

Noach Noah Blessed be our Superintendent**Torah:** Gen. 6:9-11:32

(1) **7:22:** *Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died.* The Bible clearly teaches that all terrestrial life on the planet expired during the year that the planet was flooded. The family in the ark were the only survivors. All the washing and reshaping of the planet occurred while they were being bounced around in the safety of the deep water.

(2) **9:28:** *Noah lived another 350 years after the flood and he died.* Noah had seen the planet succumb to the universal rule of evil and he lived to see his descendants quickly succumb to another take over by the enemy and he saw the next great redemptive intervention of the L-rd. In the life of Peleg, the earth was divided into languages and scattered over the earth. He died knowing that we would survive.

(3) **10:32:** *These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, according to their nations. It is from them that the nations came out and spread over the earth after the flood.* It can be demonstrated that all the races of mankind are a single species with a common ancestor, despite our genetic diversity into sub species (colours, heights, etc). We are all distantly related and are all of equal worth and importance to the Father.

(4) **11:4:** *They said again, come on, let us build a city and a tower whose summit touches the sky and let us make ourselves a name so that we would not be dispersed over the surface of all the earth.* Their sin was not building a city or giving themselves a name, but it was the tower they built to decipher, control (predict), unlock the future and by pass the need to submit to G-d. Magic and most forms of religious observance that use the horoscope or the stars are an attempt to gain control over the Creator, instead of allowing His control to be extended over us.

Haftarah: Is. 54:1-55:5

(5) 54:10: *When the mountains shall go away and the hills shall crumble, my love shall not go away and my covenant of peace shall not crumble says YHVH who has compassion you.* Nothing can ever overthrow, submerge or erase the love of G-d for His people and His compassion for them – and indeed for all mankind.

(6) 54:17: *Every weapon forged against you shall have no effect and every tongue which shall rise up against you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of YHVH, such is the salvation which shall come from me says YHVH.* We shall see all the opposition we encounter fizzle and be prevented from destroying us. We can be beaten, killed, chased and persecuted, but never into oblivion and all of their hostility shall have a boomerang/backfire effect

Brit Chadashah: Matt. 24:36-46

(7) 24:46: *Blessed is the servant, whom his master will find at work when he arrives.* We are called to do His work, not to predict His timing. His work is to love Him fully and our neighbour as ourselves as we share His love and the message of His Kingdom. This is our job, nothing more, nothing less.

In the final analysis (which is where we should live), He is in final control of the final direction of mankind and wants to exercise the same priorities of that final control in our lives, no matter who we are, where we are or what is going on in our lives.

As long as we let His superintendence rule our lives, we are as safe as Noah's family in the arc because nothing can stop either His love or His coming judgment – which one are you living for (are you dwelling under the control of) ?

Ps. 29 (John p. 27)

Jewish Hero: Shem

L-rd's Table

From today's Torah portion, we see the two acts of severe mercy which the L-rd used to ensure the survival of His righteous core among all the generations, nations and families of the earth. I want to briefly outline three things for you this morning as we prepare for both the L-rd's Table and our AGM.

He does it all for the righteous core and even though he loves us all, He loves us enough to allow us to determine our own spiritual fate within the immutable limits He has established.

Recently there was a lot of fuss about people signing up to go to Mars – the only problem with that is that the same moral and spiritual problems which have plagued the earth would be transported there. And despite the fact that so much energy and resources are being expended to discover life on other planets or in the distant galaxies of our universe, we have found none and are still unable to contend with the complexities of life on our own planet.

What does this mean? It means that life has been unfolding since our first ancestors were created and the purpose of that life has never shifted – even though it has been ignored and maligned by too many in the sad history of our race. Someone said that they had trouble believing that a loving G-d would allow evil to exist in the world, but I think they are seeing it backwards.

Our loving G-d allows evil to exist in order that every one might have the chance to repent and seek for meaning and purpose in their lives. As well, He is allowing the weeds to grow alongside His wheat, rather than damaging the few good ones amidst all the bad apples. He is patient and calling to each of us and all of us. Those who respond are the ones this world exists for, not the liars, the murderers and cheaters which he patiently puts up with (and which His superintendence limits, like an unruly or vicious dog straining at a leash which it can never break).

