. And Joshua, the son of Nun, the servant of Hashem, died, being one hundred and ten years old. And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-Heres, in the Mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. And also all of that generation were gathered unto their fathers; and there arose another generation after them, who knew not Hashem, nor the works which he had done for Israel. And the people of Israel did evil in the sight of Hashem, and served Baalim; And they forsook Hashem God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people who were around them, and bowed themselves to them, and provoked

Hashem to anger. And they forsook Hashem, and served Baal and the Ashtaroth. And the anger of Hashem burned against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of destroyers who destroyed them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies around, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. Where ever they went out, the hand of Hashem was against them for evil, as Hashem had said, and as Hashem had sworn to them; and they were greatly distressed. And Hashem raised up judges, who saved them from the hand of those who oppressed them. And yet they would not listen to their judges, but they went astray after other gods, and bowed themselves to them; they turned aside quickly from the way on which their fathers had walked, obeying the commandments of Hashem; but they did not do so. And when Hashem raised them up judges, then Hashem was with the judge, and saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for Hashem relented because of their groaning, caused by those who oppressed them and troubled them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and became more corrupt than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down to them; they did not cease any of their practices, nor their stubborn way. And the anger of Hashem burned against Israel; and he said, Because this people has transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not listened to my voice; I also will not continue to drive out from before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died; That through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the way of Hashem to walk in it, as their fathers kept it, or not. And Hashem left these nations, without driving them out hastily; nor did he deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

Evil Rulers of Israel, evil actions of inhabitants

I KINGS, MELACHIM I 12:25 – 31

Then Jeroboam (King of Israel) built Shechem in Mount Ephraim, and lived there; and went out from there, and built Penuel. And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David; If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of Hashem at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn back to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah. And the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said to them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, which brought you out of the land of Egypt. And he set one in Beth-El, and the other he placed in Dan. And this thing became a sin; for the people went to worship before the one, as far as Dan. And he made a

house of high places, and made priests from among all the people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

I KINGS, MELACHIM I 15:25 – 26

And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years. And he did evil in the sight of Hashem, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin with which he made Israel sin.

I KINGS, MELACHIM I 15:29 – 34

And it came to pass, when he reigned, that he struck all the house of Jeroboam; he did not leave to Jeroboam any who breathed, until he had destroyed him, according to the saying of Hashem, which he spoke by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite; Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation with which he provoked Hashem God of Israel to anger. And the rest of the acts of Nadab, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty four years. And he did evil in the sight of Hashem, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin with which he made Israel sin.

I KINGS, MELACHIM I 18:21 – 24

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, How long will you hobble between two opinions? If Hashem is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah to the people, I am the only remaining prophet of Hashem; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under; And call you on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of Hashem; and the God that answers by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

II KINGS, MELACHIM II 8:16 – 19

And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. Thirty two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab; for the daughter of Ahab was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of Hashem. Yet Hashem would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give to him and to his children a lamp for all time.

II KINGS, MELACHIM II 8:16 – 19

In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah. He was twenty five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of Hashem, yet not like David his father; he did according to all things as Joash his father did. But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ERETZ ISRAEL IN THE WRITINGS OF OUR HOLY PROPHETS AND SAGES

YESHAYAHU – ISAIAH

(Yeshayahu 1:26-28)

And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning; afterward you shall be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and those who return to her with righteousness. And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and those who forsake Hashem shall be consumed.

(Yeshayahu 2:2-3)

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of Hashem's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. And many people shall go and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Hashem, to the house of the G-d of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for from Zion shall go forth Torah, and the word of Hashem from Jerusalem.

(Yeshayahu 4:3-4)

And it shall come to pass, that he who is left in Zion, and he who remains in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, every one who has been recorded among the living in Jerusalem; When Hashem shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from its midst by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

(Yeshayahu 24:23)

Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when Hashem of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his elders gloriously.

(Yeshayahu 30:19)

For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more; He will be very gracious to you at the voice of your cry; when He shall hear it, He will answer you.

(Yeshayahu 31: 5)

As birds flying, so will Hashem of hosts defend Jerusalem; He will defend and deliver it; and passing over it He will preserve it

(Yeshayahu 34: 6-8)

The sword of Hashem is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams; for Hashem has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. And wild oxen shall come down with them, and the steers with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. For it is the day of Hashem's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the cause of Zion.

(Yeshayahu 35:10)

And the ransomed of Hashem shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

(Yeshayahu 37:31-32)

And the remnant that has escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward; For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and those who escape from Mount Zion; the zeal of Hashem of hosts shall do this.

(Yeshayahu 40: 1-5)

Comfort my people, comfort them, says your G-d. Speak comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry to her, that her fighting is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from Hashem's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries, Prepare in the wilderness the way of Hashem, make straight in the desert a highway for our G-d. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain; And the glory of Hashem shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of Hashem has spoken it.

