

Our Family Tree

From the Creation of the World
until Today



MOUSSIAVIGLER

חיה מושקא

Memento

From the Bat Mitzvah of Moussia Vigler

13 Sivan, 5779 - June 16, 2019

Dear Friends,

As we prepared our daughter to become Bat Mitzvah, a fully-fledged member of our People, we wanted it to be a meaningful and special occasion. We challenged ourselves to see how far back we could go in creating our family tree so that our children could know where they came from.

As we pored over scores of history and Torah books, we soon saw the beautiful chain fall into focus. It was incredible to bridge the gap between modern times and Biblical history in just 131 successive generations!

The project spanned almost six months, and sometimes we felt like we had bitten off more than we could chew, but we were thrilled with the outcome. People who were unsure whether Adam and Eve actually existed have been stunned to see how we actually descend from them!

Rabbi DovBer, the Maggid of Mezritch was the saintly Rebbe of our elter Zeide, the first Chabad Rebbe, Rabbi Shnier Zalman of Liadi. When he was a young boy of 5 or 6 years, he once came home from cheder and saw his house burning down and his mother crying bitterly. To comfort her he said, "Mommy, please don't cry; Hashem will give us a bigger, nicer home."

His mother replied, "Berele, I am not crying because of our home, but because of our document of ancestry (yichus), which describes our beautiful family tree. Now, because of the fire, we no longer have it."

Upon hearing this, young Berele said, "Even this is not a reason to cry. If our old yichus letter was destroyed, with G-d's help, a new yichus (lineage) will start with me."

It is our hope and prayer that the momentum of their noble ancestry will spur our children forward to fulfill their own potential and to deliver their unique contribution to this world.

In creating this document we literally had to go to the ends of the earth in researching back to the very beginning of time. There are periods in history that are poorly documented in general and not much is known about some of these personalities. Needless to say, some errors are possible. We see this as a living document which we will continue to enhance and develop over time. Please send us your comments, edits or additions to Rabbi@JewishGardens.com so that you can help us make it as accurate as possible.

Thank you for enhancing this special day with your presence. May we always merit to share in each other's simchas! Mazal Tov!

Rabbi David & Chana Vigler

Erev Shavuot 5779 | June 6, 2019

1.

Adam

1 Tishrei - Day 6 of Creation (3760 BCE) | Died 930 (2831 BCE)

The first person ever to be created. Was single for a few hours until G-d created Eve from his side. He was supposed to live 1000 years but when G-d showed him the future generations, he saw that King David was supposed to be a stillborn. He therefore "donated" 70 years of his life to David and lived only 930 years. King David lived 70 years.

2.

His son *Shes*

Born 130 (3631 BCE)

The third son of Adam and Eve. He lived 912 years.

3.

His son *Enosh*

Born 235 (3526 BCE)

"During the times of Enosh, mankind made a great mistake, and the wise men of that generation gave thoughtless counsel. Enosh himself was one of those who erred. Their mistake was as follows: they said God created stars and spheres with which to control the world. He placed them on high and treated them with honor, making them servants who minister before Him. Accordingly, it is fitting to praise and glorify them and to treat them with honor. [They perceived] this to be the will of God, blessed be He, that they magnify and honor those whom He magnified and honored, just as a king desires that the servants who stand before him be honored. Indeed, doing so is an expression of honor to the king."

4.

His son *Kenan*

Born 325 (3436 BCE)

Born when Enosh was ninety years old, Kenan fathered Mehalalel when he was seventy. Other sons and daughters were born to Kenan before he died at 910 years of age.

5.

His son *Mehallel*

Born 395 (3366 BCE)

He lived 895 years, placing him eighth in the records for the unusually long lifespans for the antediluvian patriarchs.

6.

His son *Yered*
Born 460 (3301 BCE)

Yered's age was given as 962 years old when he died, making him the second-oldest person mentioned in the Torah.

7.

His son *Chanoch*
Born 622 (3139 BCE)

He lived 365 years before he was "taken by God". Chanoch was a righteous man, but he could easily be swayed to do evil. Therefore, the Holy One, blessed be He, hastened and took him away and caused him to die before his time. For this reason, Scripture changed [the wording in] the account of his demise and wrote, "and he was no longer" in the world to complete his years.

8.

His son *Methuselah*
Born 687 (3074 BCE) | Died 1656 (2105 BCE)

Dying at the age of 969, he lived the longest of all figures mentioned in the Torah. Methuselah lived until the ark was built but died before the flood, since God had promised he would not be killed with the unrighteous.

9.

His son *Lamech*
Born 874 (2887 BCE)

Lamech was 182 years old at the birth of Noah and lived for another 595 years, attaining an age at death of 777 years, five years before the Great Flood. With such numbers in this genealogical account, Adam would still have been alive for about the first 56 years of Lamech's life.

10.

His son *Noah*
Born 1056 (2705 BCE) | Died 2006 (1755 BCE)

Noah was righteous and therefore was chosen by G-d to save humanity and the animals during the Great Flood that took place in the 600th year of his life.

Noah died 350 years after the flood at the age of 950, the last of the extremely long-lived Antediluvian patriarchs. The maximum human lifespan, as depicted by the Bible, gradually diminishes thereafter, from almost 1000 years to the 120 years of Moses.

11.

His son *Shem*

Born 1558 (2203 BCE) | Died 2158 (1603 BCE)

Shem is Melchizedek, King of Salem whom Abraham is reported to have met after The Battle of the Four Kings recorded in the Book of Genesis.

The modern day term describing Jews as "semites" is due to our ancestry from Shem.

