

PTDT

PhiloTorah D'var Torah

Sanctity of Time

God saw all that he had made, and behold, it was very good... With the seventh day, God finished all the work that He had done... God blessed the seventh day, and He declared it to be holy, for it was on this day that God ceased from all the work that He had been creating...

G-d created everything.

And that includes TIME.

And by the Torah's statements regarding the creation of the first Shabbat, we see that He also created KEDUSHAT Z'MAN, the sanctity of time.

But G-d did not finish Creation in those first six or seven days. All of Creation was done - LAASOT. G-d created the world for us - human beings in general, and for the Jewish People in particular - for us to continue the creation process.

The mitzva of P'RU URVI - be fruitful and multiply, is our continuation of the works of creation.

So too, the mitzva of BRIT MILA is an example of our continuing the works of creation.

So is everything positive and constructive that we do with the world in which G-d placed us.

Specifically, with the sanctity of time, G-d's Shabbat, we are commanded to sanctify it and to behave in specific ways that show Shabbat's Kedusha.

And then, in this week's sedra, G-d went another step forward with the concept of KEDUSHAT Z'MAN. He commanded the Jewish People - while still in Egypt, but on the brink of the Exodus and Nationhood, to establish our own calendar - by sanctifying each month, by setting Nisan as the first of the months of the year, and by adjusting years so that Pesach is always in the spring.

Thus, we became - and still are - partners with G-d in Sanctifying Time.

This is part of the continuing works of creation.

And, it doesn't stop there.

We, the Jewish People as a whole, and each of us as individual Jews, have been given a myriad of ways to extend KEDUSHA into our everyday lives. Learning Torah, davening, making brachot, keeping mitzvot, doing CHESED - and more, are our ways of adding to the KEDUSHA of our lives and of Creation as a whole.