
Passover is More Than You Think; Pesach is More Than You Can Imagine.

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The *Shabbat* prior to *Pesach* (Passover) is called *Shabbat HaGadol* (the Great Shabbath). The word *HaGadol* occurs **26** times in the Torah, the same numerical value of the Tetragrammaon (*YHVH*) and **18** of those times the word *HaGadol* (*HGDL*) is written with the *cholam* (vowel) instead of the *Vav*, giving it a numerical value of **42**, the same as the **42**-Letter Name of G-d. The number **18** is the well-known numerical value of *Chai* (life) and not coincidentally the square root of **18** is **4.2426**, with **424** being the value of *Moshiach Ben David*. And all this is only to provide us with clues.

The real significance of this is that *Shabbat HaGadol* acts as a gateway to *Pesach*, much as the Gate of **42** is the final gate before entering the Holy of Holies in the Holy Temples, including the Future Holy Temple. This gateway to *Pesach* is more than a metaphor.

According to the sages the first and last verses of the Torah link together seamlessly to form a complete cycle, or circle, which is why they are read together contiguous every year around the holiday of *Sukkot*. This analogy of an annual cycle is strengthened by the design which splits the **19** words into the **7** words of the first verse and the **12** of the last. We realign our **12**-month lunar cycles with our solar ones in [cycles of 7 and 19](#), and this keeps the calendar progressing at an even pace and guides which portions of the Torah are read in which week in any given year.

One *Shabbat* not long ago I challenged my 8-year-old daughter to figure out which letters of the Hebrew alphabet were not included in the Torah's first verse. She promptly figured out all 11 of them, and then added, "Why don't we check the last verse too." Since I consider EVERYONE to be my teacher, especially my children, we did. Lo and behold, there were 20 letters utilized and only 2 that weren't: *Pe* and *Samech*.

Samech and *Pe* spelled *Saf* (*SP*), as in end, threshold, but not a word we find in the Torah per se. Nevertheless, there are **12** days of preparation, when we read a special portion of the Torah daily, leading to the **7** days of *Pesach*, which is spelled *Pe*, *Samech*, and *Chet* spell *Pesach* (**PSCh**).

The end of the *Chet*(*Ch*), which according to the sages gets circumcised at *Pesach* and become a *He*(*H*); hence *chametz* (*ChMZ*) is transformed into *matzah* (*MZH*).

So joining the *Chet* to the *Pe* and *Samech*, left **19** letters and begged the question: Why were these three letters isolated? Why was *Pesach* considered outside the realm of the annual cycle?

It is because the **7** days of *Pesach* are actually another dimension entirely, and once we climb the 15 steps of the *seder* to enter it, we are beyond the earthly realm. This is why there is another *seder* at the end of *Pesach*, to ease our descent back down. This is also why all the cleaning for *Pesach* is essential. It's a cleansing, or purification, process that prepares us to align ourselves with the energy of this higher dimension.



Pesach is a gift, the diamond set in the ring opposite the cyclical closure of the Torah's first and last verses around Sukkot 6 months earlier.

The exodus from Egypt brought the Israelites to another dimension as well, a higher state, a place of *Keter* as indicated by the **620** letters in the 10 Commandments. They too left all there *chametz* (personal garbage/*klippot*/negativity behind) and went through a final cleansing as they passed through the Sea of Reeds.

Getting rid of all the *chametz* in our lives is about disconnecting from the physicality; it's a preparation for the time of *Moshiach* (the Messiah), which B"H will be upon us very soon. For nearly 3330 years, ever since the exodus and the reception of the Torah at Sinai, we've been rehearsing every Spring for the arrival of *Moshiach* consciousness. Except, most of us have treated it as Biblical reenactment, or even as a family gathering. It was nice, but we missed the point.

This time around, once we cross over, we should find (feel) joy in everything. Each letter



and word of the Passover Haggadah should ignite us with happiness. And every moment in this paradisaical dimension should feel, well, like Heaven. To the extent that it doesn't reveals how much more cleansing we need to do in order to see through the darkened veils.

When we take away these **7** days of the year from the annual cycle of 365, we're left with **358** days and **358** is the numerical value of *Moshiach*. Likewise, the 210 years of exile in Egypt plus *Pesach* (*PSCh* of numerical value 148) equals **358**.

So let's all scrub and clean and cleanse the physicality out of our lives, so that we can climb

easily into this higher dimension called *Pesach*, experience the otherworldly pleasures within, and after 7 days we can return from this vacation refreshed and rejuvenated. Or better yet, return without descending, bringing the *Moshiach* consciousness back with us, like a cloak of dew upon the spring grasses, helping to prepare our world for what is to come. *Pesach* is as much a community event as it is a personal one and it's our responsibility to bring back and spread that consciousness for the sake of our brethren.

On *Sukkot* we make a space for that world within our own and connect to *Keter*. On *Pesach* (**PE SMC ChYT**) whose letters when spelled out with the *kolel* have the same numerical value as *Keter*, **620**, we leave our world and ascend to that lofty dimension.

This year, as we circle the stellar ring, let's grab that brilliant diamond and bring it home.

Chag Pesach Sameach

May this be an amazing *Pesach* for us all,

Ezra