

## תּוֹמִים

The Perfection of Avraham ©

By Dr. Akiva Gamliel Belk

## Limood

Bereisheit [Genesis] 17.1 - 27

Our Devri Torah is in the loving Memory of Mr Yochanan Bond may he rest in peace and Mrs. Jeanne Camille Wiltz Pierre may she rest in peace.

Shalom Dear Ones,

We are learning Bereisheit 17 [Genesis 17].

**Bereisheit 17.1****1. When does Avram's name change?**

Avram is ninety-six years old and his name is still Avram. In Passuk Hey [Verse 5] Avram's name is changed to Avraham.

Gen. 17:1

וַיְהִי אֲבָרָם בְּ־תֵשְׁעִים שָׁנָה וְתֵשַׁע שָׁנִים  
וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה אֶל־אֲבָרָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי־אֵל  
שְׂדֵי הַתְּהַלְךְ לְפָנַי וְהָיָה תּוֹמִים:

**2. What do you feel Hashem Meant when He Said to Avram, 'Walk before Me and be Perfect'?**

Notice the last Word of Passuk Aleph [Verse 1].

תּוֹמִים, Taw Meem means honest, innocent, harmless, upright, naive, whole, full, complete, entire, flawless and unblemished...

The Word Taw Meem occurs 54 times in Ha Tenach. The first occurrence is Bereisheit 6.9 when Ha Torah States 'Noach was flawless in his generation.' The second occurrence of Taw Meem is here in Bereisheit 17.2. The Gematria of Taw Meem is 490.

In Bereisheit 15.2 Avram was 70 years. Ha Torah Records Avram's statement, 'My Master, Hashem, what will You Give me since I continue childless and the administrator of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' It is interesting that the tenth Word is עֲרִירִי, Ah Ree Ree, meaning childless.

Gen. 15:2

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבָרָם אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה מִה־תֵּתֶ־לִי וְאֲנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ עֲרִירִי  
וּבְ־מִשְׁק בֵּיתִי הוּא דֹמֵשֵׁק אֵלַי עֶזְרָ:

Avram's contention was '[Hashem] You have not given me children.' In last weeks Limood, Bereisheit 16, it was Sarai, Avram's wife, who said, 'Hashem has restrained me [Sarai] from having children.' This was 15 years past Bereisheit

15.2. This is when Sarai gave Avram her handmaiden, Hagar. When Avram was 86 years old he has Yishmael. Something changed.

The Gematria of Taw Mee {perfect} is 490.  
The Gematria of Ah Ree Ree {childless} is 490.

$$490 = \text{מ}40 \text{י}10 \text{נ}40 \text{ת}400$$

$$490 = \text{י}10 \text{ר}200 \text{ר}10 \text{ע}70$$

**3. What is the connection between these two Gematrias? What does not having children and walking perfect before Hashem possible indicate? What one thing did Avram lack?**

**Bereisheit 17 .2**

The last two words are repeated.

**Gen. 17:2**  
**וְאֶתְנֶה כְּרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ וְאָרְבֶּה אוֹתְךָ בְּמֵאֵד מְאֹד:**

The Gematria of מְאֹד, Mih Ohd, meaning to increase. When we have two of the same Words following each other as in בְּמֵאֵד מְאֹד Ha Torah is Saying Greatly increase. The Gematria of Mih Ohd is 45. In Passul Bet [Verse 2] Hashem is Saying to Avram, I Will My Covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you [i.e.. your descendants] exceedingly. It is interesting to note that the Gematria for גִּיּוּלוֹ, Gih Voo Law, meaning to redeem or redemption.

Mystically I see redemption being multiplied exceedingly.

$$45 = \text{ד}4 \text{א}1 \text{מ}40$$

$$45 = \text{ה}5 \text{ל}30 \text{ו}6 \text{א}1 \text{ג}3$$

G-d Willing we will learn more later today and this week. I plan to add more to this discussion later. Please think about Bereisheit 17. It would really be wonderful if you would join us in sharing your thoughts . I would really enjoy hearing from you.

The Rebbetzin brought out a really good point:

It is interesting to note that mih ode mih ode (translated as “most exceedingly”) is used by Hashem in speaking to Avram in Passuk Beit (Verse 2) and then just after He Gave Avram his new name, Avraham, in Passuk Vav (Verse 6). Hashem Is Heaping Blessings on our holy Forefather Avraham and in turn on all of his descendants. This is Resplendent Divine Love and is so uplifting to read, absorb and experience. Reference for translation: Rabbi Nosson Scherman, > (Mesorah Publications, Ltd., Brooklyn, N.Y. 1993), p. 7

Mazel Tov Rebbetzin!

Excellent comment!

Brachah Rivkah bat Sarah ask a really great question:

...What do you feel Hashem Meant when He Said to Avram, ‘Walk before Me and be Perfect’?

To walk implies action on man’s part. This seems to say that without action one cannot be Perfect Before HaShem. One must Observe the Mitzvot of Ha Torah to become Perfect. Is this correct?

Re: "To walk implies action on man's part. This seems to say that without action one cannot be Perfect Before HaShem. One must Observe the Mitzvot of Ha Torah to become Perfect. Is this correct?"

ACTION IS VERY IMPORTANT! Excellent observation!

Ha Torah Teaches that our actions are everything. This is why we at B'nai Noach Torah Institute stress changing ones behavior. Our actions of Observing the Commands of Ha Torah is what makes us righteous. In other words one must do goods. One must avoid the actions that are wrong. If one were to think that faith alone is all that one needs to please our Creator that would be incorrect.

Action is a MAJOR distinction between Judaism and Spirituality and the other religions of the world.

When Ha Torah Says Noach was perfect / flawless in all his ways this specifically alludes to the fact that in addition to Noach righteous living... righteous actions... the absence of sinful actions... Noach was born circumcised. Rabbi Yisroel Yitzchok Yishai Chasidah, Encyclopedia of Biblical Personalities (Jerusalem: Shaar Press Publication Mashabim, 2003) p412

Shem the son of Noach was also born circumcised. Rabbi Yisroel Yitzchok Yishai Chasidah, Encyclopedia of Biblical Personalities (Jerusalem: Shaar Press Publication Mashabim, 2003) p510

What is the point? Avraham was Instructed by Hashem to walk in perfection. Avraham lacked one thing. What was it?

This returns us to our Gematria. תמימים Tav Meem means honest, innocent, harmless, upright, naive, whole, full, complete, entire, flawless and unblemished... At that time, Bereisheit 15.2, Avram was עררי Ah Ree Ree, meaning childless. For Avram to have children he needed to take a special step. This was an elevated step. This step was circumcision. It was Brit Milah. The Creator Knew that Avram would follow His Command to be Circumcised. The Creator Changed Avram's name to Avraham. The Creator also changed Sarai's name whose name was also changed to Sarah had a son. Less than a year later they had an exceptional son, Yitzchok.

Avraham Observed the Mitzvah of Brit Milah. Observing Ha Torah brings about wonderful rewards.

May each of us Observe the Commands of Ha Torah and receive rich wonderful blessings for Hashem.

Blessings and peace,

Dr. Akiva Gamliel