(Yeshayahu 46: 13)

I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not delay; and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

(Yeshayahu 52: 1-9)

Awake, awake; put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; from now on there shall no more come to you the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake yourself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem; loose yourself from the bands of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion. For thus says Hashem, You have sold yourselves for nothing; and you shall be redeemed without money. For thus says Hashem G-d, My people went down the first time to Egypt to sojourn there; and the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. Now therefore, what have I here, says Hashem, that my people is taken away for nothing? Those who rule over them howl, says Hashem; and my name continually every day is blasphemed. Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore they shall know in that day that I am he who speaks; behold, here I am. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace; who brings good news of good, who announces salvation; who says to Zion, Your G-d reigns! The voice of your watchmen is heard; together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when Hashem returns to Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for Hashem has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

(Yeshayahu 59: 20-21)

And a redeemer shall come to Zion, and to those in Jacob who turn from

transgression, says Hashem. As for me, this is my covenant with them, says Hashem; My spirit that is upon you, and my words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your seed, nor from the mouth of your seed's seed, says Hashem, from now on and forever.

(Yeshayahu 60: 14-15)

The sons also of those who afflicted you shall come bending to you; and all those who despised you shall bow themselves down at the soles of your feet; and they shall call you, The city of Hashem, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Because you have been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through you, I will make you an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations.

(Yeshayahu 61: 1-3)

The spirit of Hashem G-d is upon me; because Hashem has anointed me to announce good news to the humble; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim an acceptable year of Hashem, and the day of vengeance of our G-d; to comfort all who mourn; To appoint to those who mourn in Zion, to give to them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of Hashem, that he might be glorified.

(Yeshayahu 62: 1-12)

For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth like radiance, and her salvation like a burning torch. And the nations shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of Hashem shall express. You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of Hashem, and a royal diadem in the hand of your G-d. You shall no more be termed Forsaken; nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for Hashem delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your G-d rejoice over you. I have set watchmen upon your walls, O Jerusalem, who shall never hold their peace day nor night; you who make mention of Hashem, take no rest. And give him no rest, until he establish, and until he makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Hashem has sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will

no more give your grain to be food for your enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink your wine, for which you have labored; But those who have gathered it shall eat it and praise Hashem; and those who have brought it together shall drink it in the courts of my sanctuary. Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way of the people; build up, build up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people. Behold, Hashem has proclaimed to the end of the world, Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his wages before him. And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of Hashem; and you shall be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.

(Yeshayahu 65:18-25)

But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people; and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more there an infant who lives but a few days, nor an old man who has not filled his days; for the child shall die a hundred years old' but the sinner being a hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and my chosen ones shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of Hashem, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, says Hashem.

(Yeshayahu 66:10-14)

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her; rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her; That you may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that you may drink deeply, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus says Hashem, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like a flowing stream; then shall you suck, you shall be carried upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. And when you see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like grass; and the hand of Hashem shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

YIRMIYAHU – JEREMIAH

(Yirmiyahu 3:14)

Turn, O faithless children, says Hashem; for I have taken you to myself; and I will take you, from a city one, and from a family two, and I will bring you to Zion;

(Yirmiyahu 3:17-18)

At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of Hashem; and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of Hashem, to Jerusalem; nor shall they walk any more after the stubbornness of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance to your fathers.

(Yirmiyahu 31:10-16)

For Hashem has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him who was stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow to the goodness of Hashem, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd; and their soul shall be like a watered garden; and they shall not languish in sorrow any more. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together; for I will turn their mourning to joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow. And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, says Hashem. Thus says Hashem; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. Thus says Hashem; Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for your work shall be rewarded, says Hashem; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope for your future, says Hashem, that your children shall come again to their own border.

(Yirmiyahu 51:10-11)

Hashem has brought forth our vindication; come, and let us declare in Zion the work of Hashem our G-d. Sharpen the arrows; gather the shields; Hashem has raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes; for his plan is against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of Hashem, the vengeance of his temple.

YOEL – JOEL

(Yoel 3:5 – 4:2)

And it shall come to pass, that whoever shall call on the name of Hashem shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as Hashem has said, and among the remnant those whom Hashem shall call. For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring back the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will enter into judgment with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and have divided my land.

(Yoel 4:15-21)

The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. And Hashem roars out of Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shake; but Hashem will be a refuge for his people, and a fortress for the people of Israel. And you shall know that I am Hashem your G-d dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain; then shall Jerusalem be holy, and no strangers shall pass through her any more. And it shall come to pass on that day, that the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streams of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall issue from the house of Hashem, and shall water the valley of Shittim. Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence done against the people of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land. But Judah shall remain for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. For though I have acquitted them, I have not acquitted those who shed their blood. And Hashem dwells in Zion.

MICHA

(Micha 4:1-7)

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of Hashem shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow to it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Hashem, and to the house of the G-d of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for

Torah shall go forth from Zion, and the word of Hashem from Jerusalem. And he shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide concerning far away strong nations; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of Hashem of hosts has spoken it. For let all people walk everyone in the name of his G-d, and we will walk in the name of Hashem our G-d forever and ever. In that day, says Hashem, I will assemble her who limps, and I will gather her who is driven out, and her whom I have afflicted; And I will make her who limps a remnant; and her who was cast off, a strong nation; and Hashem shall reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth, and for evermore.

