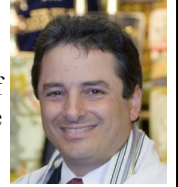


From The Rabbi



At the end of the Passover seder, after the 3rd and 4th cups of wine are drunk which completes our rejoicing in the 4 stages of redemption from slavery, after the door is opened to symbolically invite the prophet Elijah into our homes as the harbinger of the messiah and after psalms of praise are sung as thanksgiving for the blessings of freedom, we conclude with the words:

**L'shanah Ha Ba Bi Yerushalayim
Next year...In Jerusalem!**

This traditional conclusion to the seder is a recognition that the 5th and final stage of redemption is the freedom that comes from being a free nation within our own land, the land of Israel. In the special prayer that was added to the grace after meals when we, as the Jewish people, once again achieved sovereignty within the land of Israel, we ask God to bless:

**Medinat Yisrael, Reishit Smichat Geulateinu
The State of Israel, the beginning of the joy of our redemption**

Years ago, Rabbi Rafi Rank wrote a contemporary prayer based on the structure of one of our favorite Passover songs. This prayer has been part of a collection of extra readings and songs that have become an integral part of our family seder ever year. Once again, as we approach Passover, we yearn for a time, when our redemption will be complete and that our people will be able to live in peace amongst ourselves and with our neighbors. I invite you to consider incorporating this reading into your Passover experience and to use this Passover as an opportunity to reflect upon the questions:

**Why is Israel different than every other country in the world and
what role does Israel have in my life as an American Jew?**

How many acts of kindness can we perform for our Israeli brothers and sisters to show our support and admiration of them during these days of unremitting terror--

If we only feel depressed about the situation, without writing letters of support for Israel to the editor,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only wrote letters of support for Israel to the editor, without communicating our admiration of Israelis directly to them,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only communicated our admiration of Israelis directly to them, Without inviting Israelis to our homes to become closer as an international family,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only invited Israelis to our homes to become closer as an international family, Without purchasing Israeli products in the markets,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only purchased Israeli products in the markets, Without purchasing State of Israel Bonds to buttress the entire economy,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only purchased State of Israel Bonds to buttress the entire economy, Without urging our congressional representatives to continue support of Israel,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only urged our congressional representatives to continue support of Israel, Without showing up at public demonstrations in support of Israel,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only showed up at public demonstrations in support of Israel. Without making that trip to Israel ourselves,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only made that trip to Israel ourselves. Without returning to our homes with the spirit of Israel firmly in our hearts,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only returned to our homes with the spirit of Israel firmly in our hearts, Without treating Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha-Atzma'ut, as a sacred day,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only treated Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha-Atzma'ut, as a sacred day, Without attempting to learn Hebrew as the official language of the Jewish people,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only attempted to learn Hebrew as the official language of the Jewish people, Without translating the cherished values of Jewish life to our children,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

If we only translated the cherished values of Jewish life to our children Without imbuing in them the same love for Israel that we ourselves feel,

lo daYEInu--it would not be enough!

Founding the state was a challenge.
Maintaining the state is a greater challenge.
Assuring its future is the greatest challenge of all.
When it comes to Israel, lo daYEInu--we can never do enough.