THE GREAT FLOOD 1656 (2104 BCE)

12.

His son *Arpachshad*

Born 1658 (2103 BCE)

He was born just after the Great Flood. It must have taken great courage for his parents to conceive him after the destruction that they had witnessed. He lived 438 years, as the lifespan of man was gradually being reduced after the Great Flood

13.

His son *Shelach*

Born 1693 (2068 BCE)

Lived 433 years

14.

His son *Eiver*

Born 1723 (2038 BCE)

Shem and Eiver ran a Yeshiva in which monotheism was taught. We know that all three Patriarchs, Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov studied there for extended periods of time. Eiver died at the age of 464 when Yaakov was 79, soon after Yaakov finished studying there.

Eiver was so influential, that the suffix "Hebrew" which Avraham was known by, and which has become synonymous with Jews, is a play on the name Eiver (lvri=Hebrew).

15.

His son *Peleg*
Born 1757 (2004 BCE)

His prophetic father named him Peleg (dispersion) "because during his lifetime the peoples of the world were dispersed." This is a reference to the Tower of Babel, which was built by mankind in rebellion against G-d under the leadership of the wicked King Nimrod. Until this time, all people spoke Hebrew. To thwart their evil intent, G-d dispersed the builders by making them speak different languages and thus dispersing mankind all over the earth until this day. He lived 239 years.

16.

His son *Re'u*
Born 1787 (1974 BCE)
He lived 239 years.

17.

His son *Serug*
Born 1819 (1942 BCE)
Lived 230 years.

18.

His son *Nachor*
Born 1849 (1912 BCE)
Lived 148 years.

19.

His son *Terach*
Born 1878 (1883 BCE)

Terach was a loyal general to the wicked King Nimrod of Ancient Mesopotamia. When Terach's son Avraham was born, Nimrod's stargazers identified this boy as the one who would rebel against the emperor. Nimrod demanded the boy be executed. Terach had another baby killed instead, and Avraham was banished to live alone in a cave, which is where he was able to meditate upon the existence of the Almighty Creator of the Universe. He lived 205 years.

20.

His firstborn son *Avraham Avinu*
Born 1948 (1812 BCE) | Died 2123 (1638 BCE)

Terach left Avraham to mind the idol store while he departed. A woman came with a plateful of flour and asked Avraham to offer it to the idols.

Avraham then took a stick, broke the idols, and put the stick in the largest idol's hand. When Terach returned, he demanded that Avraham explain what he'd done. He told his father that the idols fought among themselves and the largest broke the others with the stick. "Why do you make sport of me?" Terach cried. "Do they have any knowledge?" Avraham replied. "Listen to what you are saying!"

At the age of 75, Avraham was told by G-d to leave his father's home and journey toward the Promised Land, where the Jewish Nation was founded. Having successfully passed ten gruelling tests, Avraham Avinu proved his faith to G-d and became the first Jew.

21.

His son *Yitzchak Avinu*

Born 2048 (1712 BCE) | Died 2228 (1533 BCE)

Born to elderly parents, Yitzchak was the first Jew to have a bris at eight days old. G-d commanded Avraham to bind Yizchak, the only son from his beloved wife Sarah, upon the altar. Though Avraham did so willingly, it's also important to note that Yitzchak was not a baby at the time but rather 37 years old when he allowed himself to be offered as a sacrifice to Hashem.

BINDING OF ISAAC UPON THE ALTAR 2085 (1675 BCE)

22.

His second son *Yaakov Avinu*

Born 2108 (1652 BCE) | Died 2255 (1506 BCE)

Having successfully acquired the blessings of eternity from his father, Yaakov fled to his uncle's home in Mesopotamia, where he married four wives. They gave birth to the twelve tribes of Israel. Unfortunately, sibling rivalry caused the brothers to sell Joseph as a slave in Egypt, an event that ultimately led Yaakov and his growing family of 70 Jewish souls to Egypt, where the story of the Egyptian slavery and Exodus began to unfold.

23.

His fourth son *Yehuda*

**Yehuda sold Joseph as a slave in 2216 (1545 BCE) |
Descended to Egypt 2238 (1523 BCE)**

Though he was the fourth of the tribes of Israel, it was he who boldly put his life on the line to save the life of his younger brothers Joseph and Benjamin when they were in danger. It is this selflessness, courage

and leadership skill that mark him, from all the tribes of Israel, to be the eternal monarch of Israel through his great descendant King David. In tribute to the monarchy of the nation that will always come from this tribe, the name "Jew" in Hebrew is Judah.

24.

His firstborn son *Peretz*

When he and his twin brother were in the womb of their mother Tamar, his brother Zerach began to emerge first, but Peretz pushed his way ahead and became the first born. He was thus named Peretz, which means "to burst forth." This is a prophetic reference to the nature of the future kings of Israel that were destined to emerge from his descendants.

25.

His son *Chetzron*

26.

His son *Ram*

27.

His son *Aminadav*

Father-in-law of Aharon the High Priest.

28.

His son *Nachshon*

Leader of the tribe of Judah, he was the only man in the entire nation who followed Moshe's instruction to walk into the Red Sea before it split. The nation watched him enter the sea until the water covered his nostrils, at which moment the sea split.

From the fact that the Torah tells us that his sister was Elisheva, who married Aharon the High Priest, we learn that when a man wants to marry a woman, he should see what her brothers are like in order to get an idea of how his children will turn out.

TORAH GIVEN ON MOUNT SINAI 2448 (1313 BCE)

29.

