

JUDAISM AND THE NUMBER 7

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The number seven is incredibly prominent throughout the Torah, from the creation of the world in seven days to the holiday of Shavuot celebrated in the Spring, which literally means "weeks." Seven is a vital number in Judaism, symbolizing completion.

There are hundreds of other connections to the number seven, but here are some of the most important ones, recognizable to anyone familiar with Judaism and Jewish customs:

- The first verse of the Torah has seven words
- Shabbat falls on the 7th day of the week
- Every Shabbat there are seven people called to the Torah for the Torah reading
- There are seven laws, called the Noahide Laws, that apply to all of humanity
- Passover and Sukkot are celebrated for seven days in Israel (Lev. 23:6, 34)
- When an immediate relative dies, we sit shiva (which means seven) for seven days
- Moses was born and died on the 7th day of the Hebrew month of Adar
- Each of the plagues in Egypt lasted seven days
- The menorah in the Temple had seven branches
- There are seven major holidays in the Jewish year
- Rosh Hahana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Passover, and Shavuot.
- At a wedding, the bride traditionally circles the groom seven times under the chuppah
- There are seven days of celebration
- Each party during those seven days has seven special blessings (sheva brachot)
- Israel is celebrated for seven special species that it produces
- wheat, barley, grapes, pomegranates, figs, olives, and dates (Deut. 8:8).
- There are seven female prophets named in the Talmud
- Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Abigail, Chuldah, and Esther.