

# The Light of The Zohar

"In the future, when Yisrael will merit to taste from the Tree of Life which is this book of the Zohar, they will be redeemed from their exile with mercy" (Zohar parashat Nasso)

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## Is History Repeating Itself?



The great and holy Tzaddik and Mekubal, Rabbi Yehuda Leib Ashlag of blessed memory foresaw the coming of World War II 20 years in advance. He was then only in his 30's, and he began an effort to alert all the leading Rabbis and Roshei Yeshivot in Poland of the impending decree. He warned them that there was a very severe decree already signed in the Heavens against the Jewish people, and that a huge portion of the Jewish people were going to be erased from the world, G-d forbid. He told them that just like the Ramchal (Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto zt"l) had averted terrible decrees in his time by setting up all day long Zohar learning, so too the same had to be done in order to avert this terrible decree that was on the horizon. He called for every Rav and Rosh Yeshiva in Poland to begin telling their congregations to start learning the Holy Zohar; however, they did not listen to his words. As we know, soon after this World War II began, and 6-7 million Jews were eventually killed.

As the war was being fought, there was a fear that it would spread to the Holy

Land and that the evil Hitler, may his name be erased, would also succeed in annihilating all the Jews living there. Rav Ashlag was then busily involved in translating the Zohar into Lashon Hakodesh (Hebrew) so that every Jew would be able to learn and understand it. He believed firmly in the promise of Rebbe Shimon bar Yochai, that with this book of the Zohar, we will be redeemed from our exile. He said that on the same day that the first volume was printed (of his translation and commentary to the Zohar known as 'The Sulam'), that wicked man had a big downfall and the war was on its way to being over. This prevented him from succeeding in reaching the Holy Land.

## The Geulah depends on the learning of the Zohar

It is known to all that the sefer HaZohar of the G-dly Tanna Rebbe Shimon Bar Yochai, may his merit protect us, breaks through thousands and tens of thousands of worlds, passes through the Serafim, Ofanim, Chashmalim and Chayot Hakodesh, all the way up to the Holy One Blessed Be He, Who delights with it, builds new worlds with it and has mercy on our world because of it.

## What Do Our Sages Say?

The learning of the Zohar is exalted above any other study, even if one does not understand a word he is saying. **The "Kisse Melech"** says, "The simple reading of the Zohar alone builds new upper worlds." **Eliyahu Hanavi** of Blessed memory said this to Rebbe Shimon Bar Yochai, "When this sefer of the Zohar is revealed to the world in the final generation, the Jews will be redeemed from their exile." **Moshe Rabenu** said this to Rebbe Shimon Bar Yochai, "The brilliant ones (those who learn the Zohar) will shine like the radiance of the Heavens and with this book of yours, the sefer HaZohar, they will not need to experience any difficulties. (That is to say, they will not have to endure the birth pains of the Mashiach) And in the future, when Yisrael will taste from the Tree of Life, which is this sefer HaZohar, they will be redeemed from their exile with mercy." **Rebbe Chaim Vital** writes in a letter, "Behold, the learning of Zohar arouses mercy and the spirit of the Mashiach, and it reveals and builds the Beit Hamikdash and allows Israel to dwell securely, and one who

studies it will certainly not suffer any of the birth pains of the Mashiach. Therefore, we the rabbis and chachamim of the holy city of Jerusalem as well as its Battei Dinim have aroused ourselves to establish learning of the Zohar both in Israel and in Chutz LaAretz in order to complete 1000 siyumim of the Zohar.

Therefore, we are calling out to you, our brothers, rabbis and chachamim, merchants, workers and baalei batim, strengthen yourselves to take part in this with us. The weak one must say I am strong. Know that it is your Father in Heaven who purifies you and every word of the Zohar that is read builds thousands and tens of thousands of worlds in the Heavens."

