

Parshas Shemini

This week's Parsha, which generally falls after Pesach, is Shemini, which literally means 8th, as the Posuk of the Parsha begins, and it was on the 8th day Moshe called to Aaron and his sons and to the elders of Israel.

According to Rashi, the 8th day of inauguration was Rosh Chodesh Nisan, the first day the Mishkan was established, and connected to 10 crowns taken on that first day of Nisan. The 10 crowns are discussed in Shabbos 87b. Rashi explains it clearly in order, so we don't think it was the 8th day of the month.

8 in Kabala and Chassidus is described as the era of Mashiach. The world was created on a 6-day and 7-day rest cycle, 8 therefore, is a measure beyond that. Our history is modelled after the days of the week; that is, every epoch represents a day on a 6000-year cycle; therefore, the era we live in is "Friday afternoon," just as we enter into Shabbos. The Friedeker Rebbe and the Lubavitcher Rebbe both refer to the time when we are already clad in our Shabbos clothes, and now, we need to polish our buttons. Once Mashiach arrives (the 7th day), we will be in the era of 8, which is beyond nature.

Vayikra Tzav and Shemini represent Parshas of Avodas Hashem, such that the inauguration of the Mishkan, and in today's day and age, our service to Hashem gives Hashem great pleasure and great Hana'a. This is especially appropriate after reconnecting with Hashem over Pesach when we talk about the 8th day, the days of Mashiach. Megilla 10b states that this day

was as joyous for Hashem as the days of creation (even though according to some Mefharshim, Vayehi- and it was, i.e., the first word, it connotes something negative). This substantiates the idea that the era of Mashiach will be a rebirth, so to speak, much like creation.

May it be speedily in our days, where we usher in Shemini, in its truest form, with Mashiach.

Good Shabbos