

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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To:

# This Rosh Hashanah Pray in the Original

You will be reading Hebrew in no time with the same Hebrew Reading Crash Course that has helped thousands of people learn to read Hebrew. Really!

## **THE SIX WEEK HEBREW READING CRASH COURSE**

Tuesdays, July 27 – Aug. 31. 7:30 – 8:30 pm

At the CTN Center. 2832 West Touhy, Chicago

Cost: \$25 Including Workbook. Instructor: Esti Berger (see below\*)

[www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm) info@torahnetwork.org 773-761-0400 x207

*\* "Our teacher Esti Berger was just absolutely fantastic ... the first time we came to CTN we sat around a big table ... and within ten minutes we were actually reading Hebrew. Literally reading Hebrew!" (Bob Gottlieb Gottlieb Brothers Inc. Chicago)*

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: PINCHAS (NUMBERS 25:10 - 30:1)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by friends of CTN, inviting you to join us September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Chicago Hyatt for a special Dinner Gala, celebrating CTN's twentieth anniversary and paying tribute to Morris & Delecia Esformes, on the occasion of their dedication of the CTN Center in memory of Rabbi Shlomo Freifeld zt"l. Dinner Chairs: Bob and Debbie Hartman. Please watch for details.*

### **1. G-d said to Moses: Go up to this mountain, and see the Land ... You will see it, but you will die here. (27:12-13)**

Moses did not enter the Land of Israel. He could only see it from a distance.

It was the story of the Jewish People. For two thousand years.

Scattered. Unable to get to the Land.

But never losing sight of it.

### ***The Year 70. The Roman army drove us out of the Land.***

*But it was always in our hearts. Our minds. Our memories.*

Think of our prayers. Three times a day. Seven days a week.

In each prayer? *'May our eyes behold Your return to Zion ...'*

And in the Grace after meals: *'Rebuild the holy city of Jerusalem soon, in our days.'*

We've been saying these things every day. At every meal. And every time we prayed.

*For two thousand years.*

Think about how one day a year – the ninth of the Hebrew month of Av – we sat on the floor.

And mourned the destruction. Of the Jerusalem we never saw.

*But never forgot.*

Our baby boys were circumcised. And one of the prayers at the *Bris*?

*'May this child merit to be in Jerusalem.'*

The child grew up. And got married. And at the wedding ceremony a glass was broken.

*To remember the destruction of Jerusalem.*

Or when there was a death in the family. And people sat *shiva*. The traditional Jewish consolation?

*'May you be comforted among the mourners of Jerusalem ...'*

There is an eternal bond between the Jewish people and Jerusalem.

*... That can never be broken.*

### **2. "Our Father Our King: Remember us for Merits" (From the Prayerbook)**

It's called *'Avinu Malkainu'*. Hebrew for *'Our Father Our King'*. A series of special prayers said during the High Holidays and traditional fast days.

We ask G-d for His blessings. Including life, health and material and spiritual success.

And most of it is understandable. Because even though we can't rely on miracles, and we need to make the effort, still we believe that it is G-d Whose blessings make it happen.

But, what do we mean: 'Remember us of for merits'? How can we ask G-d for that? We have free will! Either we do good deeds – and get 'merits' – or we don't!

... Jewish tradition has a powerful answer. With a very important Jewish perspective.

Sure we have free will. And sure we may want to do things that are good.

*But that doesn't necessarily mean we'll get the opportunity.*

... And that's what we ask G-d for: 'Give us the opportunities to do things that are meritorious. Bring the right causes our way. Let us meet people who need and deserve our help.

Because if You bring them my way, I will do what I can to help. I will seize the opportunity.'

... *And that's a very important Jewish perspective.*

To recognize that every 'opportunity' to do good, is just that: An opportunity.

*Something to appreciate. To cherish. And to grab on to.*

... And so, the next time someone asks our help, we shouldn't just say 'Yes'.

But, 'Yes, thank you'.

- **Rabbi Yisrael Mayer Kagan.** *Known as the Chafetz Chaim. The leading Rabbi and Torah scholar of pre-war Europe. His life was dedicated to helping the Jewish People.*

*Their spiritual as well as their physical needs.*

... *After finishing one of his major books on Jewish law – a work that took him years to complete – Rabbi Kagan was overheard saying the following:*

*"L-rd of the Universe. You have done so much for me.*

... *Imagine - allowing me to complete such a major work. Helping me clarify so many difficult issues in Jewish law.*

*Now G-d, please let me know.*

*What can I do for You?"*

### **'AN EVENING OF INSPIRATION WITH REBBETZIN ESTHER JUNGREIS': MONDAY, JULY 12**

Make your reservation now for An Evening of Inspiration with Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis, Monday, July 12, 8 pm. Complete details and registration at: [www.torahnetwork.org/jungreis.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/jungreis.htm)



*Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week.*

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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