SEVENS IN JUDAISM

In honor of that oddity of calendar occurrences 7/7/17, and with the help of the internet and Rabbi Shraga Simmons allow me to present 49 allusions to the number "7" within Judaism (49 of course being 7 times 7).

How many of these do you recognize? How many more can you add?

1. Shabbat is the 7th day of the week.
2. There are 7 weeks in the counting of the Omer before Shavuot. (Leviticus 23:15)
3. In Israel, there are 7 days of Passover and Sukkot. (Leviticus 23:6, 34)
4. Every 7th year, the land lays fallow during the Sabbatical year. (Leviticus 25:4)
5. After 7 cycles of Shmita, we have a Jubilee year (Yovel). (Leviticus 25:8)
6. When a close relative dies, we sit Shiva for 7 days.
7. On Sukkot we shake 7 species - 1 Lulav, 1 Esrog, 2 willows, and 3 myrtles.
8. Yitro, the first real convert to Judaism, had 7 different names, and 7 daughters (one who married Moses).
9. Moses was born and died on the same day - the 7th of Adar.
10. Our Sukkah huts are "visited" by 7 guests - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph and David.
11. The Menorah in the Temple had 7 branches.
12. Achashvarosh, King of Persia during the miracle of Purim, held a party for 7 days. (Esther 1:5)
13. There are 7 holidays in the Jewish year: Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Passover, and Shavuot.
14. In addition to the 613 Commandments, the rabbis of the Talmud added 7 more that also require a blessing. (* Reciting a blessing for each enjoyment * Washing of the hands before eating * Lighting of the Sabbath lamp * The Eruv on preparation for Sabbath transfer * The Hallel liturgy on holy days * The Hanukkah lights * The reading of the Esther scroll on Purim.)
15. There are 7 Noachide Laws pertaining to all humanity.
16. At every Jewish wedding, 7 blessings are recited (Sheva Brachot).
17. Each Shabbat, 7 people are called to the Torah reading (Aliyot).

18. The first verse in the Torah contains 7 words (and 28 letters).

19. Our Matriarch Leah had 7 children - six sons and one daughter.

20. There were 7 days of preparation for the construction of the Tabernacle in the desert. (Leviticus 8:35)

21. Traditionally, the bride circles the groom 7 times under the Chuppah (wedding canopy).

22. We wind the Tefillin straps around the arm 7 times.

23. Moses was the 7th generation after Abraham.

24. Each plague in Egypt lasted 7 days.

25. In Pharaoh's dreams there were 7 cows and 7 stalks of grain. (Genesis 41)

26. The Biblical contamination period typically lasts 7 days. (Leviticus 13:4)

27. God created 7 levels of heaven. (Hence the expression, "I'm in 7th heaven!")

28. On Shabbat and holidays, we recite 7 blessings in the silent Amidah.

29. There are 7 special species of produce by which the Land of Israel is praised: wheat, barley, grapes, pomegranates, figs, olives, and dates. (Deut. 8:8)

30. The world has 7 continents.

31. The 7 weeks of the Omer correspond to the 7 "sefirot," the 7 behavior traits in which we serve God: kindness, strength, beauty, triumph, splendor, foundation, and kingship.

32. Noah sent the dove and the raven out of the Ark for 7 days to inspect the weather conditions. (Genesis 8:10)

33. 7 nations warred with Israel: Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Girgashites.

34. On Yom Kippur, the High Priest sprinkled the blood in the Temple 7 times. (Leviticus 16)

35. The Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashana occurs, surprisingly, in the 7th month -- Tishrei. (Leviticus 23:24)

36. The Jewish calendar, largely lunar, has a cycle of intercalation that contains 7 leap years during each 19-year period.

37. There are 7 notes on the musical scale.

38. A Kohen (priest) should participate in the burial of 7 relatives: father, mother, sister, brother, son, daughter, and spouse. (Leviticus 21:2)

39. We dance 7 circles (hakafot) on the holiday of Simchat Torah.

40. The smallest allowable dimension of a Sukkah is 7 by 7 handbreadths.

41. The world has 7 seas.

42. Joshua led the Jewish People around the walls of Jericho 7 times before the walls fell. (Joshua 6:15)

43. Jacob worked for Laban for 7 years (twice) in order to marry his daughters. (Genesis 29:27)

44. The Holy Temple contained 7 gates of entry.

45. We recite 7 blessings every day before and after the "Shema" -- 3 in the morning and 4 at night.

46. The Talmud lists 7 female prophets: Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Avigail, Chuldah, and Esther.

47. A Jewish servant regains freedom in the 7th year. (Exodus 21:2)

48. We conclude our Yom Kippur prayers by proclaiming7 times, "The Lord is God!"

49. A Jewish wedding is followed by 7 days of celebration (Sheva Brachot).