

**Selected Excerpts from a Special Conversation
with Rav Shalom Shtessel, who Merited a Son After
Nearly Thirty Years of Waiting**

Rav Shalom Shtessel is one of the distinguished **avreichim** of the Toldos Avraham Yitzchak Hasidut. At the beginning of this year, the news of his great joy spread far and wide: after nearly thirty years of waiting, Rav Shalom merited the birth of his firstborn son. The emotion was redoubled, as his father, Rabbi Zalman Leib Shtessel, was also able to see a grandchild for the first time, given that Rav Shalom is his only son. In this way, father and son were worthy of witnessing the continuity of the generational chain.

It is worth noting that many people were unaware that Rav Shalom did not have children, as he was always seen full of vitality, serenity, and joy, without any sign of sadness or worry perceived in him. Those who knew him closely testify that he never allowed the prolonged wait to affect his countenance or his attitude toward life.

In conversation with the team from the **Zera Shimshon** newsletter, Rav Shtessel relates that he began to study the book **Zera Shimshon** as a **segulah** for offspring, and that he persevered in its study for several years. Even now, after having been graced with salvation, he continues to dedicate himself to the study of this work with deep attachment and gratitude.

This is how it all began: Rav Shalom was serving as a teacher at the Skver Talmud Torah in Jerusalem. During a Purim holiday several years ago, one of the parents of his students brought him an old copy of the book **Zera Shimshon** as **mishloach manot**. "Everyone knew we were waiting for children," Rav Shalom relates, "and that father confided in me that the book was known as a **segulah** for offspring." Although the copy was an old edition and was not always clear, Rav Shalom began to study it consistently, as far as his time permitted.

Sometime later, Rav Shtessel began working at the **Sifrei HaYeshivah** bookstore, located near the Mir Yeshiva. On one occasion, a man came into the shop and requested the promotion

of a special initiative for several weeks: anyone who committed to studying the **Zera Shimshon** regularly would receive the book free of charge, with the man himself assuming all distribution costs. Rav Shalom did not hesitate to join the initiative and took a new set of books, printed in a clear and pleasant edition.

Today, after having been worthy of this great miracle, Rav Shtessel emphasizes that a salvation of such magnitude requires many merits and powerful faith. "I always strengthened myself with the conviction of **'Ein od Milevado'** ('There is none besides Him [Hashem]'), and I am certain that the great merit of the author of the **Zera Shimshon** stood in our favor." He affirms that he attributes this great salvation also to the fact that he occupied himself for years with the study of the author's Torah, with Heaven's help.

During the conversation, Rav Shtessel also shared his deep connection to the author's style and language: "It is evident that Rabbeinu received a special strength from Heaven, so that even simple people of our generation can understand his words. This proves that his Torah belongs fully to our time."

In conclusion, Rav Shtessel shares a message directed to everyone: One must never despair. **HaKadosh Baruch Hu** is all-powerful, and the merit of the righteous adds innumerable spiritual credits. It is necessary to study with perseverance and to believe in the promises of the **Tzadik**. The author of the **Zera**

Shimshon promised blessings of children, life, sustenance, abundance, wisdom, wealth, and honor to those who study his work, and the promise of a **Tzadik** is certainly fulfilled.

As an encouraging allusion, it is mentioned that the year תשפ"ו (5786/2026) can be read as the acronym for **"Tehei Shnat Pru Urvu"** ('May it be a year of 'Be fruitful and multiply)'), an auspicious sign of abundant salvations. May it be so for all the people of Israel. Amen.



In the margins of the conversation with Rabbi Shalom Shtessel, the **Gaon Rabbi Abraham Mordechai Zilberberg, shlit"z**, one of the rabbis of the World Organization for the Dissemination of the Torah of the **Zera Shimshon**, recalled with emotion the wonderful moments when he had the merit of entering a private audience with the **Admor of Toldos Avraham Yitzchak, shlit"z**, and presenting him with the book in its magnificent new edition. As soon as he received the book, he proclaimed aloud and with enthusiasm: "This book is something exceptional! Its study is a great **segulah** for all salvations, and particularly to be remembered with lasting offspring."

Likewise, he heard from the grandson of the **great Gaon, Rabbi Meir Brandsdorfer, zatza"l**, Rabbi of the Hasidic community of Toldos Avraham Yitzchak, that his grandfather used to study the **Zera Shimshon** daily, pointing to the author's promises in the introduction of the book and saying: "Who would be the man to renounce these blessings and promises?"

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