

Foreword

With great pleasure, we would like to present to our readership the eighth edition of Chidushei Torah@NDS. This edition focuses mainly on the Jewish festivals, however, in keeping with the tradition of our publication, we encourage NDS employees to write about a variety of topics, especially topics which connect the world of Torah to technology and the workplace.

The number 8 symbolizes renewal. The number 8 is a level beyond its predecessor – the number seven. The number seven represents the weekly cycle and the seven planets according to ancient cosmology. These are activities within the natural realm of the world. The number 8 symbolizes man's striving for renewal and breaking through the existing cycles and life's routines in order to start a new cycle with feelings of rejuvenation and exhilaration.

The number 8 appears many times in the Torah and it is usually related to the process of renewal. But, together with the renewal, a certain sorrow is felt. Together with every step forward, there is always a longing for the past. There are a number of examples of this in the Torah. "And it came to pass on the eighth day, Moses summoned Aaron, his sons and the elders of Israel (Leviticus 9,1). The day of the dedication of the Tabernacle was very joyous. As Chazal tell us (Megila 10:) "On that day, Hashem rejoiced like on the day he created the heaven and the earth". But there was also a certain level of sorrow blended into this joyous day. Chazal also tell us that the term "And it came to pass" always hints to us a level of sorrow which was felt associated with the described event. The circumcision ceremony is also a day of great joy – "And on the eighth day, he shall be circumcised" – however, the circumcision ceremony is intertwined with the pain experienced by the baby. And so, too, the festival of Shmini Atzeret, the festival of the eighth day which was appended to Sukkot, is associated with a certain level of sorrow. Hashem says: "Your departure is difficult for me" (Rashi, Leviticus 23, 36).

The joy of the publication of the eight volume of Chidushei Torah@NDS is blended too with the sorrow of "Your departure is difficult for me". The two people at the helm of the previous editions of Chidushei Torah are leaving the editorial staff.



Chaya Grodner has been the Editor-in-Chief of Chidushei Torah ever since its first publication eight years ago. Her dedication and perseverance has brought about a degree of success way beyond original expectations. Today, Chidushei Torah@NDS is disseminated to many places all over the world and can be found in many major libraries. I owe special thanx to Chaya for the work she invested in this edition and for the help she gave me in taking over my new role as Head of the Editorial Board.

Yossi Tsuria has requested from me to take over his position as Head of the Editorial Board of Chidushei Torah. On the one hand, it is very difficult to step into Yossi's shoes and on the other hand it would be very difficult for me to refuse his request after getting to know him and working closely together with him over the past few years. During this period, I had the privilege of enjoying his remarkable leadership skills and his unique ability of defining a vision and making it happen. Chidushei Torah is just one example of the many projects in NDS which began as one of Yossi's ideas. I am confident that Yossi will continue contributing to Chidushei Torah and that our readers will continue to feel his influence on the publication for many years to come.

This volume of Chidushei Torah is special in that it includes only articles written by NDS employees or their family members. This represents a level of maturity reached by the company and the publication over the past years. We now have over a thousand employees working in the Israeli branch of NDS. In this volume one can find a mix of articles ranging from ideas coming from the Lithuanian Yeshiva world alongside articles expressing personal views about "Who is a Jew" and divine providence.

On behalf of the editorial board, I would like to wish our readership, all of our contributors and their families a joyous new year.