

Rabbi Ephraim Sprecher z"l

Jerusalem - What's In A Name?

The phrase "Yom Yerushalayim" is first mentioned in T'hilim 137:7, 3000 years before the 6 day war. Where does the name Yerushalayim come from? The answer is given by Tosafot in Tractate Taanit 16, who state that the name Yerushalayim is a combination of two words, one uttered by Avraham at the Akeda (B'reshit 22), HAR HASHEM YEIRA'EH, which means "The mountain where G-d will be seen"; and the city was already called SHALEM, peace, by Malkitzedek (B'reshit 14).

Thus, the city of Yerushalayim combines the two names, given by these great people, Avraham and Malkitzedek - YEIRA'EH and SHALEM. Tosafot also explain that the reason we don't put a YUD between the LAMED and the MEM in the word Yerushalayim, is that we focus on the name, SHALEM, which means peace and has no YUD.

Former Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau stated that the name Yerushalayim appears 667 times in NACH, and only three times in NACH do we find the word Yerushalayim spelled with a YUD MEM at the end of the word. Isn't it an amazing coincidence that the IDF reunited Yerushalayim on the exact non-Jewish month and year 6/67? We know that there are no coincidences.

Thus, the word for coincidence in Hebrew is MIKREH, spelled MEM-KUF-REISH-HEI, which rearranged spells RAK MEHASHEM, only from G-d!

The question now arises why we pronounce the word Yerushalayim with a YUD when the vast majority of times it is written without the final YUD? The answer is that the PATACH YUD MEM ending in Hebrew makes the word dual, for example, "OZNAYIM" (ears), "RAGLAYIM" (feet), "YADAYIM" (hands). The above question is answered by the Talmud which explains that there are two Jerusalems, a heavenly one which is situated directly above the earthly Jerusalem. Just as the heavenly Jerusalem is G-d's eternal capital, so is the earthly Jerusalem, Israel's eternal capital, despite the objections of many countries of the world.

Sh'muel Bet 5 states that Jerusalem was Israel's D.C., which stands for DAVID'S CAPITAL, three thousand years before Washington, D.C. was the capital of the U.S.A. Jerusalem will remain Israel's eternal, undivided capital, despite the objections of our so-called "peace partners" and the United Nations. **-ESP**

Y'HI ZICHRO BARUCH