TZEFANIA

(Tzefania 3:14-20)

Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. Hashem has taken away your judgments, he has cast out your enemy. The king of Israel, Hashem, is in your midst; you shall not see evil any more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Do not fear, O Zion! Let not your hands be slack. Hashem your G-d is in your midst; a mighty one who saves, he will rejoice over you with joy; he will be silent in his love, he will joy over you with singing. I will gather those who mourn far away for the solemn assembly, who were of you, who had borne for you the burden of insult. Behold, at that time I will undo all who afflict you; and I will save her who limps, and gather her who was driven out; and I will get praise and fame to those who have been put to shame in all the earth. At that time I will bring you back, and at that time I will gather you; for I will make you a name and a praise among all the people of the earth, when I restore your captivity before your eyes, says Hashem.

ZECHARYA

(Zecharya 1:12- 2:2)

Then the angel of Hashem answered and said, O Lord of hosts, how long will you not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which you have had indignation these seventy years? And Hashem answered the angel

who talked with me with good words and comfortable words. And the angel who talked with me said to me, Proclaim, saying: Thus says Hashem of hosts; I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great zeal. And I am very much displeased with the nations that are at ease; for I was only a little angry, and they furthered the affliction. Therefore thus says Hashem: I have returned to Jerusalem with mercies; my house shall be rebuilt in it, says Hashem of hosts, and a measuring line shall be stretched over Jerusalem. Proclaim further, saying, Thus says Hashem of hosts; My cities shall again overflow with prosperity; and Hashem shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem. Then I lifted up my eyes, and saw, and behold four horns. And I said to the angel who talked with me, What are these? And he answered me, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.

(Zecharya 2:14-17)

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion; for, behold, I come, and I will dwell in your midst, says Hashem. And many nations shall join themselves to Hashem on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that Hashem of hosts has sent me to you. And Hashem shall inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again. Be silent, all flesh, before Hashem; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

(Zecharya 8:1-6)

Again the word of Hashem of hosts came to me, saying, Thus says Hashem of hosts; I was zealous for Zion with great zeal, and I was zealous for her with great fury. Thus says Hashem: I have returned to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth; and the mountain of Hashem of hosts the Holy Mountain. Thus says Hashem of hosts: Old men and old women shall again dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for the fullness of days. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says Hashem of hosts: If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvelous in my eyes? says Hashem of hosts.

(Zecharya 9:9)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, your King comes to you; he is just, and victorious; humble and riding on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass.

(Zecharya 14:16-17)

And it shall come to pass, that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, Hashem of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. And it shall be, that whoever will not come up of all the families of the earth to Jerusalem to worship the King, Hashem of hosts, upon them shall be no rain.

SEFER TEHILLIM – PSALMS

(Tehillim 14:7)

Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When Hashem shall bring back the exile of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

(Tehillim 20:3)

May he send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion!

(Tehillim 48:3)

Beautiful sight, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the northern side of the city of the great King.

(Tehillim 48:12-15)

Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of your judgments. Walk about Zion, and go around her; count her towers. Mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that you may tell it to the following generation, That this is G-d, our G-d for ever and ever; he will be our guide till death.

(Tehillim 50:2)

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, G-d shines forth.

(Tehillim 51:20-21)

Do good in your good will to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then shall you be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then shall they offer bulls upon your altar.

(Tehillim 69:36)

For G-d will save Zion, and will rebuild the cities of Judah; that they may dwell there, and have it in possession.

(Tehillim 87:2)

Hashem loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

(Tehillim 102:14-18)

You shall arise, and have mercy upon Zion; for it is time to favor her, the set time has come. For your servants hold her stones dear, and have pity on her dust. So the nations shall fear the name of Hashem, and all the kings of the earth your glory. For Hashem shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.

(Tehillim 122)

A Song of Maalot of David. I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of Hashem. Our feet shall stand inside your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city which is bound firmly together; There the tribes go up, the tribes of Hashem, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of Hashem. For thrones of judgment were set there, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; those who love you shall prosper. Peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces. For my brothers and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within you. Because of the house of Hashem our G-d I will seek your good.

(Tehillim 126:1-6)

A Song of Maalot. When Hashem brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like dreamers. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then they said among the nations, Hashem has done great things for them. Hashem has done great things for us; we are glad. Bring back our captivity, O Lord, like the streams in the Negev. Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who goes forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come back with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

(Tehillim 128:5-6)

Hashem shall bless you from Zion; and you shall see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. And you shall see your children's children, and peace upon Israel.

(Tehillim 129:5)

Let them be ashamed and turned backward, all they that hate Zion

(Tehillim 132:13-18)

For Hashem has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his habitation. This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation; and her pious ones shall shout aloud for joy. There I will make the horn of David bud; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. His enemies I will clothe with shame; but upon himself his crown shall flourish.

(Tehillim 134:3)

May Hashem who made heaven and earth bless you from Zion!

(Tehillim 135:21)

Blessed be Hashem from Zion, he who dwells at Jerusalem! Hallelu-jah!

(Tehillim 137)

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, we also wept, when we remembered Zion. We hung our lyres on the willows in its midst. For there those who carried us away captive required of us a song; and those who tormented us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing Hashem's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember you, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites, the day of Jerusalem; who said, Raze it, raze it, to its foundation. O daughter of Babylon, you are to be destroyed! Happy shall he be, who repays you for what you have done to us! Happy shall he be, who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!