The second thing I want to say to you is that the L-rd wiped our ancestor's slate clean and so many people who could have lived, but who chose to succumb to the spiralling darkness and violence of the world before the flood, perished, even though He gave them 120 years to repent.

Our world is heading for a similar final destruction, even with all of our sophisticated jargon and gimmicks, because with all of our discoveries and supposed advances we are no closer to either discovering a purpose for life outside of the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob or to dealing with the social and political and personal problems we have been battling with since our race was first excluded from the garden.

If the truth be told, we are slowly turning back into the global village which has existed at least twice in our nefarious history – once in the days of Noah, and once more in the days of Peleg, before the splendour of linguistic diversity three up protective walls between the families of the earth.

You see, in a very few generations after our ancestors came out of the ark and began to repopulate the earth, the tide of evil rose up again and threatened to engulf the new humanity which dwelt in a single city and spoke a single language.

Rather than wiping the slate clean through a second flood, our L-rd divided us up and scattered us so that the progress of sin and darkness would be slowed down generationally and not be allowed to fill the earth with darkness and violence as it had done before the flood.

How did He do it? We are not told, but we all descend from those people who were scattered and into every language He built the necessary concepts and notions which would be needed to piece together the story of His redemption in our blessed Messiah.

You see, there are so many differences in how we speak and yet there are so many similarities in what we end up saying that the Gospel is able to be intelligible for every culture and language on the planet.

Yes our planet is turning back into a village – a global village, with one language and one economy and soon, perhaps one government, but this should not alarm us and cause us to run around proclaiming that the sky is falling as we dive for shelter in theological caves that are really traps set by the enemy.

What we should see is that just as He has always been in control over the final course of human history, He is allowing things to go only so far, so that He may harvest the righteous core and be found by those who truly seek Him.

We are moving steadily towards His return and the end of human history, but His return is really the point of human history. We were born into a world infected by a life and death struggle between the enemy and the light and when we see the light dimming, we should not panic and doubt the truth of the light. Instead we should understand the purposes of G-d, which are to call all humanity back to Him and to His purposes, which He fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, our blessed Messiah – which brings me to my third point and my conclusion.

There are as many competing stories about the origin and purpose of the world as there were probably boats in Noah's day. Some of these explanations are religious and tell strange stories about strange gods who want us to do strange things, while others are supposedly more scientific, but still want us to do strange things that are even more horrible than what the Canaanite religion required from its worshipers.

And you that for me there is no worse aberration of human justice and fairness than the escalating rate of womb murder, which is also called abortion. Our society is not aging; we are slaughtering our babies and then complaining about the foreigners who are coming in to replace those we have murdered. It is functionally a modern form of Moloch worship, where our babies are being sacrificed on the altar of sexual immorality.

But we need not lose heart, because our society may lose control and our whole world may come crashing down, but you will never shut down G-d's government and He will never permit the annihilation of life on this planet, as long as there is a righteous core which is seeking His face and which is speaking out against the darkness and walking in the light.

This light is both spiritual and religious, and I want to close with this. Spiritual in the Bible looks at both the motivation of our hearts and what we do in response to that motivation. (I was hungry, sick, naked, in prison and you came to me).

It is more than just being nice to people, it is the understanding that we exist to do what we know is right and to find and fulfill our purpose for living. A pretty tall order in the midst of all the folly, the lust and the violence our world is filling up with and one which more and more people and cultures are giving up on – or replacing with agendas of political correctness which target and want to suppress all and any expressions of religious faith.

You see, when we say we have the final or ultimate truth and that all other explanations are wrong because they present a flawed picture of the wonder of who the L-rd is, we are not calling for their extermination in a violated jihad against all infidels as we seize control of the world by force.

Our mandate is to call the world to repentance and to the light of G-d's Word and our mandate extends to being as radical an influence as we can be, but is never a call to arms or to inquisition as some misguided pseudo-believers have done in the past.

How is our mandate doing? How is your mandate doing (spiritual and religious)?

G-d is neither asleep nor uninvolved – He is calling His righteous core to Himself – how are you responding to this call?

He has acted twice with severe mercy and it is this mercy which keeps our world going until His purposes are fulfilled and all the passengers in the second ark (the Ark of His Son) are on board.

His control is in control and He wants to be in control of us and our lives and our shul. We will settle for nothing less.

Shalom.