
Goshen: Seeds Planted in the Darkness

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The seeds are always planted before the crops, and often it's not where they are planted it's by whom.

In parsha Vayigash, 46:28 it says [Jacob] sent Judah ahead of him to make preparations in Goshen (*Goshnah*). Goshen (*Goshnah*) has the same **4** letters as the Chanukah dreidle, and likewise they add up to **358**, the numerical value of *Moshiach*. This is the area within Egypt and the Exile that Joseph arranged for his family and the Israelites to live. The name Goshen (???????? *Goshnah*) is only found twice in the Torah and hints at the two *Mashiachs*, *Mashiach Ben Yosef* and *Mashiach Ben David*, connected to **Joseph** and **Judah** respectively. By Joseph reuniting with Jacob, the spirit of *Mashiach* was restored, and the flow of *mazal* through Joseph could go to the Israelites, instead of the Egyptians who had been the previous beneficiaries.

The Torah is also telling us that the spirit of *Mashiach* can be anywhere, even in the darkness of Egypt if we stay connected to the source of the Light, which is a message we need to hear now, more than ever. But with Goshen(???????? **GShNH**), the Torah is also spelling out the travels of the *Mishkan* (the Tabernacle), whose final home was prepared by King David in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem: **G** for **Givon**; **Sh** for **Shilo**; and **N** for **Nov**.

And the name Goshen (???????? *Goshnah*) really translates to "toward Goshen" as the Torah is pointing us toward *Mashiach*. And the dreidle only spells out numerically *Mashiach* (????????) outside of Israel. Inside Israel the letter *Pe*, for *Po*, here, is substituted for the *Shin*, just as Goshen is also outside Israel, in the land of exile.

King David was born **406** years after the Exodus from Egypt, corresponding to the spelled-out value of the Hebrew letter *Tav* (**406**) and since the Egyptian exile lasted **210** years, he was born **406 + 210 = 616** years after Jacob and his family first entered Egypt, with **616** corresponding to the numerical value of *H'Torah*, "The Torah." If we separate the simple letter *Tav* (**400**) from *H'Torah* (????? *HTVRH*), we're left with a numerical value of **616-400 = 216**, that of *Gevura*, the *sefira* (dimension) of judgment.

But **216** is also the number of letters in the **72** Names (Triplets) that were used in conjunction with the *Shem Mem-Bet* (the **42**-Letter Name) to facilitate the splitting of the Red Sea (Sea of Reeds), which in effect ended the exile in Egypt. Indeed, the **72** Triplets are derived from the **3** consecutive verses of **72** letters each that describe the actual splitting, the only incidence of **3** consecutive **72** letter verses in the Torah. And just in case we were to think that the triple **72** was just a coincidence, we find that the sum of the **216** square roots of the **216** (**72+72+72**) letters is **720.0**, and that's a phenomenon that just doesn't happen coincidentally.

But nothing happens without the seeds being planted first, and in parsha *vayechi*, where Jacob blesses his and Joseph's children and thus the 12 tribes of Israel, and where in the last two verses of the Book of *Bereshit*, Joseph promises the Israelites that G-d will take them out of Egypt, we find that the numerical value of the portion's first two words (???????? ????????) *vayechi Jacob* is **216**.

Moreover, as Joseph was making that promise to his brothers and family, he gave them the clue to their salvation when he told them to take his bones out of Egypt with them, for as we know

from *chazal*, it was only with the aid and protection of Joseph's bones (essence) being with them, that the Egyptians couldn't hurt them and the waters split.

This is important for us to understand, because all too often we try to do things on our own and we fail. The Zohar explains that the hardest thing for G-d to do is change someone's *mazal*, and that *mazal* determines our sustenance, our children, and the length of our years. In other words, to each his lot, regardless of how pious, or many meditations, prayers, or sacred connections they make, or even how hard they work. If it's so difficult for G-d, how much more so for us. And the Israelites *mazal* depended on Joseph, who not only had an abundance of it but was a channel for sharing it as well. Indeed, it was Joseph's bones that Pharaoh didn't want to let go of, not so much the Israelites. What was about to happen, the revelation of the Torah at Sinai was so significant, that it took even more than the temporary unification of the Israelites, the **72** Triplets, the **42**-Letter Name (*Ana B'koach*), Moses, and the will of G-d on earth. It took Joseph's *mazal* in order to succeed.

