



**RABBI SHALOM**

**ROSNER**

Rav Kehilla, Nofei HaShemesh  
Maggid Shiur, Daf Yomi, OU.org  
Senior Ra"m, Kerem B'Yavneh

# Choshen and Ephod – Personal and Communal

לקחת את שתי אבני־שהם ופחתה עליהם שמות בני־ישראל: ששה משמותם על האבן האחת ושמות הששה הנותרים על־האבן השנית כְּתוּלָתָם: שְׂמֹת אֹת־שְׁתֵי הָאֲבָנִים עַל כְּתֻפֹת הָאֶפֶד ... (שמות כח: ט-יא)

*And you shall take two shoham stones and engrave upon them the names of Bnei Yisrael. Six of their names on one stone and the names of the remaining six on the second stone, according to their tribes. And you shall put the two stones upon the **shoulder straps of the Ephod** ... (Shemot 28: 9-11).*

וְנָשָׂא אֶהָרֶן אֶת־שְׂמֹת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּחֹשֶׁן הַמִּשְׁפָּט:  
עַל־לְבוֹ בָּבָאוּ אֶל־הַקֹּדֶשׁ לְזָכְרוֹן לְפָנֶיהָ תָּמִיד:  
(שמות כח:כט)

*Thus shall Aaron carry the names of the sons of Israel in the **Choshen** of judgment over his heart when he enters the Holy, as a remembrance before the Lord at all times. (Shemot 28:29).*

## THE CHOSEN AND EPHOD

The names of the twelve tribes were engraved on both the Chosen and on the Ephod. Why the repetition? In addition, on the Ephod which rested on the Kohen Gadol's chest there were twelve stones with the names of the 12 tribes written above them. In contrast, on the Ephod, which rested on the Kohen Gadol's shoulders there were two stones, one placed on each shoulder with six tribes listed on each stone. The Urim

V'Tumim were on the Chosen and not on the Ephod. Why the difference between the number of stones on the Chosen and the Ephod?

## CHOSEN – 12 STONES

Rav Benzion Firer (Hegyona Shel Torah) offers a very insightful explanation. After Matan Torah, the nation was united. Whereas they were previously viewed as 12 independent tribes, they are now unified as one nation. However, it is not simple to take 12 distinct tribes and force them to unify. Each has its unique character and there is a natural tendency to favor one's family and those in their Shevet. Using force to unify the people could backfire, and individuals may establish boundaries rather than bonds. Feelings in one's heart cannot be easily changed. Therefore, the names of each of the twelve tribes appeared independently on the Chosen, which lay on the heart (chest) of the Kohen Gadol. The Urim V'tumim which was consulted when national questions arose, appeared on the Chosen to symbolize that the interests of each shevet was taken into consideration in the resolution.

## EPHOD – 2 STONES

However, when national responsibility arose, as with respect to fighting a war with an enemy, the responsibility was

shared equally by each shevet. That is symbolized by the two stones that appear on the Ephod, on the shoulders of the Kohen Gadol. When the need arises, all the tribes unite for a common goal.

Today, the same scenario holds true. Throughout Israel there are Jews originating from different countries with a variety of customs, traditions and hashkafot, yet overnight, we all united to fight a common enemy. May Hakadosh Baruch Hu answer our prayers and may we be successful in defeating Hamas and may all our soldiers, hostages and those displaced from their communities return home safely. As with the Chosen and Ephod, we need to maintain a proper balance between our personal (represented by the Chosen) and communal (represented by the Ephod) responsibilities. ■



**VILLA RIMONA YAVNIEL**  
**Vacation in Yavniel**  
*Wine and Jazz*

- ✓ All Year-round From Couples to Groups of 40+
- ✓ Opposite Shul/Mikeveh
- ✓ 12-Minute Drive to the Kinneret

★★★★★

[Book Now](#)

- 📍 [www.villarimona.com](http://www.villarimona.com)
- ✉ [Villarimona@gmail.com](mailto:Villarimona@gmail.com)
- ☎ 058-400-5545



**ANGLO-SAXON-JERUSALEM**  
ISRAEL'S LEADING REAL ESTATE NETWORK

**FOR SALE IN JERUSALEM:**  
**GERMAN COLONY**  
One of a kind! Beautiful, sunny, fully renovated 5 rooms (133 sq.m.) in historic building, high ceilings, galleries in bedrooms. **Anita 053-6318355**

**IN QUIET & PASTORAL GERMAN COLONY**  
3-room apartment with private beautiful & large courtyard, small original & intimate house, easily dividable into 2 apartments: a 2-room + studio apartment (ideal for clinic), both with private entrances and own courtyards, full privacy & quiet. Near synagogues, parks, Jerusalem's Nature Museum, Emek Refaim shops, cafes and more. Exclusive! **Moshe 053-6305725**

**FOR RENT IN JERUSALEM:**  
**IN THE HEART OF BAKA**  
Beautiful 5.5-room garden apartment, in an Arab-style house. Next to Derech Beit Lechem shops & restaurants. Private entrance, 152 sq meters. Stunning large garden. Lots of light. Exclusive! **Nava 053-6642512**

3 Moshe Hess St., Jerusalem  
**0778038511**



**Flying Soon?**  
**Travel with Confidence**

1UniTravel - Medical Insurance  
at great prices Choose from multiple options  
[unitravel.brokersnexus.com](http://unitravel.brokersnexus.com)

1UniSim - Sims for USA and Worldwide  
Starting at \$40  
[sales@1unisim.com](mailto:sales@1unisim.com)  
Call 077-400-3199 or  
USA 718-715-0001



**US BROKERAGE SERVICES IN ISRAEL**

**Get the Best of Both Worlds**

Keep your money in the US and receive local expert investment advice

CALL **02-624-0995 054-599-9530**

[aaron@lighthousecapital.co.il](mailto:aaron@lighthousecapital.co.il) • [www.aaronkatsman.com](http://www.aaronkatsman.com)

Securities offered through Portfolio Resources Group. Inc., member of FINRA, SIPC, MSRB, SIFMA