

1: Shivim Panim La'Torah: Seventy Faces of Torah - Home

"There are seventy faces to the Torah: Turn it around and around, for everything is in it" (Bamidbar Rabba). The Torah is a work of literary art, written by the LORD Himself, and therefore shares characteristics with all other works of art.

The seventy faces of the Torah May 25, Torah Thought This past weekend, the Jewish world celebrated the least known of the Shelosh Regalim, the three pilgrimage festivals; the festival of Shavuot. Pesach is well-known because of the elaborate set of home rituals called a seder. And most Jews have at least some familiarity with Sukkot because of the temporary booths in which we eat and sleep for a week. Shavuot has become the poor cousin of the family of Jewish festivals; its only attempt at notoriety being the consuming of dairy products, particularly cheesecake. The three Regalim were originally connected with the seasons of the ancient Israelite agrarian society and the mitzvot of bringing sacrifices to the Temple in gratitude to the God of Israel. The holidays were then given historical significance of major proportions connecting each with an essential occurrence in the Biblical experience of the people of Israel. Each of these three stages in the maturing of our people is also a stage in the development of the relationship between God and Israel. Shavuot is the middle stage, the agreement upon the details of that relationship; the basis of our commitment to God and, complementing that, His promises to us. The Torah has been at the center of Jewish existence ever since that worldchanging event at Sinai more than 32 centuries ago. Our oldest of traditions teaches us that the Torah given by God to Israel through Moshe is identical to the text of the Torah contained in the scrolls kept in synagogues throughout the world. More than 2, years of rabbinic teaching has made that identification. Jews during all that time kept the belief of Torah MiSinai as the keystone of all Jewish life and civilization. And then came the Modern Age of scientific investigation. The basic assumption of the integrity of the Torah text was questioned for the first time in ages. They only felt comfortable with the Tradition as it had been for millennia. This third group has spent the past few centuries painfully attempting to reconcile the two, never quite satisfied with every new solution proposed. What are the barriers to the kind of faith our ancestors professed for so long? They form the categories of the modern study of the Jewish Bible. Let us go through them briefly. First, how do we determine with precision the actual wording letters, vowels, trop of the Biblical text? Somewhat more than a 1, years ago, Jewish scholars took note that texts around the Jewish world were not identical to each other. Theologically, this was a disaster since the Tradition, Massora, taught that the Torah, and many of the other books in the Biblical canon, were the word of God. To have any variation from copy to copy would confuse the messages and instructions contained in them. A group of scholars in Israel began a long and painstaking process to regain the original and authentic text. These scholars also determined the vowels to be included in a vocalized text as well as innovating a set of markings designed to punctuate the Hebrew to insure its particular meaning. The question for modern scholars is, did the Messoratiyim succeed in restoring the wording of Moshe from Sinai? After all, a believing Jew should have little difficulty making that leap of faith. The problem came from the fact that the earliest extant examples of the texts of the Bible did not jibe with the Massoretic text. In the mid-th century, a discovery was made in caves near the Dead Sea in Israel of a group of ancient scrolls, some of which were copies of Biblical books dating from the first century. These scrolls were not identical to the Massoretic text. In addition, the earliest translations of the Bible in Aramaic and Greek, when translated back into Hebrew, are not identical to the Massoretic text. In the Middle Ages, the period of classical parshanut, commentary, the great Bible scholars produced explanations for the hard-to-understand phrases that would not be easily readable by the average educated Jew. Occasionally, even they, believing Jews all, needed to acknowledge a difficulty in the text which suggested that the Torah might not be of unified origin. The most famous example is a comment from R. Upsetting to many, including some of the scholars who proposed this theory, the idea is based upon textual discrepancies such as contradictory contents, inconsistent use of vocabulary, differing writing styles, etc, reflecting origins at varying points in the Biblical period. In the 20th century, archeology in Israel and other parts of the Middle East led to discoveries about the world in which Biblical civilization developed. Information came to light, allowing for new analyses of Biblical narratives, legal codes, poetry, wisdom sayings, and other literary genres never before imagined.

The list goes on. For many Jews, these discoveries proved that Biblical texts, even the Torah, were no longer to be considered of divine origin and, therefore, lacked the authority of God-given words. But these people did not examine the Biblical texts carefully enough. Yes, similarities were many but, whereas the Ancient Near Eastern material was definitely literary and the caliber and sophistication of the stories, poems, and legal material was surprisingly high for such ancient texts, they all lacked a very important quality. They did not possess the visceral feeling, the passion, the love that Biblical texts espouse in the relationships among human beings and between people and God! The Jewish Bible will always be different from all the other examples of Ancient Near Eastern literature because it teaches its readers to care; about God, about humans, about animals, about the world around us.

