



RABBI GIDEON WEITZMAN

Machon Puah for Fertility and Gynecology
in Accordance with Halacha

PESACH



Finding God, Wherever He Is

This week, within 12 hours I attended two celebrations of the birth of children. While both of them were great occasions and had many similar elements; proud parents, delighted families and happy guests, they were very different from each other.

The first was a party to celebrate the birth of a healthy girl. Her parents had undergone numerous fertility treatments, and had endured years of infertility. They had been to PUAH numerous times to be consoled when yet another treatment failed, and to explore other opportunities and treatment options. They did not give up, and, eventually, their dream to have a child was realized. They were much older than the average new parents, but they were no less delighted and excited.

The following morning, I attended the Brit of a young couple who had given birth to their fourth child, within a few years. The young couple had not faced any serious fertility challenges and had been blessed with healthy children. They were extremely happy and celebrated the birth, and they had not faced the extreme trials and tribulations experienced by the previous couple.

Sometimes everything goes according to plan, all moves forward at the correct pace, with no obvious pitfalls. And sometimes life is much more complicated, our plans are dashed by reality and the

accompanying difficulties.

These events reminded me of Purim and Pesach. The celebration of Pesach is of the obvious miracles, during which God can be seen and observed clearly for all to see, both the Jewish People and the Egyptian nation recognized that it was God who took us out of Egypt.

Purim is very different; God is absent, so much that His Name is not mentioned in the Book of Esther, only alluded to. Not even all of the Jews saw the miracle and recognized the Divine Hand, and saw Mordechai as just a politician and not as part of the Divine plan. It takes someone able and willing to delve deeper to see God behind the complications and complexities.

It is well worth noting that 50 days after Pesach we celebrate Shavuot where we met and saw God on Har Sinai and received His holy Torah. 50 days after Purim we celebrate Yom Haatzmaut, the establishment of the State of Israel. Those who are able to discover God within the complexities of hidden miracles on Purim should be able to see Him within our own miracle of the modern State of Israel.

We celebrate God's hand in all births, the "simple" ones as well as the much more complicated births.

Pesach Sameach ■