**Parashat Nitzavim/Rosh HaShana 5776/5777- A Mother’s Cry**

1. **Talmud Bavli, Rosh HaShana 33b**

As it is written (Bamidbar 29, 1), “a day of shofar sounding for you” [יום תרועה]; The Targum is “a day of *yevava* for you”; it is also written regarding the mother of Sisera (Shoftim 5, 28), “Through the window the mother of Sisera looked forth, [וַתְּיַבֵּב]”. One says this means a sob [גנוחי גנח], one says this means a wail [ילולי יליל].

1. **Shoftim Ch. 5**

[24](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15813#v=24) Blessed above women shall Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, be; above women in the tent shall she be blessed. [25](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15813#v=25) Water he requested, (but) milk she gave him: in a lordly bowl she brought him cream. [26](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15813#v=26) She put forth her hand to the pin, and her right hand to strike the weary; she struck Sisera, pierced his head, and wounded and penetrated his temple. [27](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15813#v=27) At her feet he sank, fell, lay; at her feet he sank (and) fell; where he sank, there he fell down dead. [28](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15813#v=28) Through the window the mother of Sisera looked forth, [וַתְּיַבֵּב] and peered through the window; why is his chariot late in coming? Why tarry the strides of his chariots?

1. **Tosafot, Rosh HaShana 33b, s.v. “Shi’ur”**

...In the name of the Aruch, stringent communities have a custom to blast 100 shofar blasts to commemorate the 100 wails of Sisera’s mother.

1. **Bereishit Ch. 23**

[**1**](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8218/jewish/Chapter-23.htm#v=1) And the life of Sarah was one hundred years and twenty years and seven years; [these were] the years of the life of Sarah. [**2**](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8218/jewish/Chapter-23.htm#v=2) And Sarah died in Kiriath arba, which is Hebron, in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to eulogize Sarah and to bewail her.

1. **Rashi (R. Shlomo b. Yitzchak, France, 1040-1105), Bereishit Ch. 23**

**2** **to eulogize Sarah and to bewail her**: The account of Sarah’s demise was juxtaposed to the binding of Isaac because as a result of the news of the “binding,” that her son was prepared for slaughter and was almost slaughtered, her soul flew out of her, and she died.

1. **Pirkei D’Rabbi Eliezer Ch. 32**

When Abraham came from Mount Moriah, Samael [Satan] was furious that he had failed to realize his lust to abort Abraham’s sacrifice. What did he do? He went off and told Sarah, “Ah Sarah, have you not heard what’s been happening in the world?” She replied, “No”. He said, “Your old husband has taken the boy Isaac and sacrificed him as a burnt offering, while the boy cried and wailed in his helplessness. Immediately, she began to cry and wail. She cried three sobs, corresponding to the three Tek’iah notes of the Shofar, and she wailed (Yelalot) three times, corresponding to the Yevava, staccato notes of the Shofar. Then, she gave up the ghost and died. Abraham cam and found her dead, as it is said, “And Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to bewail her.

1. **Vayikra Rabbah 20:2**

“Abraham did not rejoice in My world and you seek to rejoice?” He had a son at the age of a hundred. And in the end, God said to him, “Take your son…” So Abraham took Isaac, his son, and led him uphill and down dale, and up to the top of one mountain, and he built an altar and arranged the wood, and took the knife to slaughter him. And were it not that the angel called out from heaven, he would already have been slaughtered. Know that it is so, for Isaac then returned to his mother and she said to him, “Where have you been, my son?” He answered, “My father took me and led me uphill and down dale….” She said, “Woe upon the son of the drunken woman! Were it not for the angel, you would already be slaughtered?” He said, “Yes”. At that, she screamed six times, corresponding to the six Teki’ah notes. She had not finished doing this when she died… “Abraham came to mourn for Sarah… bewail her.”

1. **Bereishit Ch. 21**

[12](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8216#v=12) And God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased concerning the lad and concerning your handmaid; whatever Sarah tells you, hearken to her voice, for in Isaac will be called your seed. [13](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8216#v=13) But also the son of the handmaid I will make into a nation, because he is your seed." [14](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8216#v=14) And Abraham arose early in the morning, and he took bread and a leather pouch of water, and he gave [them] to Hagar, he placed [them] on her shoulder, and the child, and he sent her away; and she went and wandered in the desert of Beer sheba. [15](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8216#v=15) And the water was depleted from the leather pouch, and she cast the child under one of the bushes. [16](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8216#v=16) And she went and sat down from afar, at about the distance of two bowshots, for she said, "Let me not see the child's death." And she sat from afar, and she raised her voice and wept. [**17**](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8216#v=17) And God heard the lad's voice, and an angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What is troubling you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the lad's voice in the place where he is. [18](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8216#v=18) Rise, pick up the lad and grasp your hand upon him...

