

Congregation

◆◆◆'"Beth Yosef'"◆◆◆

\*\*\* 2108 Ocean Parkway Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223 \*\*\*

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat Noah*

4<sup>th</sup> MarHeshvan 5780

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat Roni Akarah*

November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019

*Maqam Siga*

Issue #865

*Candle Lighting 5:34pm \* Shekiah 5:52pm \* Minha Friday Night 5:40pm*

*Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 5:15pm \* Shabbat Ends 6:33pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:03pm*

*Time for Talit 6:26am \* Seasonal Hour 6:00 \* Alot Hashahar 6:14am \* Netz Hachama 7:27am*

*Weekday Minha 4:35pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 4:12pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 6:28pm \* Chatzot 12:39*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:17am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:18am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

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As Hashem brought forth the *Mabul*, the *Great Flood*, upon the generation of Noah, wiping everyone off the face of the earth, all had been destroyed except one small Ark that floated upon the waves of destruction, refreshing and forever changing the world to this very day. What did the people of that generation do to deserve such a terribly absolute form of punishment, enriched with confusion and destruction? The Pasuk states: when Hashem noticed that the actions of man had become completely corrupt, as well as their hearts and intentions, *through the influence of their Evil Inclination*, Hashem signed the decree for the devastating destruction of the people that He created. The twisted ways of man orchestrated a catastrophe within nature itself, as even the animals of the world had grown accustomed to mix breeding with each other and birthed new species that should never have been created. Hashem wished to renew the world's population with holiness and purity, so He therefore destroyed everything besides whatever still remained clean and wholesome. This teaches us that the *Mabul* was caused by the *Yetzer Hara*, the *Evil Inclination*, who corrupted the hearts of man and directly led man to sin. It is apparent from the Torah that the cause of the *Great Flood* was the *evil inclination*, and therefore in order to distance from ever deserving such a terrible form of punishment again, all would need to properly address the challenges of following the direction of the *evil inclination*. The world had sunk to such levels of impurity that only a *Great Flood* had the ability to properly cleanse such outstanding levels of impurity. Think for a moment: do we not live in such an impure

generation today, in which impurity has reached such shockingly great levels, complete with easy availability and vast opportunity for all forms of sin? What must we do in order to survive with purity and remain untouched by evil in our generation? How can we stay safe and remain pure? We too must follow in the path of Noah and enter the safety and security of the Ark: we must take shelter in our Synagogues and Midrashim, for only then will we be able to avoid the impurities of this world. Alas, many find themselves directly involved and busy with the world. Throughout their day many are not safely protected in the Ark! How can they survive the impurities that spread so rapidly throughout the world? It is true that one must go into the world and work to support his family, but how can he be kept safe in the world from the threats of corruption while making a necessary living? One must therefore have a disciplined schedule every day, scheduled times in which he enters the Ark in order to refresh and recalibrate with holiness, in order to reconnect to Hashem and the Torah. One must go to Shul and Bet Midrash daily, and make sure to set aside permanent times each day for prayers and Torah study in order to remain pure and untouched from the outside world of destruction. In those days, Noah and his family resided in the Ark, while today the righteous and Talmidei Hachamim occupy the Shuls and Midrashim. To be saved from the terrible waters of destruction that are drowning the world today, we must join the righteous in the Midrash and learn with them daily. The unholy mundane desires and the hunger for materialism that is completely consuming the world today, the blind drive and

passion for more and more to no end, threatens to distance us from Hashem and destroy our holy souls. How can we survive? How can we remain pure and holy? Only by following the righteous into the Ark of today, into Shul and Midrash. Pray, learn, connect to Hashem, connect to the Torah, and be able to remain safe and pure. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Insights on the Parasha**

1 – Noah is titled as a “righteous man”. The name ‘Noah’ can mean to be dormant, or inactive. This teaches us that even inactivity, the ability to avoid performing sins, can earn a person the status as a righteous man.

2 – *He sacrificed burnt-offerings (Korban Olah) upon the altar.* Let us ask: Through his experience of being saved from the Mabul, Noah was considered one of the four that are required to thank Hashem by sacrificing a Thanksgiving (Todah) offering. Why then did he bring an Olah? The author of *Vaydaber David* explains: since Noah was not yet allowed to eat meat, as Hashem did not yet permit its consumption in the world until a later time, Noah therefore brought an Olah which is completely burnt for Hashem, as opposed to a Todah in which the one bringing it is required to partake in its consumption.

3 – After the Great Flood, the Pasuk relates that Noah drank from the wine and became drunk. The question is: How did Noah get drunk if he surely would have been careful to only drink the amount of alcohol that he would normally drink without getting drunk? The author of *Vaydaber David* explains: Noah didn’t know that nature itself had changed after the Great Flood and that a person’s strength had indeed weakened in power. As a result, he was no longer able to drink the amount that he was normally accustomed to drinking, and he therefore became intoxicated from the alcohol.

