

# תְּחִיַת הַמֵּתִים

*Making the dead alive - Resurrection*



“Resurrection” is an important teaching of the Tanach. In fact, Jewish people have believed in the resurrection ever since HaShem called Avraham to leave his own country and family and travel to the Land which HaShem would give to him. How do we know that after Avraham left the idolatry of his family he believed in resurrection, in life after death? Because when Sarah, his wife dies, he makes special preparation for her burial, and gives her a burial which tells us that he believed she would live again. Instead of burning her body after she passed away, he carefully buried it in the cave of Machpelah which he purchased from the sons of Chet. In fact, this very same spot is now an important place in Hebron where an ancient synagogue stands and where our people pray daily.

King David believed in the resurrection. He wrote: “For Adonai is righteous; He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face” (Ps 11:7). By this he means to teach us that the righteous, at the resurrection, will behold the glory of HaShem. Furthermore, David knew that the Messiah would raise again! He wrote in Ps 16:10-11, “For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see the pit. You will make know to me the path of life; In Your presence is fulness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.” This is the same thing David wrote (Ps 103:4) when he said of HaShem, “Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion.” What is more, Cephah (Peter), in his sermon on Shavuot (Acts 2), tells us that David was talking about the resurrection of the Messiah in some of his Psalms.

In fact, Jews have always believed in the resurrection. One of the great Sages, Maimonides (call Rambam = **R. Moshe b. Maimonides**) composed 13 principles to sum up what Jewish people have always believed, and the last one goes like this:

I believe with complete faith that there will be a resurrection of the the dead  
just as the Creator wills.

For Your salvation I do long, HaShem.

I do long, HaShem, for Your salvation.

HaShem, for Your salvation I do long.