1. **Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch (Germany, 1808-1888), Bereishit 21**

Hagar’s whole behaviour is extremely characteristics and reveals the demerit… A Jewish mother would not have forsaken her child, even if all she could do would be to try to pacify him, even if it were only to soothe him for the millionth part of a second. To go away, just because “one can not bear to see the misery” is not sympathetic feeling for another but is the cruel egoism of a human nature which is still crude. In truly humane people the feelings of duty master the strongest emotions, make one forget one’s own painful feelings and give helpful assistance even if one can do no more than give the comfort of one’s participating presence.

1. **Shmuel Ch. 1**

[1](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15830#v=1) And there was one man from Ramathaim Zophim… and his name was Elkanah… [2](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15830#v=2) And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah and the name of the second was Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children... [6](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15830#v=6) And her rival would frequently anger her, in order to make her complain, for the Lord had shut up her womb... [8](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15830#v=8) And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" [10](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15830#v=10) And she was bitter in spirit, and she prayed to the Lord, and wept. [11](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15830#v=11) And she vowed a vow, and said: to Lord of Hosts, if... You will remember me… and You will give Your bondswoman a man-child, and I shall give him to the Lord all the days of his life… [13](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/15830#v=13) But Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, and her voice was not heard, and Eli thought her to be a drunken woman.

1. **Talmud Bavli, Berakhot 32a**

אל הנער הזה התפללתי

1. **Yirmiyahu Ch. 31**

יד כֹּה | אָמַר ה' קוֹל בְּרָמָה נִשְׁמָע נְהִי בְּכִי תַמְרוּרִים רָחֵל מְבַכָּה עַל בָּנֶיהָ מֵאֲנָה לְהִנָּחֵם עַל בָּנֶיהָ כִּי אֵינֶנּוּ: טו כֹּה | אָמַר ה' מִנְעִי קוֹלֵךְ מִבֶּכִי וְעֵינַיִךְ מִדִּמְעָה כִּי יֵשׁ שָׂכָר לִפְעֻלָּתֵךְ נְאֻם ה' וְשָׁבוּ מֵאֶרֶץ אוֹיֵב: טז וְיֵשׁ תִּקְוָה לְאַחֲרִיתֵךְ נְאֻם ה' וְשָׁבוּ בָנִים לִגְבוּלָם:

[14](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/16028#v=14) So says the Lord: A voice is heard on high, lamentation, bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, she refuses to be comforted for her children for they are not. [15](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/16028#v=15) So says the Lord: Refrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for there is reward for your work, says the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. [16](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/16028#v=16) And there is hope for your future, says the Lord, and the children shall return to their own border.

1. **Eicha Rabbah, Siman 24**

The Patriarchs and the Matriarchs went to appease the Holy One blessed be He concerning the sin of Manasseh… but He was not appeased. Rachel entered and stated before Him “O Lord of the Universe, whose mercy is greater, Your mercy or the mercy of a flesh and blood person? You must admit that Your mercy is greater. Now did I not bring my rival into my house? For all the work that Jacob worked for my father he worked only for me. When I came to enter the nuptial canopy, they brought my sister, and it was not enough that I kept my silence, but I gave her my password. You, too, if Your children have brought Your rival into Your house, keep Your silence for them.” He said to her, “You have defended them well. There is reward for your deed and for your righteousness, that you gave over your password to your sister.”

1. **Talmud Bavli, Bava Metzia 59a**

R. Eleazar said: Since the destruction of the Temple, the gates of prayer are locked, for it is written, *Also when I cry out, he shutteth out my prayer*. Yet though the gates of prayer are locked, the gates of tears are not

1. **Bereishit Ch. 27**

[38](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8222#v=38) And Esau said to his father, "Have you [but] one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father." And Esau raised his voice and wept. [39](http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8222#v=39) And his father Isaac answered and said to him, "Behold, your dwelling place shall be the fat places of the earth and of the dew of the heaven from above

1. **Excerpts from Eyal Yifrach, Gilad Shaer, Naftali Fraenkel הי”ד *levaya* (7/1/14)**

“In the last 18 days the figures of Eyal, Gilad and Naftali were carved on our hearts… This day spontaneously became a national day of mourning… The whole nation prayed for the return of the boys, and the whole nation saw the nobility of spirit, and inner strength of you, the parents…a whole nation stood together and received a reminder: who are we? why are we here? … you gave the whole world a lesson about the cry of a mother” (**Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu). “**A nation blessed with mothers like Rachel, Bat Galim and Iris - dear mothers, your voices united a nation and educated a generation” **(President Shimon Peres).**