WORDS OF REPROOF ABOUT THE EXILE AND THE JEWS THAT FALL IN LOVE WITH IT

YECHEZKEL – EZEKIEL

CHAPTER 20

And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, that some of the elders of Israel came to inquire of Hashem, and sat

before me. Then came the word of Hashem to me, saying, Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel, and say to them, Thus says Hashem G-d: Are you come to inquire of me? As I live, said Hashem G-d, I will not be inquired by you. Will you judge them, son of man, will you judge them? Make known to them the abominations of their fathers; And say to them, Thus says Hashem G-d; In the day when I chose Israel, and raised my hand to the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known to them in the land of Egypt, when I raised my hand to them, saying, I am Hashem your G-d; In the day that I raised my hand to them, to bring them out from the land of Egypt to a land that I had spied out for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the most glorious of all lands; Then I said to them, Cast away every man the abominations of his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am Hashem your G-d. But they rebelled against me, and would not listen to me; they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt; then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to spend my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt. But I acted for my name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the nations, among whom they were, in whose sight I had made myself known to them, by bringing them out of the land of Egypt. And I caused them to go out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness. And I gave them my statutes, and made my judgments known to them, by whose observance man shall live. And also I gave them My Shabbats, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am Hashem who sanctifies them. But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they walked not in my statutes, and they despised My judgments, by whose observance man shall live; and My Shabbats they greatly profaned; then I said, I would pour out My fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them. But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the nations, in whose sight I brought them out. And I also raised My hand to them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the most glorious of all lands; Because they rejected my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but profaned my Shabbats; for their heart went after their idols. Nevertheless my eye spared them and I did not destroy them, nor did I make an end of them in the wilderness. But I said to their children in the wilderness, Do not follow the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols; I am Hashem your G-d; follow My statutes, and keep My judgments, and do them; And sanctify My Shabbats; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am Hashem your G-d. However the children rebelled against Me; they walked not in

my statutes, nor did they keep my judgments to do them, by whose observance man shall live; they profaned my Shabbats; then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to spend my anger against them in the wilderness. Nevertheless I withdrew My hand, and acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I brought them out. I raised my hand to them also in the wilderness, declaring that I would scatter them among the nations, and disperse them through the countries; Because they had not executed My judgments, but had rejected My statutes, and had profaned My Shabbats, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols. Therefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live; And I defiled them by their own gifts, by making them pass through the fire all that opens the womb, that I might blight them, that they might know that I am Hashem. Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and say to them, Thus says Hashem G-d; Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed Me, by committing a trespass against Me. For when I had brought them into the land, for which I lifted up my hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offerings; there also they made their sweet odors, and poured out their drink offerings. Then I said to them, What is the high place to which you go? And its name is called Bamah until this day. Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says Hashem G-d: Are you defiled after the manner of your fathers? Do you go astray after their abominations? For when you offer your gifts, when you make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even until this day; and shall I be inquired by you, O house of Israel? As I live, says Hashem G-d, I will not be inquired by you. And that which comes into your mind shall never come about, that you say, We will be as the nations, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone. As I live, says Hashem G-d, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you; And I will bring you out from the peoples, and will gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I remonstrate with you face to face. Like I remonstrated with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I remonstrate with you, says Hashem G-d. And I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out from the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel; and you shall know that I am Hashem. As for you, O house of

Israel, thus says Hashem G-d: Go, serve everyone of you his idols, and hereafter also, if you will not listen to me; but profane you My holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols. For in My holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, says Hashem G-d, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me; there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the first fruits of your gifts, with all your holy things. I will accept you with your sweet odors, when I bring you out from the peoples, and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the nations. And you shall know that I am Hashem, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for which I raised my hand to give it to your fathers. And there shall you remember your ways, and all your doings, where you have been defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that you have committed. And you shall know that I am Hashem, when I have acted with you for My name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O house of Israel, says Hashem G-d.

CHAPTER 36

And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel, and say, You mountains of Israel, hear the word of Hashem; Thus says Hashem G-d: Because the enemy has said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession; Therefore prophesy and say, Thus says Hashem G-d: Because they have made you desolate, and swallowed you up on every side, that you might be a possession to the rest of the nations, and you are in the lips of talkers, and have become the vicious gossip of the people; Therefore, you mountains of Israel, hear the word of Hashem G-d; Thus says Hashem G-d to the mountains, and to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes, and to the cities that are forsaken, which became a prey and derision to the rest of the nations that are around; Therefore thus says Hashem G-d: Surely in the fire of My jealousy have I spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, which have appointed my land to themselves for a possession with the joy of all their heart, with disdainful minds, to cast it out for a prey. Prophesy therefore concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains, and to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys, Thus says Hashem G-d; Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in my fury, because you have suffered the insults of the nations; Therefore thus says Hashem G-d: I have raised My hand, Surely the nations that are around you shall bear their own insult. But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for

they will soon be coming. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown; And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited, and the ruined places shall be rebuilt; And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit; and I will cause you to be inhabited as in your former times, and will do more good to you than ever before; and you shall know that I am Hashem. And I will cause men to walk upon you, my people Israel; and they shall possess you, and you shall be their inheritance, and you shall no longer bereave them of children. Thus says Hashem G-d: Because they say to you, You are a land that devours up men, and have bereaved your nations; Therefore you shall devour men no more, nor bereave your nations any more, says Hashem G-d. And I will not allow the insult of the nations to be heard any more against you, nor shall you bear the reproach of the people any more, nor shall you cause your nations to stumble any more, said Hashem G-d. And the word of Hashem came to me, saying: Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their way and by their doings; their way was before me as the uncleanness of a menstruating woman. Therefore I poured My fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it; And I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries; according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. And when they came to the nations, to which they came, they profaned My holy name, when men said of them, These are the people of Hashem, and they are gone out from his land! But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations, to which they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says Hashem G-d: I do not do this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations, to which you came. And I will sanctify My great name, which was profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am Hashem, says Hashem G-d, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you from all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your filthiness; and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put inside you; and I will take away the heart of stone from your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit inside you, and cause you to follow my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments, and do them. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you shall be my people, and I will be your G-d. And I will save you from all your uncleanness; and