2: The Seventy Faces to the Torah - Religious Studies bibliographies - Cite This For Me

Seventy Faces of Torah is a pluralistic Jewish scriptural commentary, produced by Hebrew College.

When we examine the sources of these idioms we will find some affirmation of debates, but more significantly, we find their limitations. Numbers Rabba Nasso As the numerical value of yayin wine is seventy, so there are seventy faces [of expounding] the Torah. Hillel the Elder listed seven exegetical techniques for exposition 1 and R. Yishmael listed thirteen, 2 so we should not be surprised when different methods yield different results. But multiple exegetical tools do not imply infinite legitimate readings, or even practical ones. It symbolizes the Torah which must be one; as you read, One Torah and one ordinance shall beâ€¦for you Num. Furthermore, the oral rabbinic tradition covers the process for how interpretations become authoritative, and more importantly, restrictions on interpretations for what can be taught. According to an anonymous Mishna, the punishment of the sword is brought by God for teaching Torah not in accordance with the law. One involves reconciling an exegetical disagreement over interpreting Judges Even by rabbinic standards, the disputes between the Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai are legendary. Eiruvim 13b Rabbi Abba said that Shmuel said: For three years Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel disagreed. The halakha is in accordance with our opinion, and these said: The halakha is in accordance with our opinion. Ultimately, a Divine Voice emerged and proclaimed: Both these and those are the words of the living God, and the halakha is in accordance with the opinion of Beit Hillel. This point is even stronger in the Yerushalmi: Meaning, the point of the verse is only to teach that the shema must be said in the morning and night. Tarfon relates that once he was traveling on the road and lay down in order to fulfill the opinion of Beit Shammai, and in doing so, put himself in danger from bandits. His fellow sages were not sympathetic. Tarfon not recited the shema at all he would only have been guilty of not performing a positive commandment. But because he violated the words of Beit Hillel, he was liable for death To fully appreciate the severity of R. By reciting the shema at night while lying down, R. Rather, the problem with R. This is the extent to which halakhically rejected opinions may not be accommodated. In fact, rejected opinions are recorded precisely because they are rejected so that people do not follow them thinking they are legitimate. However, even by the rules of these pluralistic sacred slogans, there are certain opinions which are not valid and others which may not be taught at all, specifically when they fall outside the boundaries of.

3: The seventy faces of the Torah | Jewish News

Parashat Vayera (Genesis) The call to protest grows larger each day. From the women's march in Washington in January to the climate change rallies around the world, to the #MeToo movement and anti-sexual harassment demonstrations, to vigils protesting the separation of children from their parents in immigration detention.

Turn it around and around, for everything is in it" Bamidbar Rabba The Torah is a work of literary art, written by the LORD Himself, and therefore shares characteristics with all other works of art. The Jewish sages typically allow inference within four main categories, with several levels of meaning coexisting simultaneously within a given pasuk verse: The initials of these four general categories yield the acronym "PaRDeS" meaning "orchard" or "garden" , said to be a reference to the ultimate restoration of mankind in the restored Garden of Eden or Paradise: Each of these four categories of exegesis is discerned based on literary cues within the texts of the Tanakh. In fact, the first step of studying our holy books is to discern each and every textual detail. Textual anomalies such as oversized letters, undersized letters, backward letters, etc. Therefore, once discovered, they must be explained. This is the starting point of all our textual exegesis. Moreover, in the Jewish tradition each of the levels has their own reasoning procedures specific to that level. Sod - the Zohar of the Kabbalah, the secret of mystical tradition. Why 70 faces to the Torah? As the face, so the eye There are seventy ways of "looking" at the Torah. Ayin is one of the letters of the Aleph-Bet and has the numerical value of seventy. Also, the Tanakh indicates that 70 has a sacred significance: Each of us needs wisdom and grace to discern which is which whenever we engage in such machloket debate. If you argue with and contradict others, you may win some times win a battle, but you will never win the war, since the animosity that develops may alienate you from your friend. In Pirkei Avot chapter 5 there is also a statement: Any machloket which is not for the sake of Heaven will not stand. Univocal speech is that which has only one meaning; equivocal speech is that which has many meanings, and analogical speech has an "additional level" of meaning i. The problem with equivocal readings, however, is knowing where the semantic line should be drawn regarding significant interpretation and meaning. Generally speaking Jewish interpretive tradition quotes the Scripture: Yeshua, of course spoke in parables and analogies all the time, and moreover as a prophet he also spoke mysterious and miraculous words that foretold the future, and so on, though his message of salvation -- that is, that he was to offer up his life as the sacrificial Lamb of God to repair for the sins of the world -- was intelligible to all "with ears to hear," even if sometimes people misunderstood his meaning I should add, however, something I think is very important in this regard. This is why Rashi is so important to us.

