

NCSY Torah
on One Foot Series

PIDYON SH'VUYIM



REDEEMING CAPTIVES

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OU PePa and Rabbi Joseph Karasick
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WE ARE OUR BROTHERS' KEEPERS!

The mother of the king of Persia sent money to Rav Yosef to use for a "great *mitzvah*." What is a "great *mitzvah*?" Abaye says redeeming captives.

(Baba Basra 8a)

Death by the sword is worse than a normal death, since the body is disgraced. Death by starvation is even worse, since it is prolonged. Captivity is the worst of all, since it includes all of them.

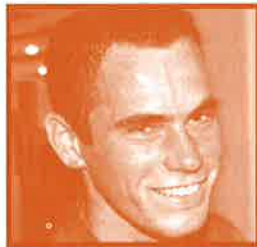
(Baba Basra 8b)

Redeeming captives is even more important than feeding the poor. There is no greater *mitzvah*, since captives are hungry, thirsty, naked, and their lives are in danger. Anyone who ignores the plight of a captive violates the commandments of "do not harden your heart" (*Deuteronomy 15:7*), "do not stand idly by the blood of your brother" (*Leviticus 19:16*), and others. He also fails to fulfill the commandments, "open your hand to the poor and needy" (*Deuteronomy 15:11*), "Love your neighbor as yourself" (*Leviticus 19:18*), and many others. There is no truly greater *mitzvah* than redeeming captives.

(Mishneh Torah, Laws of Gifts to the Poor 8:10)



Ehud Goldwasser



Eldad Regev



Gilad Shalit



Guy Hever



Ron Arad



Zachary Baumel



Yehuda Katz



Tzvi Feldman



In parshas *Va'eschanan* (*Deuteronomy 3:26*), Hashem commands Moshe to stop praying to enter the Land of Israel. *Chazal* derive that if Moshe had continued to pray, Hashem would have relented. We see from here the power of prayer!

Hashem more readily accepts the prayers of the community than those of an individual. (*Brachos 8a*)

The gates of prayer may be closed, but the gates of tears are never closed. (*Brachos 32b*)

One who delays ransoming a captive is like a murderer. (*Yoreh Deah 252:3*)

One who saves a single life is as if he saved an entire world. (*Talmud Yerushalmi Sanhedrin 4:9*)

Many people are not aware that a Druse IDF soldier is also among the captives. Please keep **Majde Halabi** in your prayers.

Based on the
Prayer for the Captured Israeli Soldiers
by Chief Rabbi HaRav Yonah Metzger

May the One Who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, David and Solomon, bless the kidnapped and captive soldiers, including among them Ehud Goldwasser, Eldad Regev, Gilad Shalit, Guy Hever, Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Tzvi Feldman. May the Holy One, Blessed be He, watch them and save them from all trouble and oppression and from all evil and injury. May He be filled with mercy for them, to cause them to recover and to heal them, to strengthen them and to invigorate them, and to bring them speedily to freedom, to return to the embrace of their families. May they merit long lives and years of much strength and peace. In the merit of our forefathers, may their descendants be saved and fulfill through them the verse, 'Release my soul from imprisonment to praise Your Name' (*Psalms 142:8*), swiftly and soon, and let us all say Amen.

מִי שִׁבְרָךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אֲבָרְהָם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב מֹשֶׁה
וְאַהֲרֹן דָּוִד וְשְׁלֹמֹה, הוּא יִבְרַךְ אֶת הַחַיִּלִּים
הַחֲטוּפִים וְהַשְּׁבוּיִים, וּבִינֵיהֶם אוֹהֵד בֶּן מֶלֶכָה
גוֹלְדוֹוֶסֶר, אֶלְדָּד בֶּן טוֹבָה רֶגֶב, גֶּלְעָד בֶּן אֲבִיבָה
שְׁלִיט, גִּיא בֶּן רִינָה חָבֵר, רוֹן בֶּן בִּתְיָה אֶרֶז,
זְכַרְיָה שְׁלֹמֹה בֶּן מַרְיָם בְּאוּמֶל, יְקוֹתִיאֵל יְהוּדָה
נַחֲמָן בֶּן שָׂרָה פֶּץ, צָבִי בֶּן פְּנִינָה פֶּלְדֶּמָן.
הַקְדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא יִשְׁמְרֵם וְיַצִּילֵם מִכָּל צָרָה
וְצוּקָה וּמִכָּל נֶגַע וּמַחֲלָה. וְיַמְלֵא רַחֲמִים עֲלֵיהֶם
לְהַחֲלִימָם וּלְרַפְּאֵתָם לְהַחֲזִיקָם וּלְהַחֲיִיתָם
וְיוֹצִיאֵם בְּמַהֲרָה לְחֵירוֹת עוֹלָם בְּחֻזְרָה לְחִיק
מִשְׁפָּחוֹתֵיהֶם. יִזְכּוּ לְאֶרֶץ יָמִים וְשָׁנוֹת חַיִּים
בְּרַב עוֹ וְשָׁלוֹם. וּבְזִכּוֹת אֲבוֹת תּוֹשִׁיעַ בָּנִים,
וְיִקְיָם בָּהֶם הַפְּסוּק "הוֹצִיאָה מִמִּסְגָּר נַפְשִׁי
לְהוֹדוֹת אֶת שְׁמֹךְ" — הַשְׁתָּא בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזִמְן
קָרִיב, וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.



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