I will summon the grain, and will increase it and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the produce of the field, that you shall receive no more reproach of famine among the nations. Then shall you remember your evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. Not for your sakes do I do this, says Hashem G-d, let that be known to you; be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel. Thus says Hashem G-d: In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the ruined places shall be rebuilt. And the desolate land shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that was in the sight of all who passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities have become fortified, and are inhabited. Then the nations that are left around you shall know that I, Hashem, have rebuilt the ruined places, and have replanted that which was desolate; I, Hashem, have spoken it, and I will do it. Thus says Hashem G-d: This also I will let the house of Israel, ask me to do for them; I will increase their men like a flock. Like the flock of sacrifices, like the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts, shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men; and they shall know that I am Hashem.

THE BOOK OF EZRA

ONLY 42,360 PEOPLE CAME BACK FROM THE EXILE OF BABEL. MANY OF THOSE WHO CAME WERE MARRIED TO GENTILE WOMEN. THE GOYYIM WERE BENT ON BLOCKING THE JEWS FROM REBUILDING THE BEIT HA MIKDASH. ALL THESE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED IN OUR DAYS AS WELL. IT IS A SIGN THAT WE MUST HAVE FAITH AND TRUST IN HASHEM THAT HE IS DIRECTING EVENTS TOWARDS COMPLETE REDEMPTION, AND EVEN IF WE SEE THINGS THAT ARE NOT PERFECT YET, WE MUST HAVE FAITH THAT THEY WILL ALL BE CORRECTED IN DUE TIME

(1: 1-11)

1 And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of Hashem by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, Hashem stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he issued a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying:

2 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, Hashem G-d of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he has charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3 Who is there among you of all his people? His G-d be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of Hashem G-d of Israel, he is the G-d, which is in Jerusalem.

4 And whoever remains in any place where he sojourns, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of G-d which is in Jerusalem.

5 Then rose up the chiefs of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all those whose spirit G-d had stirred to go up to build the house of Hashem which is in Jerusalem.

6 And all those who were around them strengthened their hands with utensils of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered.

7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the utensils of the house of Hashem, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought from Jerusalem, and had them put in the house of his gods;

8 And Cyrus king of Persia brought them forth, by the hand of Mithredath, the treasurer, and counted them to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

9 And this is the number of them: thirty basins of gold, one thousand basins of silver, twenty nine knives,

10 Thirty bowls of gold, silver bowls of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other utensils one thousand.

11 All the utensils of gold and of silver were five thousand four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar brought up when the exiles were brought up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

(4:1-5)

1 And when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the sons of the exiles were building the temple for Hashem G-d of Israel;

2 (K) They came to Zerubbabel, and to the chiefs of the fathers' houses and said to them, Let us build with you; for we seek your G-d, as you do; and we have sacrificed to him since the days of Esar-Haddon, king of Assyria, who brought us up here.

3 And Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chiefs of the fathers' houses of Israel, said to them, You have nothing to do with us in building a house

to our G-d; but we ourselves alone will build to Hashem G-d of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us.

4 And the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and made them afraid to build,

5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

(Ezra 6:15-22)

15 And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

16 And the people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of G-d with joy,

17 And they offered at the dedication of this house of G-d one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

18 And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of G-d, at Jerusalem; as it is written in the Book of Moses.

19 And the returned exiles kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

20 For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves, all of them were pure; and they killed the Passover lamb for all the returned exiles, and for their brothers the priests, and for themselves.

21 And the people of Israel, who had returned from exile, and all those who had kept themselves apart from the filthiness of the nations of the land, to seek Hashem G-d of Israel, ate,

22 And celebrated the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy; for Hashem had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of G-d, the G-d of Israel.

(Ezra 7: 21-28)

21 And I, Artaxerxes the king, issue a decree to all the treasurers who are beyond the river, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of priest, the scribe of the law of the G-d of heaven, shall require of you, be done with all diligence.

22 Up to one hundred talents of silver, and one hundred measures of wheat, and one hundred bats of wine, and one hundred bats of oil, and salt, without prescribing how much.

23 Whatever is commanded by the G-d of heaven, let it be diligently done for

the house of the G-d of heaven, lest his wrath be against the realm of the king and his sons.

24 We also notify you that it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute or custom upon any of the priests and Levites, singers, gate keepers, servants, or ministers of this house of G-d.

25 And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your G-d, which is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges, who may judge all the people who are beyond the river, all those who know the laws of your G-d; and teach those who do not know them.

26 And whoever will not obey the law of your G-d, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed upon him strictly, whether for death, for banishment, for confiscation of goods, or for imprisonment.