### **History in Brief**

As Jerusalem fell into the hands of the enemy, Titus the destroyer divided the Temple into four parts and portioned it over to the four ministers of his army, so that the Temple would be destroyed by each in their own way. Three of them successfully destroyed the Temple walls that were in their portion. The Fourth Wall, however, which is famously known today as the Western Wall, fell into the portion of the Duke and Minister Pangar Arabai, who would have liked to destroy his portion as well, but heaven had decreed that the Western Wall would never be destroyed, and

Pangar therefore did not destroy it. Titus sent for Pangar, and when he came, Titus asked: “Why didn’t you destroy your portion?” Pangar answered: “Behold, I have acted in honor of the kingdom, I swear on your life that I would have liked to destroy it, but then the true grand size of the Temple would not have been known for generations to come, and they would say it was in fact originally only a small Temple that now lays in ruin, belittling your takeover. However, now that the generations will see the strong western wall still standing, which is a large and flattering structure on its own, they will know and understand the greatness of your success. Thus, I chose to leave some of intact in order to bear witness of your greatness for future generations.” Titus replied: “That is a righteous answer that you have said, but because you have violated a direct imperial command, and you have not done what was requested of you, you must now climb up to the top of the Western Wall and throw yourself off to your death as your punishment.” Immediately he climbed to the top of the Western Wall, jumped off from the top, and fell to his death. Rabbi Yochanan had in fact cursed Pangar for not destroying the Western Wall, because he actually did not do so for the reason that he claimed before Titus, in honor of Titus. In fact, he really did so in order to cause grief to Bnei Yisrael for many generations to come, so that they should be able to view the ruins of the Temple still standing before them and cause pain to them as a result. The curse of Rabbi Yochanan had been fulfilled shortly after, as Pangar was ordered to jump off the Western Wall to his death.

### **Health and Recovery**

Diabetes is an age-dependent disease, so even someone who is healthy but over the age of 45 is nonetheless at risk of diabetes and must undergo a blood test to check. Diabetes is a disease that is not painful and has no symptoms, no disorders, and one does not feel its presence in the body. Until it is actually discovered, one does not know about its existence in the body. There are many things that cause diabetes: 1 – Obesity 90% of the time will cause diabetes. 2 – Waist circumference above (40.8 inches) 102 cm in men, and over 88 cm in women (35.2 inches), is a risk factor for diabetes. 3 – One who undergoes a blood test while fasting with results over one hundred is at risk for diabetes. If the blood sugar test is taken two hours after a meal with the result over 200, this result would require further clarification through testing, even though the level is

technically normal. 4 – Those with first-degree relatives, i.e. a father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, who have been diagnosed with diabetes must be monitored starting from the age of 25, as they are at risk. 5 – A woman who gives birth to a baby that weighs over 4kg (9 pounds) should be tested for diabetes. The ways to prevent and avoid diabetes are parallel to the causes of diabetes. Therefore, anyone with an inheritance of diabetes from their relatives should be more careful than others, monitor their blood sugar levels often, and be vigilant to notice any and all early signs of diabetes, such as a gradual rise in blood sugar, increased thirst, the need to go often to the bathroom, as well as sudden weight loss.

#### ***Mussar: Midot Tovot***

1 – We may never get angry, one who does is considered to be worshipping idolatry, as his soul is uprooted from holiness and placed in impurity.

2 – We may never test Hashem by performing a deed and expecting a certain outcome, with the exception of Ma'aser, tithing, for Hashem promises wealth to those who give Ma'aser.

3 – One may not hate another – if one does not speak to another for three days because of hate then he has committed this sin. However, if your friend does not accept rebuke for sins that he commits, then Hashem hates him as well.

4 – One may not take revenge on another by either not helping him as he hadn't helped you, or even by just telling him that even though he didn't help you that you will nonetheless help him. Forget and forgive.

5 – Do not speak or accept Lashon Hara, slander. Nonetheless, if you hear something that you should be warned about, even though you may not believe it, you may be careful from being harmed.

6 – Do not believe that you are more than average, and that you are being blessed because of your righteousness. Rather, believe that blessings are from the merit of your ancestors. Worry that perhaps you are eating up your own merit in this world instead of the next world. Therefore, always work hard to gain more merits through your good deeds.

#### **The Tenth Rishon LeSion:**

##### ***Rabbi Raphael Meyuhas 1700-1771***

As Rabbi Raphael left Egypt, on his return to Israel through the Sinai Desert, suddenly, in the middle of the desert, nine robbers jumped the rabbi, stripped him of all his belongings and clothing, beat him with

painful blows, and took all the money he had collected for the poor of Jerusalem, which he had worked very hard to collect from many distant communities. Immediately, Rabbi Raphael stood in prayer and said: "My Creator! My Protector! Lead me in my way just as You have helped me thus far." Before he even finished his prayer, he witnessed images fast approaching from the far end of the horizon, their submissive faces testifying that they bear no ill will. Alas, it was the robbers, returning. What did they want now? The head of the bandits fell at the feet of the rabbi. "Please forgive us! Moments ago, we were suddenly stricken with terrible weakness, feeling without power or energy throughout our bodies, unable to walk any further. We trembled from such feelings, as we are not weak men and so we were very surprised. Until one of our partners in crime commented: "This must be happening to us because of the holy Jew's power! We have sinned!" Here, please, allow us to return all that we have taken from you, and please forgive us!" Rabbi Raphael nodded, and the robbers went away, leaving all his possessions and clothing at his feet. At that moment, a decision was made in the rabbi's heart: That day, the 16<sup>th</sup> of Adar, would forever be for him and his descendants, a day of joy and thanks to the Creator for His mercy, which fills the earth.