We all know the dangerous situation that we are currently in (both physically and spiritually), and no one knows what each new day will bring. Who is not afraid of a nuclear bomb from Iran? Moshe Rabenu, Eliyahu Hanavi and Rebbe Shimon Bar Yochai may peace be upon them, have all said that with the sefer HaZohar we will be redeemed from our exile with mercy. Only those who read the Zohar will enter into the 'Noach's Ark' of our generation which is the Holy Zohar.

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**DEAR RABBIS AND ROSHEI YESHIVOT, WE ARE NOW CALLING OUT TO YOU! WE ARE BEGGING YOU TO AROUSE YOURSELVES AND YOUR COMMUNITIES TO BEGIN LEARNING THE HOLY ZOHAR. YOU ARE THE LEADERS OF AM YISRAEL, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NATION RESTS UPON YOU.**

**W**e have started a new plan to try and complete 1000 siyumim of the Holy Zohar every single Rosh Chodesh. Anyone who would like to register and take part in this effort should email [theholyzohar@gmail.com](mailto:theholyzohar@gmail.com) to sign up. We have now printed the entire Zohar in 70 pocket sized volumes, so that 70 people can each take one of the volumes and with only about 5 minutes of reading a day, complete along with thousands of others, the entire Zohar Hakadosh. It is well known, that when a sefer is broken up into smaller parts and learned in a group (such as is done with Tehillim, Mishna, and Shas) each member actually receives the reward as if he had learned the entire thing. Here in this instance, since we have a goal to reach 1000 siyumim, each member will receive the reward of 70,000 siyumim of the Zohar (since each siyum will require 70 participants). With a few short minutes a day, one can gain unfathomable reward and with G-d's help, we will succeed in preventing all the terrible decrees, wars, and other tragedies that are looming over the Jewish people. May we merit the fulfillment of the promise of Rebbe Shimon, that with my sefer, the Holy Zohar, we will be redeemed from this exile with mercy

The Admor, Rav Shalom Yehuda Gross Shlit"a, Rav Shalom Arush Shlit"a, Rav Eliezer Berland Shlit"a, Rav Benayahu Shmueli Shlit"a, and Haga'on Rav Nissim Perets Shlit"a have all recently said that the Zohar can and should be read by men, women and children. Already in Eretz Yisrael there have been hundreds of siyumim with over 40,000 participants. All it takes is a few minutes a day and the accomplishment is endless. The Admor, Rav Shalom Yehuda Gross Shlit"a has said in his book "The Value of an Hour", based on the teachings of Chazal, that just by reading the Holy Zohar for one minute on a weekday, and even without comprehension of the text, can equal as if one studied over 140 hours of Gemara. And on Shabbos it can equal more than 28,000 years of Gemara learning. He adds "This revelation is a gift from heaven that G-d has given us, as the key to sweetening the days of the coming of Moshiach". Based on these calculations in now make sense why Rabbi Yehuda Leib Ashlag pushed the leaders of his generation to use the Holy Zohar as a shield against the enemies of Israel.

Sign up to join our effort in making 1000 siyumim by sending a message to [TheHolyZohar@gmail.com](mailto:TheHolyZohar@gmail.com)

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# Holiness, the Zohar, and the Final Redemption

Those who were dancing were considered crazy in the eyes of those who could not hear the music. If the eye does not see it, than the heart cannot desire it. We all want happiness, but as long as we are busy chasing after physical desires and pleasures, we will never be able to get what we want. The eye is never satisfied with what it sees. We all know that there is no lasting satisfaction when it comes to physical desires. A gambler never feels satisfied with his wins, he always wants more. A woman never feels satisfied after a day of shopping, there is always another store to visit or a new season of fashion to come.

So then how do we get happiness and satisfaction that lasts? The answer is, we need to change our way of looking at things - literally. That is, we need to stop looking at things. The more we look at things in this physical world, the more we will desire them, and the less happy we will be. If we close our physical eyes, than we will understand and develop a way to see things with our spiritual eyes - this is the start of true happiness.