27 Blessed be Hashem G-d of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of Hashem which is in Jerusalem;

28 And has extended his loving kindness to me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened for the hand of Hashem my G-d was upon me, and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me.

(Ezra 8: 21- 10:19)

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our G-d, to seek from him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our goods.

22 For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way; because we had spoken to the king, saying, The hand of our G-d is for good upon all those who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all those who forsake him.

23 So we fasted and besought our G-d for this; and he listened to our entreaty....

31 Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem; and the hand of our G-d was upon us, and he saved us from the hand of the enemy, and of those who lay in wait by the way....

9

1 And when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not set themselves apart from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the

Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.

2 For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons; so that the holy seed have mixed themselves with the people of those lands; and the hand of the princes and rulers has been foremost in this trespass.

3 And when I heard this matter, I tore my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down appalled.

4 Then all who trembled at the words of the G-d of Israel, because of the transgression of those who had been carried to exile, gathered around me, while I sat appalled until the evening sacrifice.

5 And at the evening sacrifice I rose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands to Hashem my G-d,

6 And said, O my G-d, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to you, my G-d; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our trespasses have mounted up to the heavens.

7 Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been exceedingly guilty; and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests, have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to plunder, and to utter shame, as it is this day.

8 And now for a brief moment grace has been shown from Hashem our G-d, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a secure nail in his holy place, that our G-d may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our slavery.

9 For we were slaves; yet our G-d has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his loving kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our G-d, and to repair its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

10 And now, O our G-d, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments,

11 Which you commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, The land which you are entering to take possession of it, is a land unclean because of the uncleanness of the people of the lands, who, with their abominations, have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness.

12 And now do not give your daughters to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons, nor seek their peace or their welfare for ever; that you may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.

13 And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great guilt, seeing that you our G-d have punished us less than our iniquities deserve,

and have given us such deliverance as this;

14 Should we again break your commandments, and intermarry with the people of these abominations? Would you not be angry with us till you would consume us, so that there should be no remnant nor any to escape?

15 O Lord G-d of Israel, you are righteous; for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is this day; behold, we are before you in our guilt, for we cannot stand before you because of this.

1 And while Ezra prayed, and confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of G-d, a very great assembly of men and women and children gathered to him out of Israel; for the people wept bitterly.

2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said to Ezra, We have trespassed against our G-d, and have taken alien wives from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this matter.

3 And now let us make a covenant with our G-d to put away all such women, and those born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those who tremble at the commandment of our G-d; and let it be done according to the Torah.

4 Arise; for it is your task, and we are with you. Be of good courage and do it!

5 Then Ezra arose, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, swear that they should do according to this word. And they swore.

6 Then Ezra rose up from before the house of G-d, and went into the chamber of Johanan the son of Eliashib; and when he came there, he did not eat bread, nor drink water; for he mourned because of the transgression of the exiles.

7 And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the returned exiles, that they should gather themselves together at Jerusalem;

8 And that whoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his goods should be forfeited, and he himself set apart from the congregation of the exiles.

9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together at Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of G-d, trembling because of this matter, and because of the heavy rain.

10 And Ezra the priest stood up, and said to them, You have transgressed, and have taken foreign wives, to increase the guilt of Israel.

11 And now make confession to Hashem G-d of your fathers, and do his will;

and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the foreign wives.

12 Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As you have said, so must we do.

13 But the people are many, and it is the time of heavy rain, and we are not able to stand outside, nor is this a work for one day or two; for we are many who have transgressed in this matter.

14 Let now our rulers of all the congregation stand, and let all those who have taken foreign wives in our cities come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city, and its judges, until the fierce wrath of our G-d over this matter is turned away from us.

15 Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah stood out against this; and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite supported them.

16 And the returned exiles did so. And Ezra the priest selected certain chiefs of the fathers' houses, after the house of their fathers, each of them designated by name, and they sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.

17 And by the first day of the first month, they made an end of the matter of the men who had taken foreign wives.

18 And among the sons of the priests who had taken foreign wives were found: of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brothers, Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah.

19 And they gave their hand that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass.

NECHEMIAH (1:1-6:16)

**READ CAREFULLY THESE EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK OF
NECHEMIAH AND YOU WILL FIND MANY SIMILARITIES TO OUR
SITUATION IN THESE TIMES, THE DIFFICULTIES, THE POVERTY,
THE ENEMIES THAT OPPOSE THE REBUILDING OF THE LAND, THE
BRAVERY OF THOSE WHO MERITED TO ASCEND TO ERETZ ISRAEL
FROM THE LANDS OF EXILE**

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Kislev, in the twentieth year, when I was in Shushan the capital,

2 That Hanani, one of my brothers, came, he and some men of Judah;

and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

3 And they said to me, The remnant of the captivity, who are left there in the province, suffer great affliction and insult; the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.

4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned several days, and fasted, and prayed before the G-d of heaven,

5 And I said, I pray you, O Lord G-d of heaven, the great and awesome G-d, who keeps covenant and grace with those who love him and observe his commandments;

6 Let your ear now be attentive, and your eyes open, that you may hear the prayer of your servant, which I pray before you now, day and night, for the people of Israel your servants, and confess the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you; both I and my father's house have sinned.

