

Beth Tephila Messianic Jewish Congregation
(Under same management for over 5775 years)

SHABBAT SERVICE

November 2nd – 10:30 AM

12:30 PM Oneg Shabbat & Interactive Torah Discussion

Don't Forget to Set Back Your Clocks
Tonight

Don't Forget to Vote on Tuesday



"Noah Found Favor in the Eyes of the Lord"

Parsha Noah -- Genesis 6:8 - 11:32

אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ

נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק תָּמִים הָיָה בְּדֹרוֹתָיו אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים הִתְהַלֵּךְ־נֹחַ:

Eleh tol'dot Noah. Noah ish tsadik tamim hayah b'dorotav et-ha'Elohim hit'halech Noah.

These are the generations of Noah. Noah was righteous, perfect in his generation. Noah walked with God.

Haftorah -- Isaiah 54: 9-10

Verses 9 & 10: For this is like the days of Noah to Me, when I swore that the waters of Noah should not flood the earth again. So I have sworn that I will not be angry with

you, nor will I rebuke you. For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you. And My covenant of peace will not be shaken, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

Psalm 2

Verses 7 & 12: I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me, 'Thou art My son. Today I have begotten Thee.... Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way. For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Matthew 24:34-39 – A Point of No Return

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven not the Son, but the Father alone. For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood, they were eating and drinking. They were marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark. **And they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away**. So shall the Coming of the Son of Man be.

"Elohim" Creator, a God of Justice & "Adonai" Personal Name of a God of Mercy

Beginning the book of Genesis last week, we saw the awesome creative work of God, "Elohim." After God created man and woman, it wasn't long before sin came into the world. Noting the increased age that men lived in those days, I made the comment that it was obvious that **men were not becoming better and better with age, as liberal Judaism suggests**. In fact, as we begin Chapter 6, we see that the "wickedness of man was so pronounced that **every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**" (vs 5). Fallen angels, "b'nei elohim", were intermarrying with women. **Matthew 22:30** shows that angels are not supposed to marry. So here we see **a world of anarchy**, where the baser instincts of men and fallen angels ruled the earth. Giants (Nephilim - mentioned only here and in **Numbers 13**) and strong (mighty) men were produced, whose desire was self satisfaction, rather than to serve their creator, as was God's intent. With sin, pain had come into the world, and now the sinfulness of His creation caused God great pain. However, even in the midst of a corrupt world, **Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord**" (vs 8). "Noah was a righteous ("tsadik") man, perfect ("tamin" "complete," "whole") in his generations. It does not mean "totally perfect" as we think of it today, as "absolutely without human fault, flaw, or defect," yet "perfect or righteous" in God's eyes. This illustrates that even in the sensual world we live in today, we can walk faithfully with God ("Elohim," the Creator) as did Noah. Still, as we said last week, **punishment for sin is a certainty**. As God chose to "blot out man, whom I have created from the face of the land..." (vs 5), **God also made provision for those who loved Him**: Noah; his wife and three sons; his sons' wives.

Thought Question: Can we today find terrorist groups who show themselves to be evil? Will they be held accountable before God? Do you think mankind as a whole is becoming better?

God's Provision For Those Who Love Him

As we continue with the story of Noah in **Chapter 7**, we see that God provided Noah with a "blueprint" for survival. He was to **build an ark**, following the instructions of God, the Righteous Judge ("**Elohim**").



Before God judged mankind for his wickedness, God made provision for life on earth after His judgment. God instructed Noah, who was 600 years old, to build an ark and to gather two of every animal and bird on the earth. They would **enter into God's provision, the ark, and be safe from His judgment.** Then God, Himself, closed the ark! **The time of repentance for man was over. Now the time had come for judgment.** Just as we will later observe of God's judgments at Sodom, of Pharaoh at the Red Sea, and at Kadesh-Barnea, the people of Noah's day had come to a "**point of no return,**" after which no amount of begging for forgiveness would be effective. Judgment came! For one hundred fifty days, water covered the earth and..... "**all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died**" (vs 22).

Thought Question: Can we see signs that **mankind** is on the road to a "point of no return"? All mankind or just some people? Which people deserve God's justice?

How about the innocent animals that were not taken into the ark? Did they also deserve God's judgement?

In **Chapter 8**, the water began to gradually recede during the next 150 days. Finally the earth was dry seventy days later....a time for new beginnings. As God tells Noah to leave the ark, **the first thing Noah does is to worship his God of mercy (Adonai)**. The words, "And the Lord (**Adonai**) **smelled the soothing aroma**," meant that **the God of mercy was satisfied with Noah** (vs 20). God told Noah that He would ... "never again curse the ground on account of man," ...nor would He ever... "again destroy every living thing,..." (vs 21). While the earth remains, the seasons and... "day and night shall not cease (vs 22)."

Thought Question: What do you think "**satisfied**" meant then? How was it accomplished? Can God be satisfied with us today, and if so **what provision** has God provided for us allow God's justice to be satisfied with us?

In **Chapter 9**, God (**Elohim** the Creator) blessed Noah and admonished him, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." Notice that "**every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you...**" (vs 3). Again we see that **no kosher laws** are given at this time. The only exception for them was that they should not eat meat with blood (vs 4). We also see the beginnings of human law: "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed..." (capitol punishment.)

