

**SPECIAL
INTERNET
EDITION**

ISSUE 152
PESACH 5767

WHO
KNOWS
SEVEN?

שבעה
מי
יודע?

An Amazing Journey into the Land of Seven

A SYMPHONY OF SEVENS

THE RULE OF SEVEN

RABBI MOSHE GRYLAK

66

Repeating patterns of seven throughout Torah are but hints of the Torah's numerical harmony and infinite perfection.

SEVEN JERUSALEMITE DREAMERS

FOR LANDS' SAKE

AVRAHAM ZUROFF

74

Today it's some of the hottest real estate in the world. One hundred and fifty years ago, you couldn't have paid most people to live there. The story of Nachalat Shivah.

SEVEN SINGULAR SPECIES

POMEGRANATES: NOT JUST FOR ROSH HASHANAH

YO CHEVED LAVON

80

Focusing on the pomegranate as a representative of the Seven Species, we learn that the Pomegranate's trendy health status is really more than just a fad. And even if nothing ails you, pomegranate wines are delicious.

SEVEN LAWS

A COMMUNITY OF NON-JEWS, BOUND BY HALACHAH

CHAIM REVIER

86

When you say the blessing, "... *shelo asani goy*," do you ever think, but what if He *had* made me a non-Jew?

A SEVENFOLD SEAL

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

SHIRA YEHUDIT DJLILMAND

92

Hashem imprinted His seal all over His universe. The patterns of seven, repeated in everything from physical atoms to spiritual holidays, clue us in to the Divine nature of all Creation.

AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY

24/7/365: MEAH SHEARIM'S "SHABBOS DOCTOR"

BY RIVA POMERANTZ

96

It went against much of what the community was accustomed to, and there was fierce resistance. But Sholom Wallace persevered, and thousands today are thankful.

Mishpacha
JEWISH FAMILY WEEKLY

Publisher: Eliyahu Paley | Editor: F. Safran | Assistant Editor: Shoshana Friedman

Production: Aviva Zuckerman | Art Director: Tuvia Heller | Graphics: Nomi Kruskal, Sara Lapidot

Dear Reader,

In honor of Pesach, the **Mishpacha** staff has created a special supplement devoted to the theme of the number seven in Judaism. This is a fascinating topic, which touches upon the entire world. Admittedly, while the articles included in this unique supplement barely scratch the surface of this inexhaustible topic, we are presented with a clear overview and examples of the dominance and prevalence of the number seven in everyday life.

The main message is that the roots of our subject are firmly entrenched in the world of *sod*, secrets.

One of the articles briefly quotes the words of the Maharal of Prague. His words afford us a glimpse of the uniqueness of the number seven. The physical world, explains the Maharal, is under the sovereignty of the number six. This is clearly manifest as the globe, and — to all intents and purposes, any tangible, physical object — has six dimensions: north, south, east, west, up, and down. The number six embodies the physical world. In contrast, the number seven expresses the connection of the Divine to the physical reality. Divine providence, and the fact that this number is found throughout all of Creation as well as the Torah and mitzvos, marks the physical world with the seal of the Divine.

Rabbi Yonasan Eibshitz elucidates another interesting aspect. The ten numerals of the decimal system, he writes, interact with one another; some are formed from smaller numerals while others join to form larger ones. One, for example, doubles to become two, and two doubles to become four; three and three results in six, while yet another three yields nine; four and four are eight, and five and five make ten. The larger numerals, of course, can be divided into their smaller counterparts. Except seven. The number seven stands alone in the series of numerals. It is the only one that neither combines nor breaks down. Yet without it, our decimal system would not be complete. Seven is the *briach hatichon*, the central pillar supporting all the numerals: a clear allusion to the essence of the Creator, Who is not part of the world, yet still confers His holiness and truth to all of Creation, and without Whose kindness and good the world would cease to exist.

In addition, the central fact uncovered in these interesting articles — that the number seven is the blueprint of everything in Creation and the Torah — proves the Divine unity found everywhere in the physical world without exception. The Ramchal says that the deepest understanding of the Creator's essence that man is capable of attaining is a cognizance of His uniqueness, the understanding that He is One. A taste of that cognizance is contained in our supplement.

Let us add another interesting aspect mentioned by Rabbi Yehudah HaLevi in his work, the *Kuzari*, written more than 900 years ago. During the debate between the scholar and the King of the Kuzars, the scholar asks, "Have you heard of a nation that differs in its division of the week we all know, beginning on Sunday and ending on Shabbos? How is it that the people of China and the people of the Western Isles have all conceded to it? Has there, throughout time, been a beginning to this among the public, a general agreement?"

The *Kuzari* says, "Such a thing may be possible through general agreement, but that is extremely unlikely. It's more likely that the reason for this is that all mankind are children of Adam or Noach or some other person, and the establishment of the week was transmitted to them as a legacy from their forefather." (*Kuzari*, 1: 58–59)

We see that the number seven clearly teaches us about the unity of the human species, a vast people descended from one person. A fact, for those who study it, that contradicts Darwin's theory of evolution.

The well-known French psychiatrist, Professor Henry Baruch, stated that the healthiest rhythm for a human being's work schedule is six days of work followed by a rest day on the seventh. Not an entire year of work followed by completely disconnecting from work for two months.

I sense that I'm getting swept away by the wondrous mysteries surrounding the number seven. And all I was asked to do was to pen an introduction to **Mishpacha**'s special holiday gift for our readers.

Enjoy!
Moshe Grylak