

“Who Knows?”
on Purim and Passover
Parashat Purim
February 26, 2021
Rabbi Carl M. Perkins
Temple Aliyah, Needham

(Esther 4:13-14)

וַיֹּאמֶר מָרְדֳּכַי לְהִשָּׁיב אֶל־אֶסְתֵּר אֶל־תְּדַמֶּי בְּנַפְשֶׁךָ לְהַמְלִיךְ בֵּית־הַמֶּלֶךְ מִכָּל־הַיְהוּדִים:

Mordecai had this message delivered to Esther: “Do not imagine that you, of all the Jews, will escape with your life by being in the king’s palace.

כִּי אִם־הִתְחַרַּשׁ תִּחְרִישִׁי בְּעֵת הַזֹּאת רְנוּחַ וְהִצְלָה יַעֲמֹד לַיהוּדִים מִמְּקוֹם אֲחֵר וְאַתָּה וּבֵית־אָבִיךָ תֵּאבְדוּ וְגַם יוֹדֵעַ אִם־לֵעֵת כְּזֹאת הִגַּעַתְּ לַמְּלָכוּת:

On the contrary, if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another quarter, while you and your father’s house will perish. **And who knows**, perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a crisis.”

אָהַד מִי יוֹדֵעַ? אָהַד אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ:
אָהַד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאָרְץ.

שְׁנַיִם מִי יוֹדֵעַ? שְׁנַיִם אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ:
שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית. אָהַד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאָרְץ.

שְׁלֹשָׁה מִי יוֹדֵעַ? שְׁלֹשָׁה אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ:
שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת, שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אָהַד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאָרְץ.

Who knows one? I know one: One is our God in the heavens and the earth. **Who knows two? I know two:** two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth.

Who knows three? I know three: three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth.

Who knows four? I know four: four are the mothers, three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth.

Who knows five? I know five: five are the books of the Torah, four are the mothers, three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth.

Who knows six? I know six: six are the orders of the Mishnah, five are the books of the Torah, four are the mothers, three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth.

Who knows seven? I know seven: seven are the days of the week, six are the orders of the Mishnah, five are the books of the Torah, four are the mothers, three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth.

Who knows eight? I know eight: eight are the days of circumcision, seven are the days of the week, six are the orders of the Mishnah, five are the books of the Torah, four are the mothers, three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth.

Who knows nine? I know nine: nine are the months of birth, eight are the days of circumcision, seven are the days of the week, six are the orders of the Mishnah,

five are the books of the Torah, four are the mothers, three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth.

Who knows ten? I know ten: ten are the statements, nine are the months of birth, eight are the days of circumcision, seven are the days of the week, six are the orders of the Mishnah, five are the books of the Torah, four are the mothers, three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth.

Who knows eleven? I know eleven: eleven are the stars, ten are the statements, nine are the months of birth, eight are the days of circumcision, seven are the days of the week, six are the orders of the Mishnah, five are the books of the Torah, four are the mothers, three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth. Who knows twelve?

I know twelve: twelve are the tribes, eleven are the stars, ten are the statements, nine are the months of birth, eight are the days of circumcision, seven are the days of the week, six are the orders of the Mishnah, five are the books of the Torah, four are the mothers, three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth. Who knows thirteen?

I know thirteen: thirteen are the divine attributes, twelve are the tribes, eleven are the stars, ten are the statements, nine are the months of birth, eight are the days of circumcision, seven are the days of the week, six are the orders of the Mishnah, five are the books of the Torah, four are the mothers, three are the fathers, two are the tablets of the covenant, One is our God in the heavens and the earth.