The Sign of God's Everlasting Covenant with Mankind

Never again shall water become a flood to destroy all flesh. Genesis 9:8-17



God's sign of His covenant was the rainbow.

Due to the presence of sin, there must be rules. Although not written formally as a rule, Ham understood his actions, when he "saw" (gazed with satisfaction) at the nakedness of his father. The punishment for this sin was the prediction by Noah that the son of Ham, Canaan (the Canaanites) would be the servants of the descendents from the Godly line of Shem. Note that **Jews** as a "**Semitic**" people, **derive from their ancestor, Shem.** ("Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem." **Baruch Adonai Elohey Shem**)
Genesis 9:26

Chapter 10 follows the records of **Noah's kids, Shem, Ham, and Japheth** and their descendents. We will discuss some of the more famous ones, and where they lived.

Chapter 11 brings us to the story of the **Tower of Babel**; a story of **the downfall of a people because of their pride**. Their desire was to build a city for **THEMSELVES** to serve **THEMSELVES**, and make a name for **THEMSELVES**, so that they wouldn't be scattered. Certainly we today recognize the materialistic nature we see from this scripture. Their leadership would use the structure as a **watchtower to observe** and to **keep control** of all their residents....conformity.... the slippery slope leading from unity to **totalitarianism**. It should be noted that while Messianic Jews should work to show the world the peace and contentment that only comes from sin forgiveness through the blood atonement of Messiah, Yeshua, **we do not intend to try to preach conformity: to convert anyone to Messianic Judaism**. Too many of the world's religions preach conformity: **Convert to my religion or die**. Totalitarianism. We observe examples of **religious totalitarianism in reports from Iran in the Middle East**. God showed the people how he eschewed religious totalitarianism. **God confused their language**. Ironically, because they could not understand each other, they were naturally scattered.

Thought Question: Is there here a lesson for us today about materialism and putting our plans ahead of God's plans for us; about **exalting ourselves over God**; the slippery slope into totalitarianism? What do you think is the lesson?

The rest of the chapter through verse 26, gives the **family records of the descendants of Shem through Terah, the father of Abram** (exalted father), **Nahor** (river), and **Haran** (mountaineer). The last verses of the chapter trace the journey of Terah, his son, Abram, and his grandson, Lot, from Ur into Canaan. Although Terah remains in Haran, Abram continues on into Canaan, where God will make a covenant with him and his descendants. Notice that in this Torah portion, **we have gone from one family (Noah and his kids) to many families** scattered over many lands. While we follow the descendants of the Godly line, we again find ourselves observing **one family (Abram) in one land (Canaan)**. Next week we will see the promises God makes to this one man, who left the security of his family at God's call, and **in faith followed God** into a foreign land. An interesting note: **Scripture never states that Noah, a righteous man and a witness for God, prayed for those of his generation to be saved from God's judgment**. However, **Abraham, another righteous man attempted to intercede** in Chapter 18 **for the people of Sodom**. **May our lives also be a positive witness for God, and may His Ruach (Spirit) give us wisdom to intercede (like Abraham) for the salvation of His people!**

Applications for Us from Parashat Noach

Michael Hillel

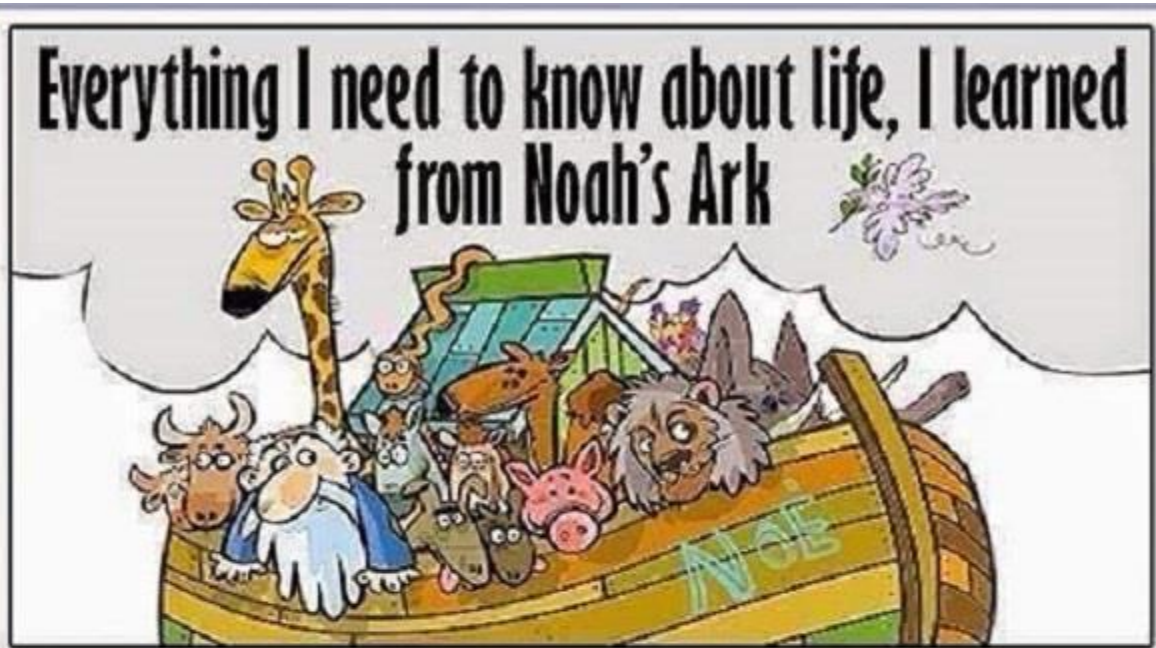
How often have you parents given your children a set of directions on what to do or how to behave, only to have them pick and choose what they will obey. I have heard it called selective hearing, a problem I understand that many husbands have as well. I mention both selective hearing and selective obedience because they seem to be a malady that affected the descendants of Noach in this week's parasha, Genesis 6:9 – 11:32. After the flood had receded and the earth had dried and was habitable once