7 We have dealt very corruptly against you, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which you commanded your servant Moses.

8 Remember, I beseech you, the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, If you transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations;

9 But if you turn to me, and keep my commandments, and do them, though you were dispersed to the farthest skies, I would gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen to set my name there.

10 Now these are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power, and by your strong hand.

11 O Lord, I beseech you, let now your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants, who delight to fear your name; and let your servant prosper, I pray you, this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. And I was the king's cupbearer.

1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him; and I took up the wine, and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad before in his presence.

2 And the king said to me, Why is your face sad, seeing you are not ill? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very much afraid.

3 And I said to the king, Let the king live for ever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchers, lies in ruins, and its gates have been consumed by fire?

4 Then the king said to me, For what do you make request? So I prayed to the G-d of heaven.

5 And I said to the king, If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you would send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' sepulchers, that I may rebuild it.

6 And the king said to me, the queen sitting by him, How long will your journey last? And when will you return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

7 And I said to the king, If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come to Judah;

8 And a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house to which I go. And the king granted me, for the good hand of my G-d was upon me.

9 Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. And the king had sent officers of the army and horsemen with me.

10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it displeased them greatly that a man had come seeking the welfare of the people of Israel.

11 So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

12 And I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; and I told no man what my G-d had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. And there was no beast with me, but the beast on which I rode.

13 And I went out by night by the Valley Gate, to the Well of the Crocodile, and to the Dung Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and its gates had been consumed by fire.

14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate, and to the King's Pool; but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass.

15 Then I went up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned.

16 And the rulers did not know where I went, or what I did. And to the Jews, and to the priests, and to the rulers, and to the rest who would do the work, till then I had not told.

17 Then I said to them, You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates are burned by fire; Come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we no longer should suffer insult.

18 Then I told them of the hand of my G-d which had been good upon

me; and also of words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arab, heard of it, they laughed at us with scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?

20 Then I answered them, and said to them: The G-d of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build; but you have no portion, no right, no memorial, in Jerusalem.

1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it, and set its doors; they consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananeel.

2 And next to him built the men of Jericho. And next to them built Zaccur the son of Imri.

3 And the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate, and also laid its beams, and set up its doors, its locks, and its bars.

4 And next to them repaired Meremoth the son of Uriah, the son of Hakoz. And next to them repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel. And next to them repaired Zadok the son of Baana.

5 And next to them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles did not put their necks to the work of their Lord.

6 And Jehoiada, the son of Paseah, repaired the Old Gate, and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams, and set up its doors, and its locks, and its bars.

7 And next to them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, as far as the seat of the governor beyond the river.

8 Next to him repaired Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths. Next to him repaired Hananiah, one of the perfumers, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

9 And next to them repaired Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem.

10 And next to them repaired Jedaiah the son of Harumaph, opposite his house. And next to him repaired Hattush the son of Hashabniah.

11 Malchijah the son of Harim, and Hashub the son of Pahath-Moab, repaired another section, and the Tower of the Ovens.

12 And next to him repaired Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the ruler of

half the district of Jerusalem, he and his daughters.

13 Hanun repaired the Valley Gate, and the inhabitants of Zanoah; they rebuilt it, and set up its doors, its locks, and its bars, and a thousand cubits of the wall, as far as the Dung Gate.

14 And Malchijah the son of Rechab, the ruler of the district of Beth-Hakerem, repaired the Dung Gate; he rebuilt it, and set up its doors, its locks, and its bars.

15 And Shallun, the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate; he rebuilt it, and covered it, and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and the wall of the pool of Shiloah in the king's garden, as far as the stairs that descend from the city of David.

16 After him repaired Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of half the district of Beth-Zur, to a place opposite the sepulchers of David, as far as the man made pool, and as far as the house of the warriors.

17 After him repaired the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, the ruler of half the district of Keilah, repaired his area.

18 After him repaired their brothers, Bavai the son of Henadad, the ruler of half the district of Keilah.

19 And next to him repaired Azer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, another section opposite the ascent to the armory at the corner.

20 After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired another section, from the corner as far as the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

21 After him repaired Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakoz another section, from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib.

22 And after him repaired the priests, the men of the plain.

23 After him repaired Benjamin and Hashub opposite their house. After him repaired Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah by his house.

24 After him repaired Binnui the son of Henadad another section, from the house of Azariah to the turning of the wall, as far as the corner.

25 Palal the son of Uzai, repaired opposite the corner, and the tower which projects out from the king's upper house, that was by the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh,

26 And the temple servants living in Ophel, repaired to the place opposite the Water Gate towards the east, and the projecting tower.

27 After them the Tekoites repaired another section, opposite the great projecting tower, as far as the wall of Ophel.

28 The priests repaired from above the Horse Gate, every one opposite his own house. 29 After them repaired Zadok the son of Immer, opposite his own house. After him repaired also Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate.

30 After him repaired Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, another section. After him repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah opposite his chamber.

31 After him repaired Malchijah the goldsmith's son as far as the place of the Temple servants and of the merchants, opposite the Hamiphkad Gate, and to the ascent of the corner.

32 And the goldsmiths and the merchants repaired between the ascent of the corner and the Sheep Gate.

33 And it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we built the wall, he was angry, and greatly enraged, and he mocked the Jews.

