



KI HEIM
CHAYEINU
כי הם חיינו



Discover the Joy
of Shabbos

The Power of the Pesukim

By HaRav Eli Mansour (shiur E2)

The more you know about שבת and תורה the more you will grow and enjoy.

The number of פסוקים in שיר השירים

There are 117 פסוקים in שיר השירים. By itself, that number would not raise many eyebrows. This magnificent song with which we usher in the שבת has its proper place at the entrance of שבת even without the significance of the number of its פסוקים. But there is remarkable significance even there.

The hours of גיהנם

The רוקח (Germany 1176-1238), based on the זוהר הק' פ' נח gives us a surprising insight into the number 117. גיהנם is 'open for business' six days of the week = 144 hours. In addition, says the זוהר הק', the fires of גיהנם go off for an hour and a half each day (שעה ופלגא שעה) for each of the תפילות (the זוהר הק' is assuming that we need that amount of time for each תפילה), which adds up to 4.5 hours per day. That time (4.5 x 6), 27 hours,

comes off the total of 144 hours of גיהנם which leaves 117, the number of פסוקים in שיר השירים.

The 117 that save us from the 117

The רוקח asserts that reciting the 117 פסוקים of שיר השירים on ערב שבת can spare a person from the 117 hours of גיהנם. Here we have significance, indeed tremendous

significance, in the recitation of שיר השירים even before we have begun to understand a word of this מגילה!

Just a snapshot

Our thanks go out to the Agudah and to the Ki Heim Chayeinu initiative for making it possible for us to gain countless insights into the תפילות של שבת and their meaning, well beyond the taste of their numbers alone!

Takeaway: I will try to dedicate a few minutes of my week to learning about the תפילות של שבת.