



Tzippy
Remembers
When...

Birth Pangs of Moshiach

TZIPPY CLAPMAN

Hashem blessed us with six children, and every time I would get closer to my ninth month of pregnancy, I would grow more and more excited about the long-awaited arrival! I looked forward to meeting our new son or daughter, and I was happy to plan a great celebration, whether it would be a *kiddush* for a baby girl, or a *shalom zachor* and a *bris* for a baby boy.

But, at the same time, the thought of the grueling labor ahead of me gave me anxiety and an uncomfortable uncertainty. I couldn't really relax until I heard a healthy, robust cry from our baby. Only then could I breathe a sigh of vast relief and gratitude to Hashem, and rejoice wholeheartedly together with my husband and our families.

This is what Klal Yisroel is now going through in these last days of *galus*. We feel anxiety and uncertainty and worry and pain and desperate hope for the misery to end and for the joy and relief to set in. Everything is turning dark for us Yidden, with almost no sign of light in this dark tunnel. The world is turning against us in every way possible, and it seems that everything we do as Yidden is being misrepresented, mocked, and criticized. Our pleasant ways, our love and respect for life, our Torah and *mitzvos* and acts of kindness, are being dismissed and ignored, and instead we are now being portrayed as the villains of the world!

Right before the *Geulah*, the Satan is in his full glory,

turning the people of the world into hateful enemies of the Jews, and confusing them by turning falsehoods into "truths," and impossible fantasies into "solutions."

It does not help to try to defend and explain and justify our actions as our enemies refuse to hear any truth and they are only seeking the destruction of our holy nation! The fact that we are a loving and peaceful people is not seen or recognized by the evil people of the world.

Did you ever hear a non-Jew (of any nationality, race or religion) fear walking into a Jewish neighborhood? Is he afraid for his safety and his life?

We are usually afraid. They are not.

Yet, all over the world our brothers and sisters, the Jewish people, are always helping the nations of the world. When there are floods, tsunamis, earthquakes... who comes running with a helping hand? Israel is always sending crews to world crises providing lifesaving machinery to dig victims out of the rubble or helping to aid countries with hunger and water shortages with lifesaving supplies. Even our enemies who try to harm Eretz Yisroel and have engaged in atrocities against us are sent lifesaving necessities. When they are sending bombs our way, we retaliate, but not before we send them prewarning many hours or even days prior, so that they have time to evacuate to prevent loss of lives amongst the innocent and not so innocent population.

The very wicked of the world celebrate death. From the time they bring their children into the world, their sole purpose is to celebrate martyrdom and to kill anyone who does not conform with their ideology. They teach their children from babyhood the “value” of killing others who do not accept their religion, and that dying while killing “infidels” is the best thing they could do to make their parents proud.

Baruch Hashem, we still have some non-Jews, the righteous among the world, the *chassidei umos ha’olam*, who know the truth, who support us, and who are dedicated to righting the wrongs.

As a nation we are now experiencing the hard part of labor, and as all mothers know, it can be very severe, and both physically and emotionally overwhelming. But what saves us is that we know with 100% certainty that this pain is only temporary and the birth is definitely happening soon.

This reminds me of my good friend who was in nursing school, training on a hospital ward, and she was trying to evaluate patients’ pain levels, in order to know if the pain medication was sufficient or needed to be increased. She was with a very elderly Jewish woman who was suffering from terrible pain. My friend asked her gently, “Did you ever experience this type of pain any time in your life?”

The elderly woman shook her head no. My friend then asked her, “Is the pain as severe as the pain you had when you were about to give birth to your children?”

The old woman let out a deep sigh, and said, “How can I compare any pain with that? Yes, the pain was bad, but it heralded the birth of my child! The reward made every minute of pain worth it!”

As our Rebbe said, we are so close to the *Geulah* that all we have left to do is polish the *kneplach*, the buttons on our clothing, because Moshiach is ready to be revealed.

Hinei lo yanum v’lo yishan Shomer Yisroel! The Guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. Hashem is protecting us in wondrous and miraculous ways. This pain that we are in will bring the arrival of our long-awaited Moshiach Tzidkeinu, and the return of our loved ones very speedily in our time! Let’s be ready! Let’s polish the buttons by increasing our *ahavas Yisroel*, our *hachnasas orchim*, our *bikur cholim*, our learning and our *davening* and bringing more children into the world, and all *mitzvos*. Also, let’s get ready by familiarizing ourselves with these *brachos*, to be said when Moshiach actually arrives! ❀

Which *brachos* will we say when Moshiach arrives?

Upon hearing of Moshiach’s arrival:

Baruch Atah Hashem Elokeinu Melech ha’olam goel Yisroel.

Baruch Atah Hashem Elokeinu Melech ha’olam shehechyanu v’kiymanu v’higyanu lizman hazeh.

Upon seeing Moshiach:

Baruch Atah Hashem Elokeinu Melech ha’olam shechalak meichachmaso liraiov.

When the dead are revived:

Baruch Atah Hashem Elokeinu Melech ha’olam mechayeh hameisim.

When seeing 600,000 Yidden together in Eretz Yisroel:

Baruch Atah Hashem Elokeinu Melech ha’olam Chacham Harazim.

TZIPPY CLAPMAN, RN, MS, FNP, lives in Crown Heights with her husband, Rabbi Yehuda Clapman, a certified sofer. Formerly a NICU nurse and now a provider in family medicine and women’s health in Parcare of Boro Park, Tzippy has written extensively for the N’shei Chabad Newsletter, always with the goal of convincing parents of the supreme importance of creating warm, happy, Yiddishe memories for their children. Tzippy’s sense of humor, her sincerity, and her clarity about Yiddishe values have changed lives for the better in the gentlest way possible. This is the 54th installment of “Tzippy Remembers When...”