

The Torah Sparks

SHABBOS COMPANION

PARSHAH OVERVIEW

The first Jewish Matriarch, Sara Imeinu, passes away at the age of 127. Avraham Avinu purchases the Cave of Machpeila as a burial plot, from Ephron. Eliezer, the servant of Avraham Avinu, is sent on a search to find a wife for Yitzchak. His prayers are answered and he finds the perfect candidate, Rivka. Avraham remarries Keturah (Hagar). Avraham passes away at the age of 175. The Parshah ends with the delineation of the descendants of Yishmael.

QUICK VORT

Rav Moshe Shternbuch zt"l says an absolutely fascinating *pshat* to explain why Sara Imeinu was in pain when she heard of the "death" of her son.

He explains that greater than dying על השם קידוש השם which occurs in only a moment, is TO LIVE על קידוש השם which spans many moments!

When Sara Imeinu heard that her son died, she was in pain over the fact that Yitzchak would no longer be able to LIVE על קידוש השם השם.

The most important thing that we can do is to dedicate each and every day of our lives to the Master of the Universe.

It is incumbent upon us to LIVE על קידוש השם and become the best Servants of Hashem that we can possibly become.

If you are alive right now, you have the opportunity to LIVE על קידוש השם!

“JUDAISM...IS A FAITH THAT VALUES INTELLECTUAL HONESTY AND MORAL TRUTHFULNESS ABOVE ALL THINGS.”

PARSHAH STATS

105 Pesukim	1402 Words	5314 Letters	0 Mitzvos
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GEMATRIA

The Gemarah says אמני כאן הכל כאן, which literally means: *If I am here, everyone is here.*

On some level, from another perspective, the Gemarah could be teaching us: *If I am here, then EVERYTHING is here.* In other words, we must give each situation our **ALL, our EVERYTHING**. This was Avraham's *middah*. He gave each moment of his life HIS ALL, HIS EVERYTHING. It so happens, אמני (עם הכולל) כאן הכל כאן has the same gematria as (300) בכל אברהם.

CHASSIDUS

The Slonimer Rebbe, the Nesivos Shalom, explains that Avraham Avinu connected to the Torah even though the Torah was not yet given yet.

He understood that the Torah wants a person to be a שונא מתנות, "despise gifts," as such, he offered to pay Ephron in full for the Cave of Machpeila, so as to avoid taking a *matanah!*

As it relates to us, we should value working hard over freebies!

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Parshah spends a whopping 20 *pesukim* discussing the burial of Sara!
- Uriah HaChiti, the man that King David sent to battle, was a descendent of Bnei Ches!
- According to one opinion in the Gemarah, בכל, was the actual name of Avraham's daughter!
- The 127 years of Sara's life correspond to the 127 provinces which Queen Esther ruled over.

INSPOGRAPHIC CORNER



Dvar Torah for Parshas Chayei Sara

Some Gave All

Are You Giving It All You've Got?



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I was driving to shul one morning and I noticed an elderly man riding on a bike. His jacket caught my attention. Stitched into the center of the jacket was the famous *Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima* picture, an iconic photograph taken on February 23, 1945 by Joe Rosenthal, of the six United States Marines raising the U.S. flag atop Mt. Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima in the final stages of the Pacific War.

The epic picture gives off vibes of strength, valor, and tremendous effort. But something else on the jacket caught my attention. Surrounding the picture of the marines with the flags, were words, which read: **"All gave some; some gave all."**

If you think about it, these six simple words can pretty much sum up the people of the world into two categories, those that give *some* and those that give *all*.

In life, everyone contributes to the world in some way, shape, or form. Everyone gives something. But it is only the select few, the minority, the *yechidim*, that truly give it their all. They are the true marines, the few and the proud.

Of course, when we talk about the Jewish leaders, every single one of them lived with this trait and life-approach of "giving it your all," but the Torah highlights and stresses the idea of **כל** – **everything/all** – in particular when it comes to Avraham Avinu.

Throughout the Torah and Jewish literature, we find many mentions, associations, and connections between Avraham Avinu and the notion of **כל**, *all*. And in truth, as the first of the Avos and the first "Jew," it makes sense that we learn about the importance of living a **כל**-type of lifestyle from Avraham Avinu.

It was Avraham Avinu who was tested by Hashem ten times, and each test, Avraham didn't just give *some*, rather, he gave it his *all*; purely and wholly dedicated to the רצון of Hashem.

The Gemarah in Yoma (28b) says that Avraham Avinu kept **כל** התורה – *the entire Torah*. When offering to pay for the burial spot for Sarah Imeinu, Avraham Avinu wanted to pay **כל שוויה** (see Rashi) – *the full worth*. The first and last directive given to Avraham Avinu was **לך לך**, the first was to journey from his home and the second to slaughter his son. And each test, Avraham Avinu passed with flying colors and gave his *all*. If you'll notice, even the word **לך** spells **כל** backwards!

Amazingly, after living his life by always doing the best he can and giving it his all, the Torah tells us in 25:1 – **וה' ברך אתו בכל** – **Hashem blessed Avraham with everything**.

You see, perhaps it was because Avraham Avinu lived in the realm of **כל**, always striving to give his *all* and *everything he's got* in his Avodas Hashem, that Hashem blessed him with **כל**, everything.

You lived with an excited sense of purpose and passion, and you gave every moment of life your *ALL*, the blessing I - Hashem - am giving to you is *ALL*.

The Gemarah in Sukkah (53b) states: **אם אני כאן הכל כאן** – *If I am here, everyone is here*.

Maybe, just maybe there is a secret message here from a homiletical perspective. Perhaps Chazal are teaching us that whatever you do in life, the secret to success is to go all in and give it your all. **אם אני כאן, הכל כאן**, if I am here, then **הכל כאן**, I will give it my *all*!

Incredibly, the gematria of **אם אני כאן הכל כאן** is 300, the exact same as the final two words of the verse in 25:1 – **אברהם בכל**!

All gave some; some gave all.

Let's be like Avraham Avinu and give it our *all*! Let's make sure we are giving each moment of our lives, everything we've got.

*Have a holy Shabbos,
R' Ori Strum*

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HaRav Yehoshua ben Rav Menachem Mendel HaLevi zt"l

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ברינדל מרים בת מנחם מאיר

ARI AND SHOSHANA LERNER

