

## Shabbat 10/13/18 Parashah 2: Noach

The ten generations from Adam to Noach had ended in failure; mankind had stumbled into a downward spiral until God resolved that all the inhabitants of the earth would be wiped out, with the exception of Noach and his family, and enough animals to replenish the earth after the destruction.

Like Adam, the father of the entire human race, Noach would become the father of mankind after the flood.

Verse 9 states: Here is the history (or offspring) of Noach. In his generation, Noach was a man righteous and wholehearted (or perfect), (and the only one among ); Noach walked with God.

In the Chumash it is stated by Rashi "that the primary "offspring" of the righteous are their good deeds, for the worthwhile things that a persons does are his primary legacy. R' Moshe Feinstein comments that a person should love good deeds, the way he loves his own children, and that he should perform them out love, not just duty.

### Genesis 6:11

The earth was corrupt before God, the earth was filled with violence.

Other versions read, Now the earth had become corrupt before God; and the earth had become filled with robbery.

The behavior of the people deteriorated. At first they were corrupt, being guilty of immorality, and idolatry, and they sinned covertly, (just like today) before God. Later the earth became filled with robbery, which was obvious to all. (What is happening today?).

Then the entire earth was corrupted, because man is the essence of the world (It was in creation, man was given dominion over all the earth) thereby his corruption infects all of creation.

Such is the progression of sin. It begins in private, while people still have a sense of right and wrong. However, once people developed the habit of sinning, they gradually lose their shame, and immoral behavior becomes accepted, even the required norm.

In Noach's time, the immoral sexual conduct of the people extended to animals, as well, until they too cohabitated with other species.

The Midrash teaches that they stole from one another in petty ways that were not subjected to the authority of the courts. It became morally damaging in the extreme, because thievery within the letter of the Commandment weakens the conscience and thereby corrupts the social fabric.

God decreed that a generation that behaved so immorally had forfeited its right to exist, but even then, He extended mercy to them.

God could have saved Noach in many ways. Think about it, Why did He burden Noach with the task of constructing an Ark for 120 years?

So that when the curious would see him cutting down lumber and working on the Ark for so long, they would ask him why. He would answer them "God is about to bring a flood on the world because of you sins", and they would thus repent.

But instead of seizing the opportunity, Noach's contemporaries scoffed at him.

### Psalm 73

Genesis 8:20–9:17 The major covenants of God begin here with the covenant made with Noach (Noah). According to 2 Peter 3:3–7, there is a distinction between the former heavens and earth and the present heavens and earth. The former were created in the beginning and were destroyed in a universal flood. The "present heavens and earth" are reserved for fire and are kept for judgment and the destruction of ungodly men." Second Peter 3:13 affirms that believers "wait for new heavens and a new earth" to come. This understanding is foundational to God's covenant with Noach.

The Noachide Covenant comes After the flood, Noach exited the ark and built an altar to the Lord with burnt offerings. The Lord promises Noach that the earth would never be flooded again because of man's sin. This covenant is made with Noach, his sons and all human descendants. It is also made with all the living creatures: birds, cattle, and beasts of the earth. The specific covenant is that the present earth will remain, and planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will continue. A flood will never again destroy all life on earth. The sign of the Noachide Covenant is the rainbow, which is a reminder of

God's promise and a sign to humankind that God will keep his covenant. It is traditional in both Judaism and Christianity to recognize by a blessing or prayer the covenant of God when one sees a rainbow. The obligation of humankind in this covenant is related to blood: human life must not be taken by man or by animal; and animal life may be taken for food, but the blood should not be consumed with the meat.

God's covenant with Noach is important because it is used in Scripture to connect with the other four covenants. In each of those covenants we see a claim that as long as day and night, season and the earth remain, God will maintain his covenants with Avraham (Abraham), Isra'el, David, and the new covenant described by Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah).