



The Secret of Ascending Numbers

**Sefer Ben Ish Hai (S.S. – Hayei Sarah)
By Rabbi Yosef Hayim (the Ben Ish Hai)**

*Translated by Rabbi Ariel Bar Tzadok
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“And they blessed Rivkah, and they said to her, our sister you are, may you come to be thousands and myriads.” (Ber. 24:60)

We must note that the word(s) “you are” are superfluous, rather the reading should be, “our sister, may you come to be . . . “

It appears to me with the help of Heaven that it is known that there are four [general] levels with regards to numbers.

There are single [digits] corresponding to the realm of Asiyah, the sefirat Malkhut and the final Hey of YKVK.

Tens correspond to the realm of Yetzirah, the sefirot Hesed, Gevurah, Tiferet, Netzah, Hod, Yesod, and the letter Vav of YKVK.

Hundreds correspond to the realm of Beriah, the sefirat Binah and the first Hey of YKVK.

Thousands correspond to the realm of Atzilut, the sefirat Hokhma and Yod of YKVK.

There is also a fifth element which is the tens of thousands (myriads) corresponding to the world above Atzilut, the sefirat Keter and the crown of the Yod of YKVK.

It is known regarding those elements corresponding to single digits, tens and hundreds, which are the worlds of Asiyah, Yetzirah and Beriah that they have an attachment to the external forces and to the nations of the world. For within the three realms of Beriah, Yetzirah and Asiyah, there is an admixture of good and evil.

However, at the level of thousands and tens of thousands the external forces cannot connect in any way whatsoever. Regarding this does the pasuk say, “evil does not dwell with You” (Psalm 5:5).

Therefore did Laban and his company who are all from the “sitra ahra” (forces of evil) perceive through their astrological powers that they are unable to receive any spiritual



sustenance from the realms represented by the numbers thousands and tens of thousands. However, Rivkah is from the side of holiness, she alone can receive spiritual nourishment from these realms represented by thousands and tens of thousands.

This is why her family said to her, “our sister you are,” you exclusively can “come to be thousands and myriads.” This is something that Rivkah can do and the rest of her family cannot. They have no ability to ascend to such high level.

In light of this, with the help of Heaven, have I interpreted the pasuk, “our sheep increase by the thousands, by the myriads” (Psalm 144:13). Israel are called “sheep” as it is written, “now, you are My sheep, the sheep of My pasture” (Ezek. 34:31).

Regarding this does it say, “our sheep increase by the thousands, by the myriads” (Psalm 144:13). For they [our sheep, symbolic of Benei Yisrael] are able to attach and cling to the levels referred to as “thousands” and “myriad.”

[This is also the meaning of] the pasuk, “Return HaShem [and reside] amongst the myriad thousands of Israel.” (Num. 10:36).

The following is a short essay I penned some years ago. Its message although somewhat outdated is still rather relevant. I enclose it here for your consideration.

Makhpelah in Hevron

*by Rabbi Ariel Bar Tzadok
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It is with the passing of Sarah I maynu that her progeny, the children of Israel (her grandson) were to receive one of their greatest gifts, the city of Hevron.

Today embroiled in controversy and violence, Hevron stands as the resting-place of the Patriarchs. Yet, unbeknownst to many, Hevron is much more important than merely as a tomb. The Cave (tomb) of the Patriarchs at Makhpelah conceals within its secret tunnels which lead down into the bowels of the Earth. At the end of the tunnel, either in this dimension or somehow in another lies the doorway to the original Garden of Eden from whence came Adam and Eve.

According to mystical Torah traditions, the terrestrial Garden of Eden supposedly did not exist on the surface of the earth, but rather deep within it, at the hollow center of the earth. This is the opinion expressed in the master text of all Torah mysticism, the holy



Zohar. While modern rationalists, religious or otherwise might speak despairingly about what they consider such an unscientific and foolish premise, Torah sources in spite of the rationalists upholds the view that indeed our planet is hollow and inhabited.

The Cave of Makhpelah in Hevron is said to be the passageway between the Garden of Eden and the surface world. Torah literature has always interpreted references to this relationship in quite a literal way. Hevron therefore rises to the level of importance second only to Yerushalayim.

Modern day Moslem attachment to Hevron is not due to their recognition of the significance of the place, but rather because of their hatred of the Jews. If Hevron was not important to the Jew, the Moslem also would not care too much about it. Moslem interest in removing Jews from Hevron is because they wish to remove all Jews from all Israel.

Indeed modern Islam wishes to pick up where Hitler left off and kill all Jews everywhere in the world. The ranting and ravings of Islamic clerics in Israel against Jews is only matched by the same high pitched squeals that their fellow Muftis and Imams make elsewhere through the Arab world. Even though the Quran itself says to show tolerance to the Jews, the religion of Islam must have somehow changed because the edicts of the Quran regarding Jews is not being followed by Islam's religious leaders.

Islamic Messianism

Most westerners, including American politicians are not very well familiar with Islamic theology, especially their eschatology. Before the end of the world, Moslems believe that their messiah, Al Mahdi must come and spread Islam to the entire world.

Similar to fundamental Christians, fundamental Moslems, Shiite and Sunni alike, both believe now is the time of the end and that now is the time for the worldwide Islamic revolution. Remember this, although Islam (not just the Arab people, but the Islamic religion) hate Israel and wish to destroy it, their real target is the "American Satan."

Israel stands as a buffer and shield defending the western world from Islamic rage and onslaughts. Although one thousand years have passed, the Crusades are not over. The Moslems want to start a new crusade, this time; they want to go on the offensive. In their eyes, once Israel is overrun they will have a clear path to Europe and the America.

A war between western allies and an axis of Moslem countries is inevitable. It will happen, eventually. Western intelligence sources know this all too well. They are being kept very busy putting out fires. The intelligence agencies have been ordered to cover up the facts that Moslem terrorism, organized and paid for by Iran was behind the

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Oklahoma City bombing and many other terrorist attacks including the recent attack on an American naval vessel in Yemen. If the truth of Islamic insurgency was ever fully revealed the American people would be outraged. The American government would have to respond militarily. The results would be all out war. WWII will have begun.

It is not for naught that the U.S. spends billions of dollars on secret "black-box" military projects. Why do you think the military is seeking super advanced, super secret weaponry if they did not have an enemy in mind who they foresee one day they will have to fight?