34 And he spoke before his brothers and the army of Samaria, and said, What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore things? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish which are burned?

35 And Tobiah the Ammonite, who was next to him, said, Even a fox climbing up on what they build, shall break down their stone wall!

36 Hear, O our G-d; for we are despised; and turn their taunt upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity;

37 And do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before you; for they have provoked you to anger before the builders.

38 So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height; for the people had a mind to work.

1 And it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabs, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being repaired, and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry.

2 And they all conspired together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to cause confusion in it.

3 And we prayed to our G-d, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

4 And Judah said, The strength of the burden bearers is failing, and there is much rubble; so that we are not able to build the wall.

5 And our adversaries said, They shall not know, nor see, till we come into their midst, and kill them, and cause the work to stop.

6 And it came to pass, that when the Jews who lived by them came, they said to us ten times: From all the places where you shall return, they will be upon us.

7 Therefore I stationed the people in the lower places behind the wall, on the bare face of the rock. I stationed the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

8 And I looked, and rose up, and said to the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Do not be afraid of them, remember Hashem, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

9 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that G-d had frustrated their plot, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one to his work.

10 And it came to pass from that day on, that half of my servants did the work, and the other half of them held the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the coats of mail; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah.

11 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves in such a way that with one of his hands each labored in his work, and with the other hand he held a weapon.

12 And everyone of the builders had his sword girded by his side, and so they built. And he who sounded the shofar was by my side.

13 And I said to the nobles, and to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and wide, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another.

14 In the place where you hear the sound of the shofar, rally to us there; our G-d shall fight for us.

15 So we labored in the work; and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn till the stars appeared.

16 Also, at the same time, I said to the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, so that in the night they shall guard us, and labor in the day.

17 And neither I, nor my brothers, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; everyone brought his weapon with him, even to the water.

1 And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers.

2 For there were those who said, We, our sons, and our daughters, are many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat, and live.

3 Some also were there who said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy grain, because of the famine.

4 There were also those who said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute upon our lands and vineyards.

5 Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children as their children; and, behold, we force our sons and daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters are already pressed into slavery; and it is not in our power to redeem them; for other men have our fields and vineyards.

6 And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.

7 Then I took counsel with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the leaders, and said to them, You make claims for debt, each from his brother. And I held a great assembly against them.

8 And I said to them, We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers, which were sold to the nations; and you will sell your brothers so that they should be sold to us? Then they were silent, and could find no words to answer.

9 Also I said, What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our G-d because of the taunts of the nations our enemies?

10 And I, and my brothers, and my servants, are lending them money and grain; I beg you, let us release this debt.

11 Return to them, I beg you, even today, their lands, their vineyards, their olive trees, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the grain, the wine, and the oil, that you have been exacting of them.

12 Then they said, We will return them, and will require nothing from them. We will do as you say. And I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.

13 Also I shook out my lap, and said, So may G-d shake out every man from his house, and from his labor, who does not perform this promise; so may he be shaken out and emptied. And all the assembly said, Amen, and praised Hashem. And the people did as they had promised.

14 And from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty second year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brothers have not eaten the bread allowance of the governor.

15 But the previous governors who had been before me laid burdens upon the people, and had taken from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Even their servants ruled over the people! But I did not do so, because of the fear of G-d.

16 I also continued in the work of this wall, nor did we buy any land; and all my servants were gathered there for the work.

17 And there were at my table a hundred and fifty of the Jews and the leaders, beside those who came to us from among the nations that are around us.

18 And what was prepared for me daily was one ox and six choice sheep; fowls were also prepared for me, and once every ten days all sorts of wine in abundance; and yet, in spite of all this, I did not require the bread allowance of the governor, because the servitude was heavy upon this people.

19 Remember me, my G-d, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

1 And it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had built the wall, and that no breach was left in it; though at that time I had not yet set up the doors in the gates;

2 Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, Come, let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they intended to harm me.

3 And I sent messengers to them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease, while I leave it, and come down to you?

4 Yet they sent to me four times in this way; and I answered them in the same manner.

5 And Sanballat, in this manner, sent his servant to me a fifth time with an open letter in his hand;

6 In it was written, It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall, that you may be their king, according to these words.

7 And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah! And now it shall be reported to the king according to these words. So, come now, and let us take counsel together.

8 And I sent to him, saying, No such things as you say have been done, but you invent them out of your own heart.

9 For they all wanted us to be afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, and it will not be done. Now therefore, O G-d, strengthen my hands.

10 And I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of G-d, inside the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple; for they will come to kill you; in the night they will come to kill you.

11 And I said, Should a man such as I flee? What man, such as I, would go into the temple and live? I will not go in!

12 And, behold, I perceived that G-d had not sent him; but that he had pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

13 For this purpose was he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, so that they should have reasons to give me a bad name, in order to taunt me.

14 Remember, O My G-d, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that wanted to frighten me.

15 So the wall was finished in the twenty fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty two days.

16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw it, they fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work was done by our G-d.

**PLEASE HASHEM LET US DWELL IN
ERETZ ISRAEL, DO IT FOR YOUR
GREAT NAME NOT IF NOT FOR US**

**MAY YOU HASHEM REBUILD THE
BEIT HA MIKDASH SOON IN OUR
DAYS, AMEN**