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In Memory of Our Beloved Parents
Benjamin and Rebeca Assa z"l



יברכך
ה' מציון
וראה בשוב
יהושלים

קבר
דוד
המלך
KING
DAVID'S
TOMB
on
Mount
Zion

David,
King
of Israel,
Lives and
Endures

המרכז הארצי לפיתוח
המקומות הקדושים
THE HOLY SITES
AUTHORITY

Ancient tradition identifies that for the last thousand years this location has been the resting place for the greatest of Israel's kings, the founder of Jerusalem, and the composer of the musical Psalms. During those long years in which Jews were denied access to the Western Wall, it was on the rooftop of this place that those pilgrims who wished to look out onto the Temple Mount and Western Wall, even from afar, would come.



THE SHEPHERD WHO BECAME A KING • David, King of Israel, founder of the dynasty of Israel's monarchy, was born and raised in the city of Bethlehem on the outskirts of the Judean Desert. His dedication to his flock and his courage are described in detail in the verses of the Bible and in the words of the sages. After being disappointed by King Saul, G-d sent the Prophet Samuel to David's family

in order to anoint the next king of the Jewish nation. Seven of David's brothers passed before Samuel, but it is said that "man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart". It was actually David, the youngest of the sons, the shepherd, who was chosen.

Young David's greatness was revealed in the battle with the Philistines, when he defeated Goliath, the greatest of warriors, through his faith in G-d and his courage. Thus the entire nation of Israel discovered David's spiritual power, a power completely composed of humility before G-d.

When King Saul of Israel understood that David was about to inherit his throne he began to chase after him. David escaped, but throughout the entire pursuit, avoided harming King Saul. David even went on to save the nation of Israel and went out to battle while he himself was still being chased by the king.





After King Saul's death during the battle on the Gilboa, David was called upon to rule over Israel and revealed his hidden aspiration, "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life". David conquered Jebus and there he founded his capital Jerusalem, even purchasing land there for the building of the Temple. He brought the Holy Ark to Jerusalem – but he was not privileged to build the Temple itself. His son, Solomon, built it only after his death.

"David, King of Israel, lives and endures". The figure of the humble king, who saw himself at all times as the son and servant of the King of Kings, continues to bring the message of redemption to all of humanity. "And there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a twig shall grow forth out of his roots. And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid".

KING DAVID AND THE BOOK OF PSALMS • The Book of Psalms, with its one hundred and fifty psalms of praise, prayer, pleas, and gratitude, is ascribed to King David. During moments of sorrow and moments of joy, King David turned to G-d from the depths of his

heart and created a poem-prayer that pierces hearts until today. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains: from whence shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord".

David's life story, his hardships and hopes – his escape from Saul, the rebellion of Absalom and the struggle with the Philistines, and alongside them the dedication of Jerusalem and the glory of the monarchy – they all guided the Psalms as they are all intertwined in the story of the Jewish nation.

Remnants of the Book of Psalms were found in archeological excavations in the Qumran Caves on a scroll over 2,000 years old. But, unlike other ancient writings, the Book of Psalms can be found in every Jewish household. Its ancient words, full of joy and sorrow, holiness and repentance, and yearning to be close to G-d, still serve as prayer for millions around the world.

CHAPTERS OF PSALMS TO RECITE AT THE GRAVESITE • For centuries, Jews were prohibited from going up to Mount Zion and reciting Psalms at the marking of the grave of King David. Our generation is privileged to be able to come here, and now every worshipper has the opportunity to recite Psalms at this holy place.

CHAPTER 122 • A song of ascents, by David. I rejoiced when they said to me, Let us go to the House of the Lord. Our feet shall stand inside your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city which is bound firmly together; There the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the Name of the Lord. For thrones of judgment were set there, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; those who love you shall prosper. Peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces. For my brothers and companions' sakes, I shall speak of peace in your midst. Because of the House of the Lord our G-d I will seek your good.