His son *Salmon*

His father Nahshon was one of the Israelite leaders present with Moses during the exodus from Egypt and who undertook a "census of all the congregation of the children of Israel" and therefore Salmon would probably have been a contemporary of Joshua and part of the generation of Israelites who entered the promised land.

30.

His son *Boaz*

Boaz was a wealthy landowner of Bethlehem in Judea, and brother of Elimelech, Naomi's late husband. He noticed Ruth, the widowed Moabite daughter-in-law of Naomi, a relative of his, gleaning grain in his fields. He soon learned of the difficult circumstances her family was in and Ruth's loyalty to Naomi. In response, Boaz invited her to eat with him and his workers, as well as deliberately leaving grain for her to claim while keeping a protective eye on her.

Ruth approached Boaz and asked him to exercise his right of kinship and marry her. Boaz accepted on the provision that another with a superior claim declined. Since the first son of Ruth and a kinsman of her late husband would be deemed the legal offspring of the decedent and heir to Elimelech, the other kinsman deferred to Boaz.

Though Boaz tragically died on the night of his wedding to Ruth, in marrying Ruth, Boaz revived Elimelech's lineage, and the patrimony was secured to Naomi's family, securing the line of King David unto the next generation in the nick of time.

31.

His son *Oved*

Orphaned from the death of his father on the night of his conception, Oved was raised by Ruth and Naomi. From the fact that the Torah says that Naomi bore him, we learn that whoever raises an orphan is considered as if she had borne him.

32.

His son *Yishai* (Jesse)

One of only four people who ever lived about whom the Talmud testifies that he never sinned in his life. At one point in his life he separated from

his wife on the basis of mistaken presumptions. She nevertheless slipped into his chambers in the dark of night and managed to conceive without ever revealing to him that he was the father of the child. When her son was born a redhead, even his own father considered him a bastard. Thus David's earliest youth was filled with rejection and abandonment.

33.

His son *King David*
Born 2854 (906 BCE) | Crowned 2892 (869 BCE)

Though he too made mistakes, what set David apart from his peers was how he always took responsibility for his errors without seeking to blame anyone else. It was this extraordinary humility that marked him and his descendants as the eternal kings of Israel.

David composed the powerful book of Psalms (Tehillim) an expression of his unique and intimate conversations with G-d through the best and worst of times. The third Chabad Rebbe famously taught that whenever the words of Tehillim are read, they shatter all heavenly decrees and prostrate themselves directly beneath the Heavenly throne, ensuring salvation and success to all who ask. "If we would only know their power, we would recite these words incessantly."

34.

His son *King Solomon*
Crowned 2924 (837 BCE) | Died 2964 (797 BCE)

At the tender age of 9, he assumed the throne of Israel. When G-d asked him what he wished from Him, he requested not riches and power but wisdom. Indeed, Solomon became the wisest of all men, proficient in the languages of animals and demons. A brilliant ruler, he led the Jewish nation through its most glorious era, composing books of great wisdom and building the first Temple in Jerusalem.

FIRST TEMPLE BUILT
2928 (833 BCE)

35.

His only son *King Rechavam*
Crowned 2964 (797 BCE)

He ascended the throne at the age of 41, where the nation was willing to crown him on condition that he would lower the burdensome taxes imposed by his father. The foolish new young king consulted with his friends, instead of the elders, who advised him to double down and vow

to increase taxes. This resulted in a schism within the nation of Israel as ten of the tribes of Israel abandoned him to form the Kingdom of Israel. Rechavam became King over just the two tribes of Judah and Binyamin in what was known as the Kingdom of Yehudah.

36.

His son *King Avihu*

Following the death of Rechavam, his son Avihu succeeded the throne as King of Judah. He began his three-year reign with a strenuous but unsuccessful effort to reunite the ten tribes of the northern Kingdom of Israel with the Kingdom of Yehudah.

37.

His son *King Asa*

He purged the land of foreign religions and false idols throughout the 41 years of his reign. He died greatly honoured by his people, and was considered for the most part a righteous king.

38.

His son *King Jehoshaphat*

Jehoshaphat ascended the throne at the age of thirty-five and reigned for twenty-five years. He spent the first years of his reign fortifying his kingdom against the Kingdom of Israel.

39.

His son *King Yehoram*

Yehoram took the throne at the age of 32 and reigned for 8 years. To secure his position, Yehoram killed his six brothers.

His father married him off to the daughter of the wicked King Achav. His wicked wife Atalya led him to such depravity that made him unworthy of a visit from Elijah. Only after Elijah's death, Elijah sent King Yehoram a letter stating that he will suffer terribly and lose to his enemies and his children would all be killed. Atalya convinced him that the letter was false, and he ignored it yet suffered all its consequences.

40.

His son *King Achazyah*

He was very friendly with his uncle King Yehoram (King of Israel, same name as his father), the son of Achav. When Yehoram was injured in battle, he went to visit him and was killed by one of his own soldiers.

41.

His son *King Jehoash*
Renovated the Holy Temple 3084 (677 BCE)

His grandmother Atalya poisoned all of her grandsons once her son, King Achazyah, was murdered because she wanted to become queen. She successfully killed all the descendants of King David but failed to kill the one year old Jehoash, because he was hidden by the wife of the High Priest Yehosheva, and she lived with him in the room above the holy of holies for six years in an open secret that was concealed only from the wicked Queen Atalya. At seven years old, he was crowned by his supporters, who had dethroned his wicked grandmother.

He was a great king and repaired the Holy Temple after Atalya had plundered its wealth. Ultimately he became an idolater because his ministers deified him since he had lived in the Holy of Holies for six years. He encouraged them to worship him for the last ten years of his life and was ultimately murdered by his two servants on Yom Kippur because he was speaking out against the people.

