

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

PARSHAS PINCHAS

Taking An Unpopular Stand

Looking at this week's Parsha, Pinchas, you can't help but think about Israel. Our Parsha talks about the laws of inheritance of the land of Israel. Then, Moshe appoints Yehoshua to be the next leader. The one who would lead the Jewish people into the land of Israel. It talks about the sacrifices brought at different times in our Holy Temple in Jerusalem, Israel.

The strange thing is that this Parsha begins in the middle of a story about Pinchas, how he killed two people, thereby stopping a plague that took the lives of 24,000. For this, Hashem gave him the title of Kohen, priest, for him and all his future descendants and the namesake of our Parsha, Pinchas.

What are we meant to learn from Pinchas about the land, the leaders, and the temple service of Israel?

ALL IT TAKES IS ONE PERSON TO STAND IN THE FACE OF EVIL. BE THAT PERSON.

There are times that we are faced with a dilemma: Do what is right or do what is popular? Unfortunately, it is very difficult to stand

against what is popular, because, "what will people say?" "Everybody is doing it" and "they won't like me."

Pinchas was faced with this dilemma. No one was ready to stand up and do the right thing. In the face of that he stood up, did what was necessary, and saved the day. He

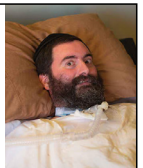
stopped the plague and is rewarded with the priesthood.

The same is true for the leadership of Israel. The whole world is against you but you need to do what is right. It is very difficult to be like Pinchas, but ultimately that's what stops our people from dying. That's how we inherit our land. That's leadership.

The same is true for each of us. Hashem chose us because we have it in us to stand up for what is true and what is right. If we do what Hashem wants in the face of what is considered popular, we too earn our title of a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation" and we will merit to have our temple, the Beis Hamikdash, in Jerusalem.

Let's daven that Hashem strengthen the leadership of Israel, that He keep our brothers and sisters there safe, and that He protect our soldiers from harm.

Despite facing one of life's most difficult challenges, Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz continues to spread joy and faith to thousands around the globe. Diagnosed in 2012 with ALS, Rabbi Yitzi is now 95% paralyzed and no longer able to speak or breath on his own. Thanks to the miracle of technology, Rabbi Yitzi continues to spread his wisdom through his eyes, focusing on each and every letter of these Torah articles. Rabbi Yitzi, his wife Dina and their seven children are the Rebbe's Shluchim to Temecula, California.



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