



**JERUSALEM  
COLLEGE OF  
TECHNOLOGY**

# Boneh Yerushalayim Hashem

## Building Jerusalem and Gathering Diaspora Jewry

By Doni Fogel

**בונה ירושלים ה', נדחי ישראל יכנס.**

**Hashem builds Jerusalem; Hashem gathers the exiles of Israel.<sup>1</sup>**

Just after Jerusalem was reunified, the Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT) opened its doors with a clear purpose: to integrate Torah and technology, training religious Jews to build not just careers, but a nation.

Today, JCT educates thousands of students annually, including the highest percentage of *olim* (immigrants) at any Israeli college, in fields from engineering to nursing. But JCT's true story isn't found in statistics — it's in the fulfillment of a *pasuk* in *Tehillim*.

**...בונה ירושלים ה'...**

**Boneh Yerushalayim Hashem...**

When Machon Lev for men began in rented space, in 1969, one could hardly imagine it would grow to occupy what is now a 15-building sprawling Lev Campus. Moreover, what started 25 years ago as Machon Tal for women has flourished. JCT has now raised over \$90 million to move Machon Tal out of rented space in Jerusalem and onto the future Tal Campus for women that will open in only three years.

The Malbim teaches that Hashem directly builds Jerusalem: "Hashem is occupied with its building, that Yerushalayim should be '...the city of Hashem, the holy place of the dwellings of the Most High...'." That Hashem will bring the scattered of Israel back into it, those driven to the four corners of the earth."<sup>3</sup>

**נדחי ישראל יכנס...**

**Hashem gathers the exiles of Israel...**

Walk through JCT's halls and you'll hear accents from around the world: French, Spanish, Amharic, Russian, English. You'll meet an Argentine mother studying nursing while raising her family in Israel, a Chassid from Antwerp learning software development, and a lone soldier from New Jersey preparing for a career in cybersecurity. You'll witness Torah study beginning at dawn and continuing through nightfall alongside computer labs and collaborative projects.

Building Jerusalem and gathering exiles aren't just theological aspirations — they're national imperatives happening at JCT. These are the *nidchei Yisrael* — the "cast-offs," as the verse might translate — brought home and empowered in their ancestral land. They aren't just being gathered; they're being equipped. Jerusalem is being built.

Not only physically — though that too. JCT alumni staff Jerusalem's hospitals, build its communication systems, and serve in IDF intelligence



JCT students hail from Israel, America, Canada, England, France, Spain, South Africa, Holland, Hong Kong, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Russia, Ukraine and Switzerland and 20 other countries!

units. But there's another kind of building happening: creating a society where Torah and professional excellence complement each other, where the next generation carries both Gemara and laptop.

In a world that often pulls religious Jews toward binary choices — yeshiva or university, tradition or innovation — JCT offers a third path. One deeply rooted yet forward-facing, amplifying Torah values in modern contexts.

Ask administration colleagues and you'll hear we're striving to continue the vision of our founder Professor Ze'ev Lev. Ask students and you'll hear about career opportunities, gratitude, and belonging. Step back, and you can almost hear the *pesukim* come alive.

Jerusalem is being built — through classrooms, coding, and care. The exiles are returning — not just to live, but to thrive. As JCT Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon, exclaimed, "We are experiencing the beginning of the redemption — Indeed, we are a part of the redemptive process!"

From a seed planted fifty-five years ago, JCT has grown into a forest.

**Learn more about studying at JCT at [www.jct.ac.il/international](http://www.jct.ac.il/international) or help build Jerusalem and JCT by contacting [development@jct.ac.il](mailto:development@jct.ac.il).**

1. Tehillim 147:2

2. Tehillim 46:5

3. Malbim on Psalms, 147:2. Translation by Rabbi Mike Feuer via [www.sefaria.org](http://www.sefaria.org)

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