

# LISTEN, MY BELOVED KNOCKS



For centuries, Jews hoped and prayed for a chance to return to their homeland, until they were miraculously given the chance. The founding of the State of Israel in 1948 was the most transformative event in Jewish History in the last 2,000 years.

In 1956, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik gave an address in which he compared the miracle of the State of Israel to God "knocking" on our door. Rabbi Soloveitchik explains that even when God doesn't perform open miracles, you can still hear God "knocking" if you know how to listen for it. Rav Soloveitchik identifies six "knocks" that emerged from the miracle of the founding of the State of Israel.



## 1. Cooperation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union

The first knock was the unprecedented cooperation between the United States and their bitter rival, the Soviet Union. Israel could not have come into being without these two superpowers inexplicably putting aside their differences for perhaps the only time in their history.

## 2. Israel Defeating their Attackers

The second knock occurred on the battlefield. The fledgling Jewish nation faced annihilation when every neighboring country attempted to destroy it before it could even begin. Somehow, the ragtag group of amateur soldiers who made up the Israel Defense Force defeated their attackers, the first of many surprising military achievements.



## 3. Revolution in Christian Theology

The third knock was the revolution which occurred in Christian theology. For 2,000 years, Christians believed in replacement theology which taught that Jews were scorned by God and deserved the exile they were suffering. This led to many years of horrible persecution of Jews in Christian land. The miraculous return of the Jews to Israel helped convince Christians to abandon this line of thinking and led to the largely friendly relationship Jews and Christians share today.

## 4. Resurgence of Jewish Identity and Pride

The fourth knock was the resurgence of Jewish identity and pride. While in exile, Jews had little to be proud of, as they were always strangers and interlopers in other people's lands. The founding of the State of Israel became a rallying point for all Jews in diaspora and gave them a reason to be proud of their Judaism.



## 5. Defending the Jewish nation

The fifth knock was the revelation that Jews were no longer defenseless. The mantra in Europe for centuries was that "Jewish blood is cheap." The State of Israel and its military force filled the role of acting in the interest of Jews in danger everywhere. An example of this was "Operation Magic Carpet" in which the Israeli government rescued 47,000 Yemenite Jews who were facing brutal persecution in their home country and brought them to live in Israel.

## 6. A Place to Call Home

The sixth knock was that every Jew in the world now had a place to call home. This was especially important after the Holocaust when millions of Jews lost their lives because they had no place to run. Israel enacted the "Law of Return" policy which simply stated, "Every Jew has the right to come to this country as an *oleh* [immigrant]."

