

## Messianic Times

Catastrophic earthquakes, natural disasters and major political turmoil in the Middle East are unfolding before our very eyes. According to the teachings of Torah we must learn a lesson from what takes place in our lives, as everything is controlled by Hashem. The Baal Shem Tov actually taught us that everything we even just see or hear about is for the purpose of learning a lesson in our daily lives of our service of Hashem. The Lubavitcher Rebbe added to that saying that as we are in the immediate prelude to the revelation of the Messianic era we must connect everything to this ideal to prepare ourselves for that experience. The Rebbe applied and connected the events of the world and even the number of the years from creation in this way.

The past year was 5770 years from creation. The number 770 is a complete number. There are 7 days of the week which correspond to the 7 millennia since creation of man until the end of days of this cycle as the Talmud expounds. Kabala explains that these 7 days correspond to the seven emotions of kindness, strictness etc which corresponds to these emotions as they are expressed by G-d as we were created in His image. In Kabbalistic terminology they are called Sefirot. Each of those Sefirot are made up of Ten Sefirot and each of them are made up of Ten Sefirot. It follows from that, that 770 represents a completeness of creation.

This year of 5771 represents the One Hashem being drawn and revealed into the complete universe as represented in the number 770. The Rebbe actually once explained for those who had difficulty with the final Redemption, as they may lose the benefits they enjoy in Galut, that the difference between Gola and Geulah is an Alef which represents the revelation of the One Hashem. The Rebbe explained therefore that the only difference between now and then is just the additional benefit, besides the galut benefits, of the revelation of Hashem and everything that follows from that.

In this way I would like to connect this idea with this year of 5771. This number represents the One Hashem becoming revealed in our complete universe represented with our world. If there is any year that we can expect the revelation of the Messianic era from this perspective it is this year.

We have just celebrated Purim. This Festival represents how Hashem deals with the world in the time of Galut, when G-d is concealed. We experience now in Galut miracles within nature as with Purim that was in our first Galut, that the great miracle and salvation occurred within nature. On the other hand Pesach represents the time of the breaking of nature, the 10 plagues, the splitting of the sea etc. and the revelation of Hashem. Our sages inform us that in Nissan we were redeemed and in Nissan we will be redeemed.

We also now are reading in the torah the Book of Vayikra. The first word Vayikra is spelt with a small Alef. The commentaries explain that this represents Moshe Rabeinu being the most humble. It is precisely for this reason that Moshe Rabeinu was a conduit of

Hashem's Revelations and Hashem's calling to Moshe. The Torah continues with the laws of the sacrifices as these offerings and what they represent also brought man to become humble and consequently closer to Hashem more than anything else as commentaries explain. This then brought about the great Revelation of Hashem in the Holy Temple also represented with the great miracles that occurred there beginning with the fire coming down from Heaven to consume the offerings.

The natural disasters of late and in countries of affluence and luxury and all the political turmoil certainly humbles us with the realization of our real lack of control and knowledge of the future we have now in this world. It is actually prophesized in Zecharia 14 3-9 that there will be earthquakes before the final redemption to bring about the fear of G-d. I would also like to mention the latest controversial strange phenomena over the area where a fire came down from Heaven in the Holy Temple (there are millions of hits on you tube and it's been reported by the mainstream media. It can be found by googling ufo Jerusalem). This correlates with Purim that we're seeing within this world that the world is really dependent on a Higher force that determines the destiny of the world but we don't yet see the miracles in a revealed way of how Hashem is controlling the world for the benefit of mankind.

Let us hope and pray that as now is the year of 5771 and we've been already humbled, we should merit, between the Redemption of Purim and Pesach, that our sages teach us, is a time of great joy, to the Revelation of Hashem of the Messianic age, a time when our prophet Micha declares that Hashem will show us wonders like, and much greater than, when we left Egypt.

Leshono Haboo Biyerushalayim!  
Next year in Jerusalem!

Rabbi Yosef Feldman