Yehoash ordered the death of the prophet Zacharya ben Yehoyada, the son of the same High Priest who saved his life in his early youth. Zacharya's last words were "may Hashem see my blood and avenge it." His blood boiled beside the altar for the next 252 years until the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians.

42.

His son *King Amazya*

He took the throne at the age of 25, after the assassination of his father, and reigned for 29 years. He is praised for killing the assassins of his father only and sparing their children. Despite his successful military victories, he sank into idol worship and turned away from G-d.

He, like his father, was the victim of assassins, apparently bent upon removing one who had brought upon the land such dire disasters. He was the brother of the prophet Amos.

43.

His son *King Uzziah*

Uzziah took the throne at the age of 16, and reigned for about 52 years. His reign was "the most prosperous, excepting that of Jehoshaphat, since the time of Solomon."

He was righteous, though he did not ban the altars of idolatry, but allowed the people to sacrifice and burn incense on them. Uzziah's strength became his weakness, for he attempted to usurp the power of

the priesthood in burning incense in the Holy Temple. While in the act he was smitten with leprosy and he was subsequently forced to dwell in a leper's house until the day of his death

44.

His son *King Yoisam*

Once his father was stricken with leprosy for his brazen act in the Holy Temple, Yoisam assumed the monarchy. He inherited a strong government, well officered and administered. "He built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built castles and towers." He also defeated the Ammonites, who paid him an immense annual tribute.

45.

His son *King Achaz*

A weak and idolatrous king, Achaz ascended the throne at the tender age of twenty. He had sent his young son Chizkiyahu to be burned in the service of the idol Molech, but thankfully his mother saved him in the nick of time. Due to crushing military defeats from Syria and the ten tribes of Israel, he defied the instructions of the prophet Isaiah to rely on G-d's mercies and chose to ask Sancheriv, the powerful King of Assyria, to intervene on his behalf. Assyria was only too glad to do so. They were so successful in their attack on the ten tribes of Israel, that they haven't been found to this day, and are still known as "The Ten Lost Tribes of Israel."

All Jews today are descendants of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi. The rest will return with the coming of Moshiach, the scion of King David.

He died in the 16th year of his rule. On the day of his burial, the sun shone for just two hours so that his funeral would be rushed.

46.

His son *King Chizkiyahu*
Crowned 3199 (562 BCE)

As soon as Hezekiah had ascended to the throne, he dedicated himself to a complete reversal of the policies of his father. After he cleansed the Holy Land from the idolatry of his father, he reintroduced the Temple service to all the Jewish People, reaching out even to the Kingdom of Israel in the north. He also mobilised the army and reconquered lands that had been lost by his predecessors.

After the ten tribes had been exiled by the Assyrians, they laid siege to Jerusalem in the year 3213 (548 BCE) and were poised to destroy the last remnants of the Jewish Nation. Through his great trust in G-d, King

Chizkiyahu was able to merit an extraordinary miracle in which all the 185,000 Assyrian soldiers that laid siege to Jerusalem were struck by an angel and died on Pesach night. The Kingdom of Judah was saved at the last moment. King Sancheriv returned to Assyria humiliated, where he was murdered by his own sons while praying to his idol Nisroch.

47.

His son *King Menashe*
Crowned 3228 (533 BCE)

The polar opposite of his pious father, Menashe allowed idolatry to flourish in the Holy Land and persecuted the believers of monotheism. He even ordered the murder of the prophet Isaiah, who admonished him for his ways. He was eventually captured by the Assyrians and was brutally tortured. After pleading to all his idols in vain, he prayed to Hashem as a last resort. Only then was he released. Though he repented fully in the last 33 years of his reign, in which he served Hashem, he was unable to reverse the depravity and sinful society which he had created in the first decade of his rule.

48.

His son *King Amon*

Manasseh was succeeded by His son Amon, who was no better than his father when he took over the kingdom of Judea. The land was plunged deeper and deeper into the slough of immorality and idolatry. But fortunately King Amon's rule was short. After two years he was assassinated by his own servants. The people avenged his death; they slew the murderers and declared Josiah, Amon's son, King of Judah.

49.

His son *King Yoshiyahu*
Renovated the Temple 3303 (458 BCE)

This righteous king ascended the throne after the murder of his father at the tender age of 8. Guided by wise and G-d fearing advisers, he restored the values of monotheism to the Holy Land. While he was renovating the Temple, they came across the Torah scroll that was written by Moses himself and which had been lost for generations. It was rolled to a section that describes curses befalling the Jewish people for their sins. The king was deeply shaken by this and inspired the entire nation to repent from their sins. Tragically, he declined to heed the counsel of the prophet Jeremiah, who advised him against engaging the Egyptians in battle. The Jewish soldiers suffered a crushing defeat and the popular king died soon after.

50.

His son *King Yehoyakim*
Exiled 3319 (442 BCE)

His name was actually Eliakim, but the Egyptian Pharaoh Necho changed it to Yehoyakim. He was a wicked king who spread idolatry and heavily taxed the populace. During this time, the Babylonians conquered the Assyrians and the mighty Babylonian emperor Nebuchadnezzar set his sights on the Holy Land. Upon his arrival, King Yehoyakim surrendered and a heavy tax was imposed upon the Kingdom of Judah. After three years, the king joined forces with the Egyptians to rebel against the Babylonians. The rebellion was quashed and Yehoyakim was led in chains to Babylon, dying en route.

51.

