#### The Pursuit of Peace, Week 3: Peace Between Jews and Non-Jews

R' Mordechai Torczyner – torczyner@torontotorah.com



1. Rabbi Moses Maimonides (12<sup>th</sup> century Egypt), Mishneh Torah, Laws of Forbidden Foods 17:12

Although the sages prohibited bread baked by non-Jews, in some places they are lenient, buying bread from non-Jewish bakers when Jewish bakers are not available, or in rural fields, in a case of need. But no one permits home-baked bread, because the essential decree was to prevent intermarriage, and eating home-baked bread would lead to eating with them.

### Peaceful relations: A religious imperative

#### Ezekiel 38:23

And I will be elevated and I will be sanctified and I will be known before the eyes of many nations, and they will know that I am G-d

## 3. Talmud, Pesachim 87b

Israel was exiled among the nations only so that converts would be added to them.

# 4. Talmud, Gittin 61a

We support non-Jewish paupers with Jewish paupers, and we examine non-Jewish ill with Jewish ill, and we bury non-Jewish dead with Jewish dead, because of peaceful practices.

5. Rabbi Moses Maimonides (12th century Egypt), Mishneh Torah, Laws of Kings 10:12

The Sages have instructed us to visit their sick, to bury their dead as we bury Jewish dead, and to support their indigent along with Jewish indigent, to promote peaceful paths, as it is written, "Gd is good to all, and His mercy is upon all of His creations," and "Her paths are pleasant paths, and all of her ways are peace."

## The religious imperative for staying apart

#### 6. Deuteronomy 7:3

And you shall not marry among them, your daughter you shall not give to his son and his daughter you shall not take for your son.

# 7. Talmud, Shabbat 89a

The mountain was called Sinai because from there hatred [sinah] descended to the nations of the world.

## Squaring the circle

8. Shimon Peres, as cited by Donald Rumsfeld

If a problem has no solution, it may not be a problem, but a fact, not to be solved, but to be coped with over time.

### 9. Talmud, Berachot 17a

They say of Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai that no one ever succeeded in greeting him first, including non-Jews in the marketplace.

#### 10. Jerusalem Talmud, Bava Metzia 2:5

Shimon ben Shetach engaged in the flax trade. His students said to him, "Our master! Ease your involvement, and we will purchase a donkey for you, and you will not need to exhaust yourself so much!" They purchased a donkey from an Arab, and they found a gem hanging from it. They came to Shimon ben Shetach and told him, "With this you will no longer need to exhaust yourself!" He asked, "Why?" They said to him, "We bought you a donkey from an Arab, and a gem was hanging from it!" He said, "Did the donkey's owner know?" They said, "No." He said to them, "Return it." But didn't Rav Huna bar Bibi bar Gozlon cite Rav as saying... "Everyone agrees that his lost item is permitted!" Do you think Shimon ben Shetach was an ignorant boor? Shimon ben Shetach wanted to hear him say, "Blessed be the G-d of the Jews," more than all the profit in the world.