Yes, G-d could have done it alone, but there are limits to what he wants to do for us, when we have it in our power to do for ourselves. How will our children learn to walk if we carry them everywhere we go? Indeed, when the Israelites stood before the sea, asking for a miracle in *Shmot* 14:15, G-d replied, ???-????????? ?????? *Mah Tizak Elai*, "Why are you crying out to me?" We had to do it ourselves. We had to overcome the illusions and tap into the Tree-of-life reality ourselves. The first letters in *Mah Tizak Elai spell ??? Emet*, truth; we had to see the truth for ourselves.

And so it is today. So let's understand the Truth.

Within the word *Goshen* is a deeper secret, but to grasp it fully we need to understand that the reason the land of *Goshen* was reserved for Jacob was that Pharaoh had previously given it to Sarah.

Did you ever wonder about the strange incident when Abraham and Sarah went down to Egypt for food and he had Sarah pretend to be his sister when Pharaoh fell in love with her and wanted to take her, but G0d intervened. Well, one of the reasons was so Pharaoh could make a gift of *Goshen* to her while wooing her. **As in our lives, nothing happens in the Torah without a reason.**

As revealed in previous blogs, Sarah was directly connected with the *Moshiach*, and was the first to seed the garden of *Moshiach*, of *Goshen*. Abraham and Sarah were trying to make the exiles easier for all of us, and they did. And don't forget it was Sarah, reincarnated as Queen Ester (according to the *Arizal*) who saved the Jews during the Babylonian exile.

That said, we can now explain that hidden in the word *Goshen* (**GShNH**), which we can interpret as Toward *Moshiach* is the word *Shanah* (**ShNH**), meaning year (or time period), preceded by the letter *gimmel* (*G*) for **3**, which hints a **3** time periods and the **3** *Shanah* (*Shanah Shanah Shan'im*) that we discussed extensively in the mysterious verse *Bereshit* **23:1**, Sarah's verse that referred to the time of *Moshiach*. As further hinted at in the **4** letters of *Goshen* (**GShNH**), and of *Moshiach* (**MShYCh**) and of the **YHVH**, there are **4** specific exiles cited by *chazal*, but they cover only **3** time frames, since the Greek Exile existed while the Second Temple stood.

The first Exile began **70** years after Abraham's birth in **1948** HC, and lasted **430** years from the **Covenant of Abraham** in **2018** HC to the Exodus from Egypt and the reception of the Torah at Sinai in **2448**. This first exile included the more well known **210** years of the Exile in Egypt. The second exile, the exile in Babylonia, began after the destruction of the First Temple in **3338** HC, and lasted **70** years, when Ezra brought the Israelites back to Jerusalem and began constructed the Second Temple. The **4th** Exile, the Roman exile, is the current one and it began in **70** CE, when the Romans destroyed the Second Temple. And it is supposed to last **1948** years until

2018 CE and indeed the start of the final **70** year period began with the statehood of Israel in **1948 CE**.

The beautiful divine symmetry here is well documented in *The Divine Calendar*, but what still needs to be pointed out is that the sum of the **3** separate time period exiles is **430 + 70 + 1948 = 2448**, as in the **2448** years from Adam to the reception of the Torah at Sinai.

But it gets better, because not only is the **3rd** exile, the Greek exile, hinted at in the **3 shanah** of Sarah, whose collective ordinal value is **138** as in the year **138 BCE**, when that exile ended, but since it began in **318 BCE** (a not so subtle link to Abraham's **318** men who defeated armies, or the small gematria value of *Mashiach* **5318**), it lasted **180** years, as in the **180** years of Isaac, Abraham and Sarah's son.