His son *King Yachnayahu / Yehoyachin*
Exiled 3327 (434 BCE)

The new monarch had been on the throne for scarcely more than three months when Jerusalem came under the siege of the Babylonian hosts.

To appease Nebuchadnezzar and save the city, Jehoiachin delivered himself up to the Babylonian conqueror. After plundering the Temple and the royal palace, Nebuchadnezzar returned to his land, carrying away from Jerusalem ten thousand captives, including the king and his family, the nobility of the land, and the leaders of the army. Only the poorest of the population were left, and over them Nebuchadnezzar appointed Mattaniah, the exiled monarch's uncle, as tributary king, changing his name to Zedekiah.

DESTRUCTION OF THE FIRST TEMPLE 3338 (423 BCE)

52.

His son *Shealtiel*

Born c.586 BCE Jerusalem | Died: c. 540 BCE (38-54 CE) Jerusalem

He was the very first Reish Galuta (Leader of the Jews in Exile), a position which effectively transformed Judaism from a geocentric religion into a universal ideology that would be able to withstand the exiles and persecutions of the next 2.5 millenia.

The Reish Galuta, or Exilarch, was, from the time of Shealtiel until the abolition of the office c.1000 C.E., a Jewish political leader descended from the line of King David. In some ways, he was treated as a legitimate king and heir to the Davidic line.

53.

His son *Padaya*

54.

His son *Zerubavel*

Led the return to Israel 3390 (371 CE) | Died 3448

Also known as Nechemya ben Chachalya, he was the cupbearer of the Persian King Darius.

When he learned of the plight of his brethren in Israel, he was deeply saddened. After being pressed to share what was on his mind, Nehemiah told the king that the plight of the Jews in Israel weighed heavily upon him and that he wished more than anything else to travel to Israel, with the permission of the king, in order to assist the Jews with rebuilding the city and protecting them from their enemies.

Moved by his sincerity, Darius allowed Nehemiah to travel to Israel, giving him timber from the royal storehouse to be used for roofing. Accompanied by an armed royal escort, Nehemiah gathered a few of his friends and set out for Jerusalem where he was appointed as the governor of Israel during the beginning of the Second Temple period. He was a brilliant leader whose courage and vision saw the implementation of economic and religious reforms to the Jewish community, struggling in the Holy Land.

He was instrumental in rebuilding the defenses of Jerusalem and the surrounding area and provided much-needed stability and management to the fledgling Jewish community who had just returned there from Babylon.

**PURIM STORY
3404 | (356 BCE)**

**SECOND TEMPLE BUILT
3408 | (352 BCE)**

55.

His son *Meshulam*

Crowned 3448 | Died 10 Teves 3448

56.

His son *Chananya*
Crowned 3448

Alexander the Great conquered Darius II (son of Queen Esther and King Achashverosh), the last king of Persia, in the same year as the rise of Meshulam to Reish Galuta, and thus brought an end to the power of the Jewish leaders (Reish Galuta) in Persia in 3448 at the age of 19. This was the rise of the Greek Empire, exactly 1000 years after the Exodus of Egypt. This was the same year as the passing of Chagai, Zecharya, and Malachi and marked the termination of the era of Jewish Prophecy.

Meshulam took over from Zerubavel and died the same year as he became Reish Galuta and Nasi.

This was the same year that Shimon Hatzadik Kohen Gadol came out to greet Alexander at the entrance of Jerusalem and ended up with agreeing to name all the Jewish boys in Israel Alexander, instead of making his image in the Holy Temple between the Altar and the Holy of Holies. This was also the same year Geviha ben Pesisa negotiated for Israel's ownership of the land of Israel.

TORAH TRANSLATED TO GREEK- SEPTUAGINT
3515 | 246

57.

His son *Brechya*

Seat of Jewish Leadership has now moved From Persia to Egypt after the rise of Alexander the Great

58.

His son *Chasadyahu*

59.

His son *Yishiyahu*

60.

His son *Ovadiyah*

61.

His son *Shchenya*

62.

His son *Shmaya*

63.

His son *Ne'aryah*

TANA'IM:

64.

His son *Chizkiyahu*

He was buried in East Jerusalem in Givas Ho'arbel.

**SECOND TEMPLE DESTROYED
3828 (68 CE)**

65.

His son *Tana Natan DeTzuTzisa*

He was a penitent, for he wanted to take a certain married woman and became sick with love for her. Eventually, she had to borrow money from him and, because of her poverty, accepted his advances; however, he conquered his desire, sent her away in peace, and became healed. Afterwards, when he would go out into the market, a fire from Heaven would burn over his head.

For this reason, he is called Nossan DeTzuTzisa in the Talmud Tractate Shabbos, "because of the light that shone on him."

66.

His son *Rav Huna*

67.

Rav Akiva

68.

Rav Nochum

69.

His son *Rav Yochanan*

70.

His son *Rav Shafat*

71.

His son *Rav Anan*

72.

His son *Rav Huna*
Died 508 CE

73.

His son *Rav Nasan*

74.

His son *Rav Nechemya*

75.

His son *Rav Ukvah* (DeTzutzisa)

76.

His son *Rav Aba*

TALMUD COMPLETED 4235 (475 CE)

After the destruction of the Second Holy Temple in 3828 (68 CE) by the wicked Titus of Rome, many Jews again escaped to Babylon, and there the Jewish community grew even more significant. There were Yeshivot (Talmudical Academies) where thousands of students studied the Holy Torah at the feet of the wise men of Babylon. There, the Tannaim, and later the Amoraim, Rabonon Saborai, and Gaonim, lit up the dark Jewish exile with the radiant light of the Torah.

