



לעילוי נשמת

David ben Imashalom
Zilpa bat Sarah

Sha'arei Eliyahu

Table Talk

פרשת נח

Lessons on the Parasha

There are a lot of interesting lessons we learn from this week's parasha. This we read how Noach a Tzadik in Hashem's Eyes was commanded to build an ark to save his family from the incoming flood. There is a famous debate whether Noach would be deemed a Tzadik had he been lived in Avraham Avinu's time. There are arguments to support both sides and the jury is still out on this.

If we read further into the parasha the Pasuk says **וַיְהִי הַגֶּשֶׁם עַל-הָאָרֶץ אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וָאַרְבָּעִים לַיְלָה** - **And the rain was upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.** It is also known that the waters of the Mabul were boiling hot. Why does the Torah need to tell us that the rain lasted for 40 days? Also what was the reason the water was boiling? The Bereshit Raba [Perek 32 Para 5] tells us that since the people of the generation violated the commandments of the Torah which was given down after Moshe ascended for 40 days and 40 nights Hashem punished the generation of the flood for 40 days and 40 nights with rain.

Rav Eliyahu HaTamari in Chut Shel Hesed asks a very strong question. If the waters were boiling hot then the people would not have survived after the 1st day of rain, so what was the purpose of continuing the rain? The answer he gives is amazing. He says that the people made the entire world impure through their actions. That impurity was seeped into the earth causing the entire earth to be impure. When we come across items of impurity there are 2 things that are needed to purify them. Sometimes we need to do Hagalah [place the item inside a boiling pot] in order to purify the item. At other times we need to also take that pot to a Mikvah [for example if we received that pot from a non-Jew].

In order for a Mikvah to be kosher it must contain 40 seah of water. Hashem needed to fill the entire inch of the world with 40 seah of water. Each day it would rain enough to cover 1 seah of boiling water so that after 40 days the world was immersed in a pool of a kosher boiling Mikvah. This purified the earth from all the filth that it absorbed during those generations. This is why , he says, it had to rain for all 40 days even though there were no more inhabitants around.

Further on in our parasha after the flood subsides an interesting midrash brings down how Noach comes out of the Ark and decides to plant a vineyard to do a wine offering to Hashem. When the Satan sees this he approaches Noach and tells him that he can make the grapes grow fast. Noach was excited to hear that the vineyard would be ready quickly and agreed. So the Satan planted the seeds then took a sheep, slaughtered it and spilled it's blood over the planted seed. Then he took a monkey, a lion, and a pig and did the same. Instantly the vineyard grew and Noach drank and became intoxicated [forgetting to bring a wine offering to Hashem].

Based on this midrash my father A"H used to say that when a person starts drinking he is 1st very sheepish and kind to those around him. Then the next few shots he takes he starts acting like a monkey kissing those around him and laughing. If he continues to drink he then starts getting angry and starts fights with people like a lion. Lastly if he continues drinking even more he ends up in the restroom throwing up like a pig.

This midrash also teaches us another lesson, that it's not always good if something comes to us too easily. As our sages tell us if someone tells you "I didn't toil and found the Torah don't believe him."



Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorach



~R' Yosef Akilov

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Mincha	5:45 PM
Candle Lighting	5:49 PM
Shacharit	8:30 AM
SHEMA (MA)	9:15 AM
SHEMA (GRA)	9:56 AM
Derasha	4:15 PM
Mincha	5:35 PM
SUNSET	6:05 PM
Shabbat Ends	6:48 PM
Rabbenu Tam	7:18 PM

SHORT & SWEET

ויעבר אלהים רוח על הארץ וישוכו
 "And Hashem caused a spirit to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided etc."
 (Bereshit 8:1)

If one literally takes the word spirit (רוח) and passes it over the word earth (ארץ) the words white light (אור צהר) emerge. This is an allusion to the abundant mercy and kindness of Hashem that created a sweetened judgement thereby causing the waters to subside.

ברכת הרי"ח

1. How long did the Tzadik Noach live?
2. What did Noach and Shlomo HaMelech have in common?
3. When did the Mabul begin?
4. What creature did Noach bless that it should never die and why did he bless it?

1. Noach lived until the year 2006, a total of 950 years. He lived to see the whole world populated once again. He also witnessed the development of all seventy nations, which were composed of his descendants. {Bereshit 9:29, Midrash Tanchuma 2:2}
 2. Both Noach and Shlomo HaMelech understood the language of all the creatures and could communicate with them. This is how he was able to feed them and send them out as scouts. {Zohar Chadash 22b}
 3. The Mabul began on the 17th of Cheshvan. {Rashi}
 4. Noach saw a bird called "Orshina" [Phoenix] exhausted on a shelf, when he asked it why he didn't request food the bird replied "I saw that you were busy, so I didn't want to bother you!" A grateful Noach blessed the bird that it would never die. {Sanhedrin 108b}

מסר של שבוע - Weekly Dose of Ethics

א. ברא בו העין שהוא כלי יקר, כדי להשתמש במראה עיניו בתורה ומצוותיה, והכסיל הוא משתמש במראות עיניו בדברים אסורים ורעים וחטאים (דרושי חיים).

[Hashem created numerous limbs and organs in the individual] He created the eyes, which are precious instruments, in order to use them to gaze upon the Torah and its Mitzvot. However, the imbecile uses them to gaze upon improper, forbidden and sinful things.

