

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi Parashat Noah

4th Cheshvan 5782

Maqam Siga Issue #954 Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President Haftarat **Roni Akara** October 9th 2021

Candle Lighting 6:08pm * Shekiah 6:26pm * Shir Hashirim 6:05pm followed by Minha Friday Night Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 5:50pm * Shabbat Ends 7:06pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:36pm Time for Talit 5:55am * Seasonal Hour 66:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:42am * Netz Hachama 7:01am Weekday Minha 6:05pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 5:39pm * Tzet Hacochavim 7:01pm * Chatzot 12:43 Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:00am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:06am

Sponsored by: *Mr. Victor Emil Kameo, his wife Mireille, their parents, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of *Abie*, Mabrouk, May Hashem bless them physically and spiritually, Amen.

Those who wish to contact R' Farhi can call (646) 552-3412

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2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235

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The sins of theft and robbery were the deciding factors that had sealed the fate of the generation that had been completely destroyed by the Great Flood. Hashem then remembered Noah, who merited to leave the Ark in peace, after having been saved from the terrible destruction that had been wrought upon the world's inhabitants. Why? The Midrash teaches us that Noah had fed all of the animals and living creatures in the Ark for 12 months and therefore merited to leave the Ark. Rabbi David Hofstedter asks two questions: 1- The generation had sinned in many ways - why was the sin of stealing the deciding factor that sealed the decree for their destruction? 2- Was Noah saved only because he had fed the living creatures in the Ark for 12 months? Doesn't the Pasuk call Noah a righteous man who found favor in Hashem's eyes? Also, even before the Great Flood began, Hashem promised Noah that he would be saved in peace from the destruction, and would have the opportunity to live and rebuild a new clean world? The fact is that before the Torah was given to us, Hashem's Shechinah was revealed specifically in places that were full of kindness and consideration for one another. It was mercy and kindness that created the bond between this world and the worlds above. When that generation sinned by constantly and continuously swindling each other without pause, they caused the Shechinah to distance from this world, creating a void of holiness and spirituality in this world, thus severing the bond between the spiritual and physical worlds, and consequently faced destruction as a result. Our holy Sages teach us that the world is built on the foundations of Torah. Avodah/Services, and Kindness – at that time in history, before the Torah was given, the world did not yet have Torah or Avodah/Services, so the lack of Kindness meant that the world lacked any foundation and was no longer able to be held up. It was only Noah's acts of kindness that would ensure the continuity of life and existence in this world. His kindness of nourishing the members of the Ark was the reason he was saved and was able to leave that Ark in peace and enter into a new world of potential. His Kindness would be the necessary component to rebuild the world, to reconstruct the bond between the worlds above and below, to connect the physical and spiritual, and thereby enable the Shechinah to come back into the world, fixing the world with what had been so badly and carelessly damaged by the previous generation. The world is built on Kindness! However, after the Torah was given to our nation on Har Sinai, it was only then possible through the Torah to create the necessary bond with Hashem, to connect the worlds, through learning Torah and fulfilling Mitzvot. This is also hinted in the words:

Derech Eretz precedes the Torah. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The rainbow, Keshet, is a covenant. The word Keshet is spelled with the letters Kof, Shin, and Taf, the first letters of the words Kinah, Sinah, and Tachrut, bad characteristics that remove a person from this world. Since man is created with an evil inclination from his youth, he is challenged with these bad characteristics and is therefore not clean of them without work and toil on his character. Our Sages teach us that one who looks at a rainbow is weakened, because who is completely pure of these sins? In the days of Rabi Shimon Bar Yohai, a rainbow did not appear, because he served as a protection and his merits saved the generation from judgment and punishment.

2 - The Pasuk lists the names of two brothers, Peleg and Yoktan, but only explains the name of Peleg, saying that he was born when the people were divided, but does not explain the name of Yoktan. Why? Because while Peleg is an unusual name that requires explanation, the name Yoktan is easily understood to symbolize humility and modesty, a name that is pleasant and beautiful.

History in Brief

82 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 150AD. That year the Roman Emperor Caesar Hadrian went up to Jerusalem and took apart the stones of the Bet Hamikdash that lay in ruins on Har Sion. He continued to wickedly and hatefully spite and oppress the Jewish people. One day, as he passed by, a Jew wished him peace. He asked the Jew who he was and he said that he was a simple Jew. Hadrian thought it questionable that a Jew would wish him peace, and he cut off his head. Another Jew, who knew what had happened to the last one, as he passed did not wish him peace. Hadrian was not happy that a Jew would not wish him peace, and so he cut off his head as well. His advisors did not understand his actions. If a Jew wishes him peace, he cuts off his head, and if a Jew does not wish him peace, then he cuts off his head as well? What are they supposed to do? He told his advisors that he did not need their opinions on how to kill Jews. The Romans passed terrible decrees upon the Jews which were designed to stop the Jews from learning Torah, performing Mitzvot, or serving Hashem in any way. One who did so was sentenced to death. When one Jew would be taken to his death, his brethren would ask why, and he would say something like, because I circumcised my son, or because I observed Shabbat, or I ate Matzah, or I lived in a Sukkah, or I shook Lulav, or I donned Tefillin. The Pasuk was fulfilled, which states that the enemy will kill all day, every day.