The descendants of the royal house of King David enjoyed special respect and honor from the royal family of Persia. It was from this family that the King, with the assent of the Jews, chose a "Leader of the Exile", the Jewish representative at the Persian Court and the highest position among exiled Jews in Babylonia.

77.

His son *Rav Safra*

78.

His son *Mar Zutra*

Proclaimed Jewish self rule in Babylonia 4311 (551 CE)

79.

His son *Rav Kahana*

80.

His son *Rav Gurya*

81.

His son *Bustenai*

Born 4378 (618 CE) | Died 4430 (670 CE)

The origin of the unusual name "Bostanai.":

The last Persian king (Hormuzd), inimical to the Jews, decided to extinguish the royal house of David, no one being left of that house but a young woman whose husband had been killed shortly after his marriage, and who was about to give birth to a child. Then the king dreamed that he was in a beautiful garden ("bostan"), where he uprooted the trees and broke the branches and, as he was lifting up his axe against a little root, an old man snatched the axe away from him and gave him a blow that almost killed him, saying: "Are you not satisfied with having destroyed the beautiful trees of my garden, that you now try to destroy also the last root? Truly, you deserve that your memory perish from the earth." The king thereupon promised to guard the last plant of the garden carefully. No one but an old Jewish sage was able to interpret the dream, and he said: "The garden represents the Davidic line, all of whose descendants you have destroyed except a woman with her unborn boy. The old man whom you saw was David, to whom you promised that you would take care that his house should be renewed by this boy." The Jewish sage, who was the father of the young woman, brought her to the king, and she was assigned to rooms fitted up with princely splendor, where she gave birth to a boy, who received the name "Bostanai," from the garden ("bostan") which the king had seen in his dream.

When Bustenai grew up, the king appointed him "Leader of the Exile" with the Jews' assent. He gave him much honor and power, such as no "Leader of the Exile" had ever enjoyed.

82.

His son *Rav Yaakov*

83.

His son *Rabah Migis*

84.

His son *Rav Nechamyah*

85.

His son *Rav Avdima*

86.

His son *Rav Pinchas*

87.

His son *Rav Chatzuv Reish Galuta*

GEONIM

88.

His son *Rav Shmuel Gaon*

89.

His son *Rav Yehudah Gaon*
Appointed 4519 (759 CE)

90.

His son *Rav Chananya Gaon*

91.

Rav Shrira Gaon
Appointed 4728 (968 CE)

When he was in his nineties, he and his son Rav Hai Gaon were slandered by fellow Jews to the Babylonian Caliph on false charges that they were supporting the enemies of Persia. Since they had accepted students from many countries around the world in their famous Yeshiva, this was viewed as grounds for guilt and they were incarcerated, their possessions confiscated, and they were left penniless. Rav Shrira was hanged by one arm at the age of 100.

92.

His son *Rav Hai Gaon*
Appointed 4757 (997 CE) | Died 4798 (1038)

Medieval Jewish theologian, rabbi and scholar who served as Gaon of the Talmudic academy of Pumbedita during the early 11th century. In his forty-fourth year he became associated with his father as "av bet din," and with him delivered many joint decisions.

Hai Gaon was the head of the Talmudic Academy of Pumbedita during the era of the Abbasid Caliphate, where the modern city of Fallujah, Iraq is located.

He became the leader of the Jewish People at the age of 29 and ruled for 40 years. His influence was greater than all of his peers. He passed at the age of 99 on the 7th day of Pesach 1038.

RISHONIM

93.

His son *Rav Yosef of Rome*

Executed 1066. He married the daughter of Rabbi Nissim Ben Yaakov. Yoseph was assassinated in a pogrom in Granada, Spain (1062) where he served as a Grand Vizier, like his father before him.

FIRST CRUSADES 4855 (1095 CE)

94.

His son *Reb Yechiel*

95.

His son *Rav Avraham*

96.

His son *Rav Azaryahu*

97.

His son *Rabbi Yechezkel*

98.

His son *Rabbi Lemil*

99.

His son *Rabbi Azarayhu 11*

100.

His son *Rabbi Eliyahu*

101.

His son *Rabbi Yoisef 11*

102.

His son *Rabbi Nachman*

103.

His son *Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman*

104.

His son *Rabbi Leibish*

105.

His son *Rabbi Elazar*

106.

His son *Rabbi Yerachmiel*

107.

His son *Rabbi Aryeh Zev*

108.

His son *Rabbi Yaakov*

109.

His son *Rabbi Bezalel of Posen*

110.

His son *Rabbi Yehuda Leib Loew*

111.

His son *Rabbi Betzalel of Worms*

SPANISH INQUISITION

5252 (1492 CE)

112.

His son *Rabbi Chaim of Worms*
Between 1415 and 1475

113.

His son *Rabbi Betzalel of Posen*
Born 1480 Prague | Died 1550 Poznań Poland

Betzalel ben Chaim Loew (Loeb) was born about 1480. Unlike his young brothers, he stayed behind to help his father and did not pursue studies in Poland. Betzalel married either the daughter of Rabbi Chaim Issemheimer or the daughter of Rabbi Yitzchak Klober of Worms. They had four sons and three daughters, The Maharal of Prague being the youngest son.

114.

His son *Rabbi Yehudah Leib Loew*
The Maharal of Prague
Born 5272 (1512) | Died August 22, 1609 in Prague

Talmudist, Kabbalist, chief rabbi of Prague. Popularly known as the "MaHaRaL," the abbreviation of "Moreinu Harav Rabbi Loew" ("Our teacher Rabbi Loew").