4: The "Seventy Faces" of Torah

*The Seventy Faces of Torah: The Jewish Way of Reading the Sacred Scriptures [Stephen M. Wylen] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Judaism, Christianity and Islam all acknowledge the Hebrew Bible to be sacred Scripture.*

The opinions, facts and any media content in them are presented solely by the authors, and neither The Times of Israel nor its partners assume any responsibility for them. Please contact us in case of abuse. In case of abuse, Report this post. Cubism is influenced by such early twentieth century discoveries as the x-ray and radio wave. Cubists were inspired by these hidden dimensions and sought to portray them in highly unconventional and often disturbing ways. In short, cubists portrayed reality as consisting of multiple angles and dimensions simultaneously. The midrash picks up on the passage that describes each prince offering a silver mizrak, or drinking bowl. Just as the numerical value of the Hebrew word for wine yayin is seventy, so too does the Torah have seventy faces. How are we to understand the multifarious nature of Torah? There are two ways of approaching this. One way is to see the multiplicity within Torah as an invitation for each individual to seek the interpretations that best sit with them. Universalists, for example will gravitate towards interpretations with a universal bent while particularists will be drawn to interpretations of a more particularist nature. The same goes for mysticism and rationalism or any other perspective that one come to the text with. The implication being that each individual has their own particular share in, or perspective on, the multi-dimensional Torah and they are invited to discover it within the vast range of available rabbinic interpretations. It is too facile to reduce Torah to any particular perspective or outlook. Is the Torah universalistic or particularistic? The answer is it is both. Does the Torah celebrate personal autonomy or conformity? And how could it be any other way? If the Torah is mind of God it must by its very definition contain multitudes. Perhaps this is what the midrash is getting at when it derives the seventy faces concept from playing with the numerical value of wine. A connoisseur of fine wine will tell you that what makes for an excellent quaff is the complexity of flavours all hitting the taste buds at the same time. Cheap wine delivers a simple, easily identifiable flavour. Its in the rarer stuff that one finds complexity. For those seeking simple answers, the Torah of seventy faces can be challenging, discomfiting, disturbing even. Yet for those who want to be awakened to new perspectives and broader intellectual horizons, for those who want to glimpse the limitless nature of the divine as it is manifest in Torah, for those who can appreciate complexity, encountering the seventy faces can be truly exhilarating. Shavuot is an ideal time to cultivate an appreciation for this most extraordinary gift. For a Torah that provides so much more than simple instruction and easy answers, but rather provokes, stimulates and seduces those who carefully study her ever changing seventy faces. About the Author Rabbi Dr Naftali Brawer is a thought leader, broadcaster, columnist and published author.

5: Shivim Panim La'Torah: Seventy Faces of Torah - Seventy Faces of Torah: Rabbi Brown's Blog

Seventy Faces of Torah is a pluralistic Jewish scriptural comm In a time when many of us long to be able to "do something," to repair even a small part of an increasingly broken world.

6: Seventy Faces of Torah - A pluralistic Jewish scriptural commentary, produced by Hebrew College.

Seventy faces of Torah Last Wednesday, May 7th, over community members, supporters, alumni, students, faculty, and staff gathered at Gann Academy for the Hebrew College gala to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Rabbinical School.

7: The Seventy Faces of Torah: The Jewish Way of Reading the Sacred Scriptures by Stephen M. Wylen

Seventy Faces is the second book I have read by Stephen M. Wylen [my favorite rabbi]. As a Catholic scripture teacher I

SEVENTY FACES OF TORAH pdf

appreciate the awesome insights he offers in Jewish scripture.

8: Seventy Faces of Torah – Hebrew College Blog

"There are seventy faces to the Torah." The full context of the midrash is a discussion about the offerings of the tribal princes at the inauguration of the tabernacle.

9: Rabbi Avi Heller's Divrei Torah | www.enganchecubano.com

Seventy Faces of Torah is a pluralistic Jewish scriptural comm Like many of us, I found out about the Orlando massacre on Shavuot. It was a terrifying and terrible moment.

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