This is the Jewish concept of modesty in marriage. You see, the less we inappropriately look at our wives in a physical way, the more we will be able to see them in a spiritual way. Therefore if you really want your marriage to last and be special, you need to learn to see your wife in a spiritual way, this can only happen if you are able to weaken and lessen your physical desire for women. I know this sounds crazy, let me explain. You see, if you see your wife physically, then she is just one of billions. However, if you learn to see her spiritually, then she is the only one for you. As the Zohar describes how Adam felt when he 'saw' Chava, "All other women were like monkeys to him."

Have you ever tried to read braille? I have, I cant even notice a difference to the touch. So how is it that a blind person can read a whole book just by running his finger over those dots? The answer is, since one of his senses has been removed, the others have gotten stronger and more sensitive. In the same way, if we weaken and lessen our intake of the physical world, than we will automatically increase our sensitivity and perception of the spiritual world. Chazal tell us that most of the desire for the physical world comes in through our eyes. Therefore, if we guard what our physical eyes see, then we will allow room for the development of our spiritual eyes. This will lead to happiness and holiness.

The end of the evil and falsehood in the world is coming soon. We all know that there is a war coming and we can all feel that something big is getting ready to happen. Our prophets and holy books tell us that holiness is the most precious asset to have when the final showdown happens. The survivors will walk on the path of holiness says the prophet Yeshayahu (Isaiah). The secret is out, you do not need to store gold or food to make it through to the end, you need holiness. There is no faking holiness, those who try to fake it are in for a big surprise. Only prayer and a genuine effort to remove all the impurities and falsehood from ourselves will work.

With that being said, there is one more thing we all can do to help give us the will and desire for holiness, and that is to read the Zohar.



As **Rav Arush** wrote in a letter recently, "The reading of the Zohar will give a person the will and desire to make teshuva and purify himself to guard the holy brit"

**The Chafetz Chaim** would always encourage the study of Zohar and he said that without the study of the secrets of the Torah, it is as if we are groping around in the dark. He would also learn the Zohar on the parasha every single Shabbat and he would tell others to do the same, even unmarried men (Meir Einei Yisrael, vol 3 pg 556).**The Chazon Ish** said that there is no greater mussar sefer than the Zohar (Ma'ase Ish, vol 3 pg 98).**The Vilna Gaon** writes in his sefer Even

Sheleima, ch 11, "The geula will only come in the merit of Torah study, but it is primarily dependent on the study of Kabbalah"



As the holy Zohar tells us, one who studies the Zohar will be spared any suffering when the Mashiach arrives, "For in the future, Yisrael will taste of the Tree of Life, which is the book of the Zohar, and will thus experience the final redemption through mercy." In the Tikkunei Zohar, end of the 6th tikkun it says, "From this book of yours, elevated people will be sustained, until this book is revealed to those below in the last generation in the end of days. And because of it, you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants" And the Vilna Gaon wrote in his commentary, "They will be redeemed in the merit of studying the Zohar."





# Q & A on Zohar Study

**Question:** Is a Baal Teshuvah permitted to occupy himself with the study of the Sefer HaZohar? Can he not repair his neshama with the study of nigleh (the revealed parts of the Torah)?

**Answer:** A Baal Teshuvah needs to occupy himself very much with the revealed aspects of the Torah and mainly with the Halachot in order to know the way he has to travel and the actions he is required to perform, until he will be proficient in the laws of the Torah, in particular the sections dealing with everyday conduct, specifically the section Orach Chaim of the Shulchan Aruch, as the Chafetz Chaim writes in his introduction to the Mishna Berura.

The Baal Teshuva is on a very great spiritual level as it is written, 'In the place where Baalei Teshuvah stand, complete tzadikim cannot stand.'

It is fitting for him to study the Sefer HaZohar, and especially the selections of the Zohar that appear in the Chok L'Yisrael, in order to purify his soul. And how good and comely it will be if this Baal Teshuvah will come to the level of bringing merit to other Jews and will awaken other Baalei Teshuvah to occupy themselves with the study of the Halacha and the Sefer HaZohar, and in this way the teshuvah of these Jews will be accepted by the Holy One Blessed Is He."

