**Class # 17 – Inspiration and Insight for your Seder**

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel *z”l*

Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal - prepared collaboratively with Rabbi Yoni Sacks

**Yaakov Shwekey featuring Shlomi Shabat – Vehi Sheamda**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnnKFpiP1hs>

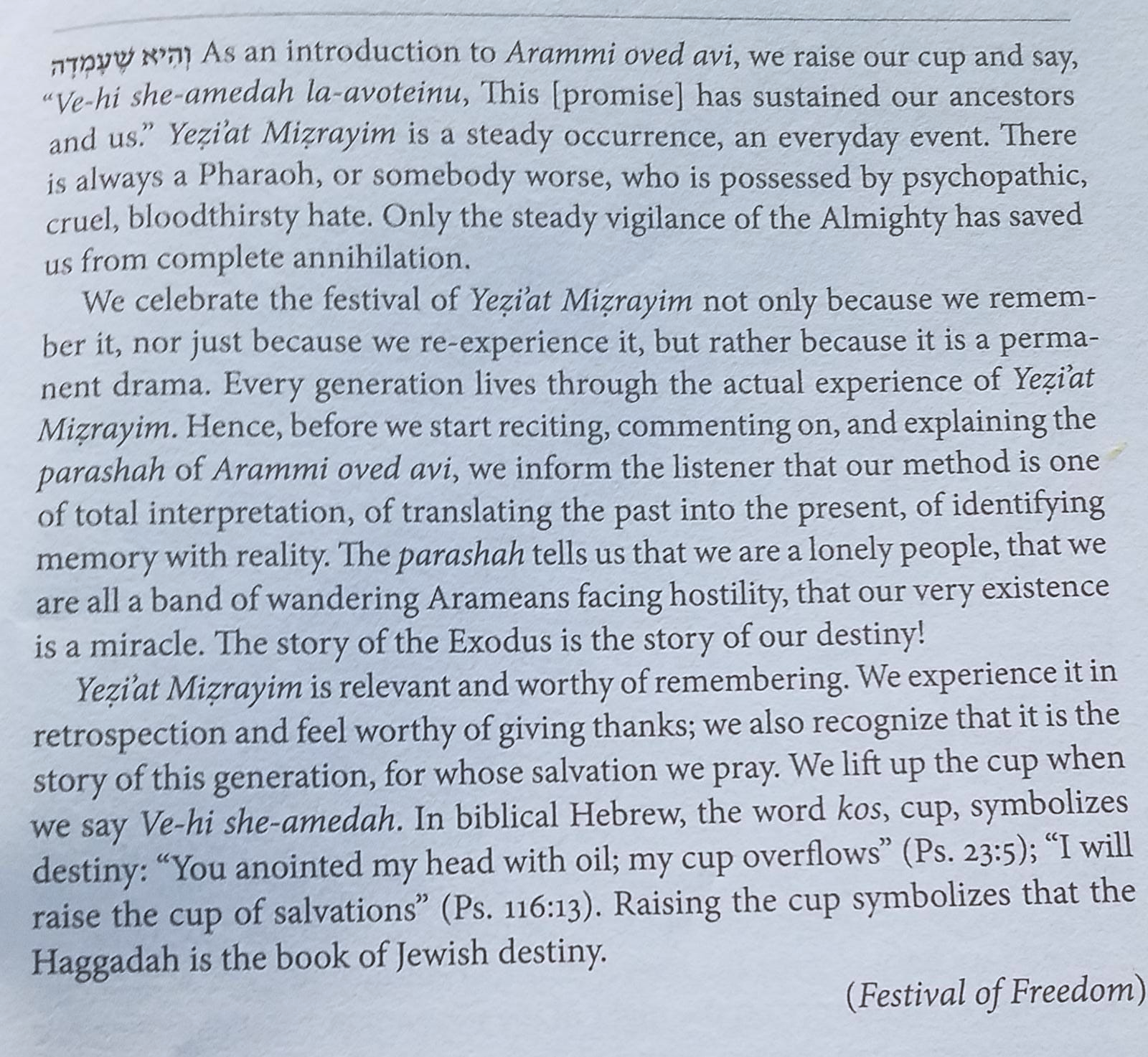
He covers the matza and lifts up the cup and says:

וְהִיא שֶׁעָמְדָה לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְלָנוּ. שֶׁלֹּא אֶחָד בִּלְבָד עָמַד עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ, אֶלָּא שֶׁבְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר עוֹמְדִים עָלֵינוּ לְכַלוֹתֵנוּ, וְהַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא מַצִּילֵנוּ מִיָּדָם.

And it is this ***[promise]*** that has stood for our ancestors and for us; since it is not [only] one [person or nation] that has stood [against] us to destroy us, but rather in each generation, they stand [against] us to destroy us, but the Holy One, blessed be He, rescues us from their hand.

1. What is the basic message of the declaration of “**Vehi Sheamda**”?
2. Why do you cover the Matzah and lift your glass of wine?

**וגם את הגוי** AND ALSO THAT NATION – The word וגם and also—(that nation also will I judge)—suggests that other nations will be judged as well: it is used here to include the four Monarchies (of the book of Daniel) who also will perish because they enslaved Israel ([Genesis Rabbah 44:19](https://library.alhatorah.org/?r1=Bereshit%20Rabbah%2044:19)).



1. Does **Vehi Sheamda’s** message regarding “crisis” apply to our worldwide Corona virus epidemic? Why or Why Not?
2. How does **Vehi Sheamda’s** message fit into the flow of the Haggadah?

Flow of Haggadah:

…..**Blessed be the One** who keeps His promise to Israel, blessed be He; since the Holy One, blessed be He, calculated the end [of the exile,] to do as He said to Avraham, our father, in the Covenant between the Pieces, as it is stated ([Genesis 15:13-14](/Genesis.15.13-14)), "And He said to Avram, 'you should surely know that your seed will be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and they will enslave them and afflict them four hundred years. And also that nation for which they shall toil will I judge, and afterwards they will go out with much property.'"

***And it is this [promise] that has stood for our ancestors*** *and for us; since it is not [only] one [person or nation] that has stood [against] us to destroy us, but rather in each generation, they stand [against] us to destroy us, but the Holy One, blessed be He, rescues us from their hand.*

**Go out and learn** what Lavan the Aramean sought to do to Ya'akov, our father; since Pharaoh only decreed [the death sentence] on the males but Lavan sought to uproot the whole [people]. As it is stated ([Deuteronomy 26:5](/Deuteronomy.26.5)), "An Aramean was destroying my father and he went down to Egypt, and he resided there with a small number and he became there a nation, great, powerful and numerous."…

Using the Vehi Sheamda Principle apply it to the following cases:

1. The Holocaust
2. The establishment of the state of Israel
3. The Six Day War
4. The Yom Kippur
5. Soviet and Ethiopian Jews emigrate to Israel
6. The Palestinian Conflict
7. The Corona Virus