



Parshat Chayei Sara offers us some fascinating number exercises that throw light on the life of Sara Imeinu. The parsha opens by recording that the span of Sarah's life was 127 years. This is stated in the Hebrew text as, **VAYIHYU CHAYEI SARA MEI'A SHANA, V'ESRIM SHANA, V'SHEVA SHANIM.**

The term for "years" - **SHANIM** - is repeated three times, instructing us that at 100 Sara was as a woman of twenty regarding sin (and according to that source not yet subject to punishment). And, we are told, that she was as beautiful at twenty as she was at seven (Rashi, citing Midrash).

Thus at the age of one hundred, Sarah was sinless. Does that mean that from the age of 100 to 127 she was culpable? The clue is found in the Hebrew for these remaining 27 years, expressed in the letters **ZAYIN + KAF** that spell the word **ZACH**, which means 'pure'.

The numerical equivalent of the opening word, **VAYIHYU** is 37, alluding to Sarah's last meaningful 37 years spent with her son Yitzchak. The Hebrew letters for 37 are **ZAYIN**

and **LAMED** for **ZICHRONA LIVRACHA**, the accolade given to a person of worth. The initial letters of **ZEICHER TZADIK LIVRACHA** - 'the memory of the righteous is a blessing' (Mishlei 10:7) - equal 127. So, any way, we see that the sum of Sarah's life was pure of sin, rich and rewarding.

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