

By Dr. Akiva Gamliel

Shalom Dear Ones,

Thank you for joining us on the B'nai Noach Torah Institute blog this week. We are learning Bereisheit 17 [Genesis 17]. G-d Willing I will be checking back today 01-18-09 and throughout this week to read your comments and answers some questions. You are invited to post a comment or ask a question about this weeks Limood.

### **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 אַבְרָם בֶּן-תְּשַׁעִים שָׁנָה וַתִּשַׁע שָׁנִים  
וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה אֶל-אַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי-אַל  
שְׂדֵי הַתְּהַלֵּךְ לִפְנֵי וְהָיָה תָמִים:

#### **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].

תָּמִים, 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 אַבְרָם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה מִהֲתַתֵּן-לִי וְאֲנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ עֲרִירִי  
וּבֶן-מִשְׁק בֵּיתִי הוּא דִּמְשַׁק אֵלַי עֶזְרָה:

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.

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

$$490 = \text{י}10 \text{ ר}200 \text{ ר}10 \text{ ע}400$$

**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**  
**וְאֶתְנֶהּ בְּרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ וְאָרְבָּה אוֹתָךְ 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.

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

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

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.

Blessings and peace,

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