ב. וברא בו האוזן שבהם חוש השמע, כדי להשתמש בו בדברי תורה ומצוה והכסיל משתמש בהם בשמע רע ומאוס (דרושי חיים). Hashem created the ears, wherein lies the sense of hearing, in order to listen to words of Torah and Mitzvot. However, the imbecile defiles them by using them to listen to words of evil and filth.

ג. וברא בו הפה שבו הלשון והחיך והשיניים והשפתים להשתמש בהם בדברי תורה ובחכמה מפוארה, והכסיל משתמש בהם בדברים בטלים ובליצנות ולשון הרע וכיוצא (דרושי חיים). Hashem created the mouth, tongue, palette and teeth, wherein lies the ability of speech, in order to speak words of Torah and wisdom. However, the imbecile uses them for idle chatter, mockery, Lashon Hara and the like.

ד. וברא עור באדם ידים, לעסוק בהם בעניני התורה והמצוות והכסיל משתמש בהם בעסקי הבלים ורעות רוח (דרושי חיים). Hashem further created hands for man in order to use them for the Torah and Mitzvot. However, the imbecile utilizes them for profane, wicked matters.

ה. וברא עוד באדם מוח ולב וכליות, להשתמש בהם במצוות ה', להתכין בהם בתורה ובחכמה והכסיל משתמש בהם בהבלי הזמן ובדברים חיצונים ונמאסים (דרושי חיים). Hashem created the brain, heart and kidneys for man in order to use them in the service of Hashem, Torah learning and performance of the Mitzvot. However, the imbecile uses them to ponder wasteful, improper and filthy ideas.

ו. והאדם הכסיל הנה הוא רואה בעיניו תשימש הכבוד היקר שראוי להשתמש באיברים אלו, ועם כל זה הוא מניח שימוש היקר ומשתמש בהם בשימוש מאוס ומגונה, נמצא זה המיר כבודם בקלון במרד ובמעל, ולכן הטאו קשה וחמור מאד, וצריך לו כפרה, וישוב אל ה' וירחמהו (דרושי חיים).

The imbecile sees with his own eyes the proper and honorable uses for each of the limbs in his body, yet he abandons them and instead uses them for filthy and disgraceful purposes. He is desecrating consecrated items and as a result his sin is too grave - he requires atonement. One should return to Hashem - and he will surely have mercy and compassion towards him.

חודשים של שבוע - Weekly Dose of Insights

א. אָלֶה תּוֹלְדֵת נֹחַ נֹחַ - יובן בס"ד כי האדם שהוא נח במדותיו ודיבורו עם הבריות, הנה בזה יהיה לו חן בעיני הבריות הרבה שהכל יהיו אוהבים אותו. ונמצא שהתולדה והפרי הנמשך מן הנח הוא החן וזהו שאמר אלה תולדות נח רוצה לומר מי שהוא טבעו נח עם הבריות, נח אותיות חן שיהיה לו חן וחסר בעיני הבריות (אדרת אליהו).

"These are the offspring of Noah, Noah etc." - אֶלֶה תּוֹלְדֵת נֹחַ נֹחַ (Bereshit 6:9)

When an individual's actions are pleasant (נח) towards the people, consequently, he will be loved by the people allowing him to find favor (חן) in their eyes. That is alluded to in this Pasuk; the offspring or reward of someone who is pleasant (נח) towards his peers is (נח) favor and charisma (חן - נח spelled backwards).

ב. וַיֹּלֵד נֹחַ שְׁלֹשָׁה בָנָיִם אֶת־שֵׁם אֶת־חָם וְאֶת־יָפֶת - נ"ל בס"ד הדיבור נחלק לשלש חלוקות: הא', מה שלומד ומדבר האדם בתורה, וזהו "שם" גימטריא ספר, הוא התורה הנקראת "ספר". והב', מה שמדבר בדרך ארץ וחכמת הטבע, וזהו "יפת", שגם זה הדיבור הוא יפה לאדם ומתייפה בו שבזה תהיינה עיניו פקוחות בענייני העולם והנבראים שבו. והג', מה שמדבר במשא ומתן ומלאכה שהוא לצורך אכילה ושתיה ומלבוש, וזהו "חם", שכל זה הוא נעשה בשביל חום הגוף, כי קרום הגוף הוא בחום, וחום נעשה על-ידי אכילה ושתיה ומלבוש, וראשי תיבות שלש אלו הוא "שיח", לרמוז כי השיח של האדם נחלק לשלש אלה, שהם: שם חם יפת (עוד יוסף חי).

"And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Yafet." - וַיֹּלֵד נֹחַ שְׁלֹשָׁה בָנָיִם אֶת־שֵׁם אֶת־חָם וְאֶת־יָפֶת (Bereshit 6:10)

Permissible speech can be broken down into three parts. The first category is the speech done while learning Torah. This is alluded to in the name Shem (שם) because it has the same numerical value as the word book (ספר) - a reference to the Torah. The second category is the speech one does in understanding nature and the way of the land. That is alluded to in the name Yefet (יפת) - which means beautiful - because understanding the beauty and wonders of Hashem creations is also a beneficial task. Lastly, one engages in speech pertaining to matters of business in order to sustain oneself with food, clothes and water. This is alluded to in the name Ham (חם) - meaning heat - because with this speech one continues the heat of their body by obtaining food, clothes and water. Interestingly enough, the first letters of these three words שם חם יפת spell the word שיח - meaning conversation - teaching us that one's speech and conversations should only revolve around these three permissible subjects.