- Sefer Tikkun Olam

**Question:**

Does reading the Zohar count if I do not understand a single word?

**Answer:**

The learning of the Zohar is very lofty and it purifies and sanctifies the soul. This is true even if one has no idea what he is saying and he makes many mistakes in his reading; it is nonetheless very valued before the Holy One, blessed be He. It happens to be that with regards to the learning of Mishnayot and other such subjects (of the Oral Law) there are opinions that one has to at least understand the basic subject matter of what he is learning. However, when it comes to the Tehillim and the Zohar Hakadosh, even if one does not understand them at all, it is nonetheless valuable and acceptable before Hashem (Pele Yoetz, Zohar).

The learning of the Zohar Hakadosh is very awesome and exalted, even if one does not understand what he is saying. For in all the Torah there is the Pardes (pshat, remez, drash, and sod), however in all the different subjects of the Torah that one learns, the sod is not

revealed at all. However, this is not so when it comes to the learning of the Zohar Hakadosh, for in the Zohar Hakadosh, all the sodot are fully revealed, and one who reads it is aware that he is reading of the wonders and secrets of the Torah, even though he knows that he does not understand anything at all. This happens to be very beneficial for the rectification of his soul

(Nefesh HaChaim).

**Question:**

What are some of the benefits of reading the Zohar?

**Answer:**

The study of the Zohar is extremely beneficial. Through studying the Zohar, you can attain enthusiasm for all your sacred studies. The very language of the Zohar is so holy, it can motivate you to serve G-d.

The Zohar uses the most forceful expressions in speaking about our duty toward G-d. When speaking of a person who does good, the Zohar says Zaka'ah - worthy is he. On the other hand, it cries out against a sinner Vai - Woe! Woe is to him! Woe is to the soul who strays from serving G-d!

Reading such expressions can greatly influence you to serve G-d.

(Rebbe Nachman's Wisdom #108)

## Calculating the Date of Moshaiach's Coming

Making calculations is perfectly acceptable according to many great rabbis of the past, and many did exactly that. For example, according to the Abarbanel, it is only forbidden to make the calculation based upon astrology; however, it is permissible to calculate a date based upon Tanach (Ma'ayeni HaYeshuah 1:2). The Ramban held that the prohibition of the Talmud only applied to earlier generations; now that we are on the eve of redemption, there is no prohibition (Sefer HaGeulah, Ma'amar 4). The Malbim concurs, and provides the following analogy to explain his opinion: The situation is like that of a father and son traveling a long distance. As they start out, the son begins to ask when they will arrive, and of course the father does not answer. However, as they near the town, the son asks the same question, and this time the father readily answers that it is only a short while before they reach their destination. So too it is with us: now that the time is clearly approaching, we cannot help but notice and interpret the signs all

around us that tell of the impending geulah ... As the time of the keitz grows nearer, the doubts will become smaller, and at the keitz, all doubts will be removed ... As the time grows closer, the uncertainty recedes in the wake of the increasingly "abounding wisdom" (Introduction to Daniel). The Maggid of Dubno used a similar analogy as well. The Zohar even states that it is not God's will to reveal the arrival date of the Moshaiach, but when the date draws near, even children will be able to make the calculation (Bereishis 118a). According to the Vilna Gaon, there seems to be little problem making the calculation from his commentary, but one who does must promise not to reveal his finding to another: "And from here [what I have just written] you can calculate the time of the Final Redemption if, God forbid, we do not merit [to bring it earlier]; however, I have imposed an oath, in the name of the God of Israel, on the reader of this that he should not reveal it." (Biur HaGra, Sifra D'Tzniuta, Chapter Five)

**Rebbe Nachman of Breslov** emphasized the importance and holiness of the Tikkunei Zohar many times. He spent much time studying and reviewing it, and not only during the month of Elul. He once said, "The Tikkunei Zohar contains *all the wisdom in the world.*" (Sichot HaRan #128)

## More Information

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