

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

לרפואה שלימה ליוסף יצחק בן ברכה

PARSHAT VAYAKHEL - PIKUDEI

Know Who You Are

This week we read an extra Torah reading, Parshas Hachodesh. In Parshas Hachodesh, we are given the first mitzvah - to sanctify the new month on the testimony of two witnesses who saw the birth of the new moon.

The words in the Torah that teach us this mitzvah are "This month, for you, will be the first month." Hashem showed Moshe the sliver of the new moon and said, "this" is how the moon should look.

At the same time, with the same words, we are taught: "This month," the month of Nissan, "for you," for the Jewish people, "will be the first month," or literally, "the head of months."

Why is it so important for Hashem to tell us, by the first mitzvah, that Nissan be our "head month"?

"In the month of Nissan, we became a people, and in the month of Nissan, we were redeemed." Asking us to consider Nissan as our head month tells us that there is something about this month that defines us as a people.

"This month" has several names. It is called Nissan, which comes from the word *Nes*, which means miracle. This teaches us that we are a miraculous

nation with miraculous abilities. We have the ability to change the world, to make the mundane holy by doing mitzvahs. This is because though we have physical bodies, we have been infused with a neshama, a soul, which is a piece

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of Hashem. This makes us a G-dly people, above nature, enabling us to take two opposites, holy and mundane, and fuse them together. Making the physical world G-dly.

It is called the month of *Aviv*, spring. Spring is the

time that trees bud new growth. This teaches us that we cannot be comfortable with our past accomplishments. We must constantly be growing, adding in Torah, service, and good deeds.

It is also the month of *Geula*, redemption. This teaches us that we are a truly free people. We must never feel that we need to be like "them." We have our way, the Jewish way, which is by far superior and by far more humane.

This is why it is told to us by the first mitzvah, because as a Jew, first, you need to know who you are. You are imbued with these incredible traits, specifically to do mitzvahs and infuse the world with G-dliness.

This is who we are.

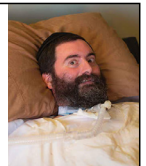
It is OK to be proud of who you are.

"G-d bless you Nissim for coming to visit Rabbi Yitzi! Rabbi Yitzi is an inspiration to the world. Much love to him and I would love to come visit him again soon!"

- Richard G, Los Angeles

RABBI YITZI WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND YOUR MESSAGE TO:
(937) 770-4802 | TORAHFROMMYEYES@GMAIL.COM

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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