Health and Recovery

Water is a complex fluid composed of particles that bind to each other, geometrically, giving them nutritional value and vital force. When the water is pumped through pipes and into bottles at high pressure, all the engineering breaks and water loses its vitality and becomes 'dead' water, according to scientists. Scientists discovered through experiments exactly what happens to water when it is stored in pottery. It turns out that the 'dead' water would return back to its regular natural state, to the same form of engineered particles, as if they had regained their breath and had been reborn. Pottery and clay products is the closest material elements to the human body, as our body is created from the earth. The natural crystallization of the clay material is something very effective for health, and has many kinds of essential metals just as in the body and the immune system. When water from the springs pass through rocks, these materials are extracted and it then becomes 'living' water. Plastic bottles that contain water and are exposed to different temperatures release toxic and carcinogenic substances. It is therefore appropriate and desirable to give up the water stored in the refrigerator and drink instead water stored in a container or bottle made of clay, which contains electric magnetic power, beneficial to the body, and provides a feeling of vitality while eliminates any feelings of fatigue and laziness. It is known that if the PH in the blood falls below the number seven, then the blood becomes sour, and germs and cancer cells are then nourished with it. But if the number rises from 7 to 14, then the blood becomes alkaline. Water, before it is placed in a clay jug, has a PH less than 7, however after it is stored in clay, the PH rises from its number under 7 and increases the pH to 10 or more, which is very beneficial for the body to fight many forms of sicknesses.

Rishon LeSion: *R' Chaim Abulefia* 1776-1861

In 1840, at the age of 64, R' Chaim had to deal with a terrible situation. On Rosh Hodesh Adar, a priest in Damascus had disappeared, and all the other priests convinced the governing council to find the murderer. The council, as well as the priests, were known anti-Semites who would like nothing better than to blame this on the Jews and teach them all a lesson. They hired false witnesses to testify against the Jews, stating that the priest was last seen entering the streets of the Jewish quarters, and was never seen again since. The Jewish people of course responded that the accusations were preposterous and the witnesses were obviously paid to lie. But it was no use. The honorable and wealthy Jews were imprisoned along with their Rabbanim and leaders. They were beaten and tortured terribly. R' Moshe Abulefia, son of R' Chaim, was one of the defendants imprisoned. He was forced to stand on his legs for consecutive hours, without food, drink, or sleep. The Jews tried to prove their innocence but were unsuccessful. His father, R' Chaim, could not bear the pain of his son being imprisoned and tortured. The news each day about his son's deteriorating situation brought more pain and suffering to R' Chaim, heavier each day without consolation. After long months, one Jew from Damascus managed to escape and ran for many days straight to Halab Aram Soba, where he notified the Jews there about the terrible injustices back in Damascus. The Jews alerted Moshe Montefiore, who reached out to certain people in powerful positions who were able to issue the order that the imprisoned Jews be released.

Mussar: Tikun of the Soul

We must understand that our souls have been created by Hashem the Creator and Master of everything. They are portioned directly from Hashem. The soul resides in, and is clothed by, the intelligence and understanding of man, and is grouped with the physical and mundane thoughts. When a person fulfills the Torah and purifies his mind, he is revealing his soul and releasing it from its binds to the mundane and physical. He has uncovered it from its wraps and he becomes a purified being. However, if a person thinks improperly and stores impurity within his mind, then he is suffocating the soul and embarrassing it. One must correct and complete his soul, not harm it. He is distancing himself from Hashem and his soul from its pure source. Suddenly, Hashem isn't helping him and the problems begin. He can't think straight or correctly as he has invited the impurity into his thoughts. He distances further and further away and everything seems black and depressing. Everything is Hashem's and He sustains all. If a horse is trotting, if a fruit is growing, if the sun is rising, and if technology is developing, everything is from Hashem. Impurity destroys your soul and distances you from Hashem, the source of all blessings. Have mercy on yourself and your soul and only act and think with purity, for fortunate are we in this world and the next when we succeed in doing so. May Hashem merit us, Amen.

Story

In Kiev, Russia, there was a wealthy Jew named Yeshayahu who lived in a magnificent palace. He would conduct his business all the way from Russia to Alexandria, Egypt, as well as Prague and Warsaw. Even though his wealth was great, he was very particular with a style of giving to charity. Those collecting were required to explain in great detail the exact circumstances of each unfortunate situation, and then commit to a clear plan of how every ruble would be spent. The questions, or rather the interrogations, were extensive and overwhelming. People stayed far away from him, lest them get caught up in his exhaustive conversations that were intrusive and uncomfortable. He asked how many people were in each family, how they lived, where they lived, how many rooms they had in their homes, and so on and so forth. Finding yourself near his palace meant you would be spending much of your time caught up in his long-winded one-sided conversation that seemed to never end and knew no bounds, and unfortunately the outcome was never even worthwhile.

Laws: Shabbat

1 – Every Shabbat morning we recite a number of Mizmorim from Tehillim before Baruch Sh'amar, because we do not go to work on Shabbat, we are not in a rush, and our schedules will not be disturbed by additional prayers. The first Mizmor speaks of creation, as the heavens declare Hashem's glory. The second Mizmor declares that the heavens were created through the word of Hashem. The third Mizmor speaks of David running away from Shaul, which occurred during Shabbat. The fourth Mizmor, Tefillah LeMoshe, speaks of the morning of kindness, the morning in Olam Haba, a day in which there is only good. The next Mizmor, Yoshev Beseter, is one of tragedy and misfortune, occurrences that we can avoid by observing Shabbat. The next Mizmor, Hallelu Avde Hashem, is the first of Hallel HaGadol, in which we mention and commemorate the great miracles and wonders of Hashem.

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