

# WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

לרפואה שלימה ליוסף יצחק בן ברכה

## PARSHAT DEVORIM

### Happy or Sad? It's All Perspective

This week's Parsha, Devarim, is always read the Shabbos before the fast of Tisha B'Av. For the Haftora, we read Chazon Yeshayahu, the vision of Isaiah, giving this Shabbos the name Shabbos Chazon.

When Shabbos Chazon falls on Tisha B'Av, the fast is pushed to Sunday. When this occurs, we celebrate Shabbos even more joyfully than a regular Shabbos.

Isn't it Tisha B'Av, our saddest day? Why the extra joy?

Both the Parsha and Haftora seem to rebuke the Jewish people. Both contain the dreaded word Eicha, which brings to mind Megillas Eicha, the book of Lamentations, read on Tisha B'Av. Wherein our prophet Yirmiyahu, Jeremiah, laments the destruction of Jerusalem.

Moshe, Yishayahu, and Yirmiyahu represent different stages of Jewish nationhood.

Moshe, just before entering the land of Israel, warns the Jewish nation not to forget the great purpose they were chosen for and our connection with Hashem, whose Torah is our guide. Yeshayahu, during the First Temple Era, chastises the Jewish

people for being superficial. Yirmiyahu, just before the destruction of the First Temple, laments how low we have fallen.

Each ends with words of hope and promise, and in each case, we came bouncing back strengthened and greater than before.

Sometimes, in order to build, you first need to demolish. It is a necessary loss to achieve something greater. When

you focus on the past, the destruction is devastating. However, when you focus on the future, that which seemed awful becomes positive.

Knowing that soon Moshiach will come and our Temple will be rebuilt more beautiful than ever. Seeing how the Jewish people will have achieved unimagined levels of greatness and holiness due to our prolonged suffering in this exile.

Even more than all that, we will finally achieve our ultimate purpose, making this world a dwelling for Hashem. This is why He created existence, and this is why He created us, to

accomplish Hashem's goal. What could be greater than that?

So is Tisha B'Av happy or sad? It was sad, but soon it will be happy. When Tisha B'Av falls on Shabbos, we get a taste of our future, a taste of Moshiach as the fast gets pushed off. The happy essence of the day is revealed. Therefore we celebrate Shabbos with more joy than usual.

Sometimes I wonder, what could we be achieving in this exile? We live under threat; the whole world is against our existence.

Perhaps that is the answer. I have been suffering from ALS for over three years now\*. Not able to move or talk, I exist. But when visitors come, I fill with joy, and when they leave, they too seem full of joy.

Perhaps in these last moments of exile, it is our Jewish presence that makes the difference. So express your Jewishness a little more. Find ways to add to your Mitzvahs and do them with joy, knowing that you are changing the world for good.

May the Tisha B'Av fast be pushed off for good.

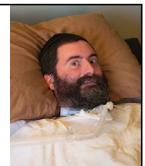
*\*This article was written in 2015*

*"Dear Rabbi Yitzi, I recently started following you and I LOVE your weekly Parshah lines. They give so much meaning and understanding to my week!  
Thank you!"*

- Anonymous, Jerusalem

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.*



THIS WEEKS ARTICLE IS DEDICATED IN HONOR OF  
**MOSHE SHALOM BEN ZAHAVA GOLDA**  
MAY HE FIND A SHIDDUCH VERY SOON!

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