The Maharal of Prague was a towering giant in Torah and Kabbalah and a fearless leader of European Jewry during the sixteenth century.

Within the world of Torah and Talmudic scholarship, he is known for his works on Jewish philosophy and Jewish mysticism and his work "Gur Aryeh al HaTorah," a super-commentary on Rashi's Torah commentary.

The Maharal is particularly known for having created, using mystical powers based on esoteric knowledge of how God created Adam, The Golem of Prague, an animate being fashioned from clay. He created The Golem to defend the Jews of the Prague Ghetto from anti-Semitic attacks, particularly blood libels emanating from certain prejudiced quarters.

Rabbi Loew is buried at the Old Jewish Cemetery, Prague in Josefov, where his grave and intact tombstone can still be visited.

115.

His son *Rabbi Betzalel Charif*
**Born 1555 Prague - October 27 | Died 1599 Kolin, Kolín District,
Central Bohemian Region, Czechia**

The Maharal's marriage to his wife Pearl was a very happy one, and they were blessed with seven children: six daughters and a son. All six daughters married into prominent Prague families. His son, Bezalel, became rabbi in Cologne, Germany, where he headed a rabbinical academy. The Maharal was deeply grieved when this son met an untimely death in 1599.

116.

His son *Rabbi Shmuel*

Born January 14, 1576 | Died January 04, 1655

Rabbi Shmuel LOEW (eldest son of Rabbi Bezalel "Charif" and grandson of the MAHARAL of Prague), married Rosa. They had 2 daughters and one son (Yehuda Lieb Loew) who continues the line of 6 additional generations of Rabbis.

117.

His son *Rabbi Yehuda Leib*

Born c. 1625 | Died c. 1705

Rabbi Yehuda Leib Loew was the son of Rabbi Shmuel (grandson of The Maharal) Loew and Rosa. He is buried in the ancient Jewish cemetery in Prague

118.

His son *Rav Moshe Loew MiPosen*

**Born 1663 Poznań, Greater Poland |
Died Minsk, Minsk Province, Belarus**

A dealer in antiques, he was a wealthy man and was appointed as the President of the Jewish Community of Posen at the age of 25.

Living in very anti-Semitic times under the influence of the Catholic Church, he conducted debates against Christians in the Vatican, originally with 30 cardinals against him. When he protested that the numbers should be fair, they placed just 3 cardinals against him.

His success in these debates influenced many Jews whose faith was wavering and were considering converting to Christianity. In order to protect the community from revenge, he was forced to step down as the President of the Jewish Community.

He was present at the Bar Mitzvah of his great-grandson, Rabbi Schneur Zalman, the first Rebbe of Chabad, later known as the Alter Rebbe.

119.

His son *Harav Reb Schneur Zalman Loew*

Born c. 1692 | Died c. 1735

He was a brilliant Torah scholar whose father encouraged him to go into business so that he could enjoy the best of both worlds. He chose, however, to dedicate his life to Torah by being a school teacher of Torah, despite the financial hardship involved.

Soon after moving from Posen to Vitebsk, his wife Rachel passed away leaving him a widower with two children, Devorah Leah and (Yisroel) Baruch

120.

His son *Reb Boruch*

Born 1721 Mukacheve, Zakarpats'ka oblast, Ukraine | Died 1790 Vynohradiv, Vynohradivs'kyi district, Zakarpats'ka oblast, Ukraine

Orphaned at a young age, he decided never to rely on donations but rather to live by the work of his own hands. Thus he arrived in the town of Liozne.

The previous Lubavitcher Rebbe writes about him that he was "a hidden Tzaddik, an erudite Torah scholar, involved himself in matters of communal Tzedakah disbursements, yet nevertheless conducted his life in a simple and unassuming manner."

121.

His son *Rabbi Shneior Zalman of Liadi*

The Alter Rebbe

**Born September 15, 1745 Liozna, Poland
Died December 15, 1812 Piena, Russia**

Founder and first Rebbe of Chabad, a branch of Hasidic Judaism, originally based in Liadi, Imperial Russia. He was the author of many works, the best known of which are the Shulchan Aruch HaRav, Tanya, and his Siddur Torah Or compiled according to the Nusach Ari.

Today, the Chabad movement he founded is regarded as the most vibrant force in contemporary Jewish life, bringing the warmth of Hasidism and the profundity of its teachings to Jews, and to humanity as a whole, in every corner of the globe.

122.

His son *Rabbi Dovber Shneuri*

The Mittlerer Rebbe

Born 9 Kislev 1773 | Died 9 Kislev 1827

Rabbi DovBer assumed the leadership of Chabad upon his father's passing in 1812. In 1813 he settled in the town of Lubavitch, which was to serve as the movement's headquarters for the next 102 years, thus making Chabad and Lubavitch synonymous to this day. His is known for his unique style of "broadening rivers" - expanding upon the mystical teachings of his father with wondrous breadth and profound depth.

123.

His daughter *Menucha Rachel Schneersohn*
Born 27 November 5559 (1798) | Died 6 February 5648 (1888)

Born on the very day that her illustrious Zeide, the first Chabad Rebbe was released from prison on libelous charges, she was aptly named Menucha, which means tranquility. In 1845, she emigrated to Hebron to revive and resuscitate the small Jewish Community there. Hebron was the capital city of King David for seven years. After 94 generations, the princess of David, the bloodline, had returned home! True to her name, her life story is filled with wondrous tales of how she brought peace and calm to her fellow Jews. During her lifetime and until this very day, Menucha Rachel is known as the Rebbetzin of Hebron, and her name is always spoken of in hallowed tones. We are blessed to honor her legacy by having our fourth daughter Racheli Vigler, bear her full name.