again, God spoke to Noah *saying*, “Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” **Genesis 8:15-17:** And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.” **Genesis 9:1:** HaShem’s command to Noah and his family appears to be a reiteration of His original command to Adam and Chava: God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” **Genesis 1:28:** Even though the command was to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, the descendants of Noah for some reason, decided that two out of three wouldn’t be a bad idea. So, according to the narrative, instead of “filling the earth,” they decided to “be fruitful, multiply” and then stay in one place. They chose to settle in the land of Shinar (what would become Babylon) and there they decided not to “fill the earth.” They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” **Genesis 11:4:** Later, the first king of Israel would also learn the consequences of only following a portion of HaShem’s commands. In 1 Samuel 15, we read the account of Samuel giving HaShem’s instructions to King Saul on how to decisively deal with King Agag and the Amalekites. “Now go and strike down Amalek and put all he has under the ban of destruction—so have no pity on him; but kill both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and sheep, camels and donkeys.” **1 Samuel 15:3:** Unfortunately, just like the descendants of Noah in Shinar, King Saul did not follow HaShem’s commands completely. Instead the narrative recounts that Saul and the people spared Agag as well as the best of the sheep, the cattle, even the fatlings and the lambs, and all that was good, since they were not willing to utterly destroy them; everything that was worthless and feeble, they destroyed completely. **1 Samuel 15:9:** Then, to make matters worse, King Saul tried to backtrack a bit, claiming that he disobeyed so he could sacrifice the best of the spoils to HaShem. “They brought them from the Amalekites,” Saul replied, “for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen to sacrifice to ADONAI your God—but the rest we have utterly destroyed.” **1 Samuel 15:15:** This led to Samuel’s proclamation, “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice...”. In other words, **sacrifice that stems from disobedience is not a holy sacrifice but an act of rebellion.** In the end, Saul’s disobedience and his refusal to accept responsibility for his disobedience eventually cost King Saul his kingdom, as well as what could have been his dynasty. Possibly more than that; it cost him his advisor Samuel, “Samuel never did see Saul again until the day of his death” (**1 Samuel 15:35**).

There is a lesson for each of us today in the actions of the descendants of Noah at Shinar as well as King Saul and the Amalekites. When we find ourselves in a situation where Scripture is quite clear about what to do or where we know beyond a doubt what we should do and choose not to do what we know is right, it is an act of disobedience. It often seems so easy to explain why we don’t do what we know we ought to do or is right to do. Even if we find some “good” in the midst

of the disobedience, such as Saul being willing to sacrifice the best of the ill-gotten spoils, we would do well to remember Samuel's words to Saul, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice..."

SHABBAT SHALOM



- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're really old, someone may ask you to do some thing really big.
- 5 Don't listen to the critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs
- 9 When you're stressed, float a while
- 10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting..



Continued prayer and intercession for Israel
Russ Resnik, UMJC

*Tzur Yisrael, Rock of Israel, arise to the help of Israel,
and deliver as you promised Judah and Israel.*

- For all the remaining hostages to be set free, speedily and soon.

From heaven Adonai gazes on the earth,
to hear the groaning of the prisoner,
to set free those condemned to death,
to declare the Name of Adonai in Zion
and His praise in Jerusalem. (Psalm 102:20-22 TLV)

- For wisdom and divine guidance for Israel's military and political leaders.
- For the complete collapse of Hamas and Hezbollah. For many within their ranks to see
 - the futility and wickedness of their hatred of Israel and the Jewish people,
 - turn away from it, and drop their arms.
 - For mercy and minimal harm upon civilians on all sides,
- and for a growing awareness and turning toward the one true God among them all.
- For the children of Gaza and the Palestinian territories to be freed from the indoctrination
 - toward hatred in their schools. For seeds of understanding and peace to be sown
 - among both the Arab and Israeli populations.
 - Against the rising tide of antisemitism around the world.
- Against the flood of misinformation and slander coming at Israel and the Jewish people,
 - and against the demonic forces of anti-Jewish hatred.

*Arise, Adonai! May Your enemies be scattered!
May those who hate You flee from before You! (Num 10:35)*