

The Daily Portion

- Sivan Rahav Meir

Jerusalem Consoles

Translation by Yehoshua Siskin

Come to Jerusalem. That's what I wrote at the beginning of the war and it's true today more than ever. Jerusalem has a healing effect. I see groups of evacuees touring around the Kotel, groups of reservists who completed their service and have come with their families to give thanks, groups of students and teachers, Bar Mitzva boys and Bat Mitzva girls, missions of solidarity from the Diaspora. It's not by chance that they are attracted to Jerusalem, especially now.

I was privileged to speak in Jerusalem in front of many grieving families, and this is what I said to them in the tunnels of the Kotel.

In comforting mourners we say: "May God comfort you among all those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem." In other words, mention of Zion and Jerusalem is part of every mourner's consolation. As the prophet Y'shaya-yahu says: "And in Jerusalem you shall be comforted."

These words are explained in the commentary of Metzudat David as

follows: "All of your consolation shall be in Jerusalem since there you will receive much goodness and this will serve as consolation for the misfortune that has befallen you."

I saw in the eyes of the mourners how Jerusalem consoles. One of the grieving fathers left the Kotel tunnels in tears and said: "I connected with all of our past and all of our future and to the historic task of our family within all of this."

One of the mothers said she had no words to describe what she felt next to the stones of the Kotel.

Thank you to Rabbi Mendy Kenig from the Menucha Veyeshua organization whose Shabbatot of support for grieving families have become a tradition, and also to Racheli Haddad, manager of Kotel tunnel tours.

May we all merit to go to Jerusalem in joy.

To receive Sivan Rahav-Meir's daily WhatsApp: tiny.cc/DailyPortion