#### ***Story***

Yitzhak David, who was being recruited by the Hungarian authorities to serve in the army and assist in their fight against the evil Hitler (currently at war with Russia), traveled to the Rebbe for a blessing and advice on how to be saved from being drafted into the army. Suddenly, the rabbi asked him during the meeting, "Crazy fool, what are you doing here and who are you? You need to find a place that is right for you!" Two weeks later, Yitzhak David, a man who had a wife and three children, made his way to the regional recruitment bureau's office. He planned to appear before the doctors as a man afflicted with pain and disabilities, but at the last moment he regretted having such an idea and did not follow through with the scam. As he entered the gates of the formidable military compound, to be examined and tested for service eligibility, his fear grew, and he felt a tremor in his legs. All around him were very tough and serious officers. The thought that he would be under their command made his mood even worse. He went through the physical examination, was asked dozens of tough and rigorous questions, and then was written up and signed off as someone with excellent

health, strong physical strength, and a strong enough spirit to fight for the Hungarian government in their war waged against a vicious alliance with Germany, the Amalek of that generation.

#### **Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu**

**1** – The time to recite Shema in the morning begins Alot HaShahar until three seasonal hours later. A day begins from Alot Hashahar and ends with Tzet Hacohevim. Depending on the full length of the day, longer in the summer and shorter in the winter, the day is split up into twelve parts, each of the twelve calculated as one seasonal hour. One who prays Vatikin will be rewarded greatly. One can recite Shema with its blessings up until four seasonal hours, however after that time one is prohibited from reciting the blessings of Shema.

**2** – One may recite Shema whether sitting or standing, but according to Kabbalah one should preferably be sitting while reciting Shema. However, if he is tired and is nodding off to sleep, then he is definitely allowed to recite Shema while standing, in order to wipe the sleep away from his eyes.

#### **Laws: Shabbat**

**1** – Our Sages prohibited Muktzeh during Shabbat, so that our activities would not compare to those performed during the week, which would then be a violation of the commandment in the Torah to rest during Shabbat.

**2** – The Torah states that Hashem blessed the seventh day of the week. What is the blessing? That even though we rest and do not perform work during Shabbat, nonetheless this lack of activity will not cause us a loss.

**3** – Why do we recite in Shalom Alechem “Malachei HaSharet” only in the first stanza, and in the following stanzas we recite “Malachei HaShalom”? When we return home from Shul on Friday night, we are accompanied by two ministering angels, two Malachei HaSharet, who come into our households to see if everything is in order: that the candles are lit, the table is set, the food ready to be served, and everyone is ready for Kiddush. If it is so, then they bless the household with peace. Once the two angels witness this, the good and the bad make peace with each other, and the angels are then referred to as angels of peace, Malachei HaShalom.

#### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **Rabbi Baruch Toufic Shabot, his wife Ketty, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of **Yosef**, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* **Rabbi Yosef Asse, his wife Norma, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire

family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Mayer Wahba, his wife Pauline, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Rosette Cohen and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, May Hashem grant her a Refuah Shelemah, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Mordechai Levy, his wife Ketty, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Touni Mazal Shakalo Bat Rachel a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Becky, her husband Taleb Hara, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Mr. Leon Jajati Ben Jamila**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Eli Yom Tob Cohen, his wife Rina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for his mother **Mrs. Rosette Cohen**, Amen. \*\*\* **Rabbi Isaac Yedid HaLevi, his wife Frieda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Shahoud Shakalo and his children, the blessed siblings: Abdo, Joe, Rimon, and their families.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Touni Mazal Bat Rachel a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Shlomo Albakdadi, his wife Linda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Rosette Bat Latifah a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **The young man Leor Alkada.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Abraham Sion Chams, his wife Rosie, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Abraham Houdari and his wife Debora** on the birth of **Yosef**, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Abraham Maleh, his wife Amilia, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Kamel Ben Jamila a”h**, and Leilui Nishmat his mother **Shafika Bat Salha a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Morris Marashli, his wife Esther, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Yitzhak Ben Kilsom a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Yetta Yedid (Sardar), her husband Moshe, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Mordechai Sardar Ben Rosa a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **The Hafif Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Zakie a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **The Nakab Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Jamil Ben Aysah a”h**, Amen.

*This week sponsorship total \$1900.*

*Tizku L’Mitzvot, Amen!*

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