If we add the additional **180** years to the **2448** years of the other **3** exiles, we get a total **2628** years for the **4** exiles, and as explained in *The Genesis Prayer*, **2628** is not only the sum of all the recurrences of the Torah's **4th** and **2nd** words, (*ET* and *BRE*), but is also the sum of the positive integers through **72**, two not so subtle links to the **42** Letter Name and the **72** Names, tools, if used properly to help us through the exiles, and especially to end them.

Once again, we must wake up to realize that everything in life and in the Torah has a purpose. Right after G-d created heaven and Earth in the Torah's first verse, he alluded to the **4** exiles in the Torah second verse. Genesis 1:2: The Earth was **without Form**, and **Empty**, with **darkness** on the face of **the depths**." It was then followed by "but G-d's spirit moved on the water's surface. God said, Let there be Light..."

We know from *chazal* that the **42**-Letter Name, the understanding through which the *Mashiach* will come, corresponds to the Torah's first **42** letters and thus bridges the divine creation and the exiles: **1) without Form-Egypt; 2) and empty-Babylonia; 3) darkness-Greek; 4) the depths-Rome**. While, the Torah hints that the Light will come after each exile, it also hints that we are currently in the depths, which has a numerical value of **451**, the same as Ishmael. Now we know from the Zohar that the current exile is that of Rome, which is also *Edom*, the exile amongst the Christian nations, we see that it was also ordained to be at the hands of the Ishmaelites, the Moslem nations.

While Abraham saw the prophecies fulfilled that both his sons would be great nations, Sarah knew how difficult it would be for *her* children and convinced Abraham to send Ishmael into the desert. But G-d has his plans and the exiles occurred as scheduled, with the **430** years of the full Egyptian exile corresponding to the exact numerical value of "without form and empty (*THV V'BHV*)."

So Sarah prepared the ground for us, and continued to nurture us along the way.

But there comes a time when the plants have to fend for themselves, when the children grow up and make their own decisions. It's wonderful to have parents like Abraham and Sarah, but now we have to fight our own battles. G-d and the Torah have given us all the tools we need. If we choose not to use them; if we choose not to take responsibility for getting ourselves and our brethren out of the exile, G-d's time frames will play out anyway. pretending we don't see the steep slopes of of the abyss we're at the bottom of wont make them any easier to climb.

Yes, climb we must. This exile had **1948** years of descent; that's a long way back up for us to make in only **9** short years, which is why down here on the floor of the abyss things are getting so bleak. Because G-d knows that it's only out of true desperation that Man will climb up and try to save himself. Just look to the prior exiles and you'll see: Pharaoh kept upping the ante on brick-making for the Jews to decide they'd had enough; the Babylonians were an edict and day away of killing all the Jews before the Jews found unity; and the Greeks had to desecrate the Holy Temple with idols nearly wiped out all the Jewish ways before they revolted. But once they did make up their minds to fight there way out, G-d sent them the leaders and the means.

This exile gave us endless oppression and tragedy and moreover endless distractions. It gave

us the Holocaust, where 6 million Jews gave their lives, and from that depth new leaders and Israel arose in **1948 CE**, our ladder out of the abyss. But the climb for the last and final **70** years has proven treacherous at best and the path fraught with danger and illusory distractions that keep causing us to lose our footing.

G-d is by our side and routing for us, but He will not do it for us. Had that been his plan there would have been no need for exiles in the first place. For guidance, we must look to the tools He has given us, see what saved the Israelites in the past exiles. Our ancestors went through so that we would be saved. Let's learn from them. And the first lesson is unity and loving-kindness for one another.

And the second lesson is that there are no easy roads out. Beware if someone offers you false hope of light at end of the darkness without hard work; that's not the path of the Light. The path of the true Light is the path of the righteous and it's the hardest path. But for those that want to see *Moshiach*, experience the *geula* (final redemption) reach the Tree-of-life reality, it's the only path.

Let's turn the seeds of Goshen (????????? **GShNH**) into **Gan Hashem** ?? ??? and finish what Abraham and Sarah started.