124.

Her son *Yehuda Leib Slonim*
Born 1835

Though he lived in Hebron, he travelled back to Lubavitch in White Russia to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah with the Rebbe. The journey lasted 9 months and he ended up celebrating the Bar Mitzvah on the ship. He was a great scholar and well respected amongst his brethren.

When he was about 18, the Lubavitcher Rebbe Tzemach Tzedek asked him to lead the services in Lubavitch on Rosh Hashanah. Due to his young age for such an important role, he hesitated. Noticing his hesitation, the Rebbe gave him a white kittel and thus ensured that he wouldn't refuse his request. Henceforth he served as Chazan until the end of his days.

WORLD WAR I

5674 (1914)

125.

His daughter *Leah Rivkah Slotkin*
Died 26 Nissan 5691 (1931)

Leah Rivkah lived in the city of Hebron, Israel

WORLD WAR II

5699 (1939)

126.

Her daughter *Chaya Blumah Rikel Vidman*

By Divine Providence, she moved from Hebron to Jerusalem and thus the family was saved from the infamous Hebron massacre of 1929.

127.

Her daughter *Golda Esther Rodnitzki*
Died 21 Shvat 5739 (1979)

She raised her children during WWII in Jerusalem. She encouraged her son Moshe to join the Irgun to fight the British for an independent Jewish homeland. Her husband Avraham Nachman Shimshon passed away in 1947 and was one of the last people to be buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem before it was closed to Jews from the war of Independence to the Six Day War. Our father was born soon after he passed and bears his name.

128.

Her daughter *Chana Mushka Vigler*
Born (3 Tevet) 1 January 5674 (1914) | Died 17 Tamuz 5746 (1986)

Suffering from a dangerous illness in her youth, which led to many surgeries, she was warned by doctors that she could never have children. They were shocked when she gave birth to twin girls and then to three more boys. She never complained and always had a positive word of encouragement to say to others. She managed a charity fund for the poor and would disappear each Thursday as she distributed the funds in time for Shabbos. Despite their pleas, she never allowed her children to accompany her on these visits so as not to betray the identity of the recipients.

129.

Her son *Rabbi Avraham Nachman Shimshon Vigler*
Born 16 Kislev 5708 (1947)

He was born on Mount Scopus, Jerusalem just before the breakout of the War of Independence.

When his mother returned with him from the hospital to their home in West Jerusalem, they did so in the very last civilian convoy to leave east Jerusalem until the Six Day War in 1967. The first riots that ultimately led to the War of Independence.

In the next convoy that tried to reach Mount Scopus, 78 Jewish doctors and nurses were killed in an arab ambush. From then on it was closed to civilians.

In 1970, the Rebbe encouraged our parents to move to South Africa, where they have served as Shluchim of the Rebbe for 49 years!

130.

His son *Rabbi Dovid Vigler*
16 Tammuz 5780 (1980)

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Dovid was educated in Yeshivas in Israel, New York and Leeds, finally graduating with his rabbinical degree in Melbourne, Australia. In 2004 he married Chana Krinsky, and together they have founded and directed the Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens under the leadership of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. In just 13 years, the Chabad House has grown into a beacon of light with tremendous growth in the horizon. Rabbi Dovid and Chana have eight children.

131.

His children

*Moussia, Etti, Sholom, Racheli, Rivkah,
Zevi, Meir and Devorah Vigler*
Born 5767-5778 (2007-2018)

Moussia was born exactly one year after her parents became the Rebbe's Shluchim to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, and she has served as an exceptional role model to the members of the community as well as her to her younger brothers and sisters. Today, as she becomes Bat Mitzvah, she has the extraordinary opportunity to envision all the illustrious forebears in whose shoes she now walks. We can't wait to see the glorious future she will create as the next leaf, twig, and branch in our family tree!

BEAUTIFUL THEMES IN OUR FAMILY TREE:

Every cloud has a silver lining

The family tree of King David, and ultimately of his most illustrious descendant, the righteous Moshiach, has elements of scandal and disgrace. These include Yehuda's marriage to Tamar, his daughter-in-law (generation number 23), a union that was legal at that time but still not respectable. King David's marriage to Bat Sheva (generation number 33) was also severely criticised after he sent her husband to die in order to make her eligible.

Our mystics explain that, just like a heavy object is lifted by grasping it from the bottom, so too the only way that Moshiach can uplift all of humanity is if some parts of his origin are from the least respectable relationships that man is capable of.

Survival against all odds

We have identified two occasions in our family tree in which the seed of David was left to just one single survivor. The first was when the wicked Queen Atalya tried to destroy every last survivor of the line of King David. She failed to kill the one-year-old Yehoash (generation 41), and when he was seven years old he was proclaimed king and she was duly executed.

The second was when a wicked Persian King plotted to wipe out every last descendant of the bloodline of David until King David himself appeared to him in a dream in a garden and threatened to kill him if he would uproot the last survivor, the unborn Bustenai (generation number 81). The wicked King experienced a change of heart and protected the young child, naming him Bustenai, which means "Garden" in Persian, since his life was saved by the dream of the garden.

A third time we find the blood line in severe danger is during the time of the destruction of the Second Temple, when Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai negotiated a treaty with the Romans. He insisted on three conditions, one of which was that they would allow the survivors of the line of King David to live.

Thank you for
celebrating with us
Rabbi Dovid & Chana Vigler



6100 PGA Blvd, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418
JewishGardens.com | 561.624.2223