

Chanuka - 8 days a week!

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The Beatles had a number 1 hit song called 8 Days a Week. Were they singing about Chanuka?

2182 years ago the Greeks had outlawed Torah observance among the Jewish People in Israel. They made it a capital crime to observe the three Mitzvot of Shabbat, Mila and Nida, which happens to be an acronym of SHEMEN (oil) (???). Parshat Vayeishev always falls out around Chanukah time. Thus the Sefer HaPardes points out that there are 112 verses in Parshat Vayeishev, 104 of which begin with the letter VAV, which is a conjunction. These 8 independent verses, represent the 8 days leading up to Brit Mila and the 8 days of Chanuka.

What is the connection between Parshat Vayeishev and Chanuka? All of the incidences in Vayeishev are one large continuum connected by the VAV conjunctions. Everything is cause and effect. But the life of a Jew, symbolized by the 8 days of Brit Mila, is not affected by this continuum. There are no VAVs or conjunctions in the verses that represent Israel, since there is no ordinary cause and effect when it comes to the Jewish People.

The life of a Jew is above and beyond the control of nature. The Jewish people are identified with the number 8, which symbolizes the supernatural, 7

being the symbol of nature as in the 7 days of the week, and 8 symbolizing the supernatural.

The 8 days of Chanuka which fall around Parshat Vayeishev, also fit neatly into this pattern. The 8 days symbolize and signify the supernatural, which is a perfect description for the Miracle of Chanuka.

Why is Chanuka 8 days? The Talmud tells us that there was enough oil to light the Menorah for 1 day, but miraculously the 1 day supply of oil burned for 8 days. So the miracle of the oil was ONLY 7 days. Why do we have an 8-day festival for a 7-day miracle? It can't be to give us an extra day to eat donuts and latkes!

The answer is that the 8 days of Chanuka, like the eight days of Brit Mila, symbolize that Israel will exist eternally above and beyond the laws of nature. As John Lennon sang in his number 1 hit song, without the Beatles, "WE ALL SHINE ON!" This is Israel's eternal destiny! 🌟