

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

2ND EDITION / ISSUE 2

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NOAH

1 Cheshvan 5775

Kohen - First Aliya: Page 34, Chapter 6, verses 9 - 22

- ✚ Hashem commands Noah to construct an ark of specific materials and dimensions in order that Noah, and his family along with every sort of living animal, bird and insect male and female would be saved.

Levi - Second Aliya: Page 36, Chapter 7, verses 1 - 16

- ✚ On completion Hashem orders Noah to begin gathering seven pairs male and female of every clean (kosher) animals and birds along with two pairs male and female of all the other species inhabiting the earth and lead them into the ark.
- ✚ As the rain starts to fall marking the beginning of the flood; Noah himself enters the ark, with his wife, three sons and their wives accompanying him.
- ✚ The rain lasted for 40 days and 40 nights continuously; covering and destroying every living thing left on the planet surface.

Sh'lisi - Third Aliya: Page 38, Chapter 7, verse 17 - Chapter 8 verse 14

- ✚ Once 40 days had past Hashem remembered Noah and all the inhabitants aboard the ark and caused the rain to cease falling and sent a large wind to commence drying up the land.
- ✚ 150 days later the flood waters has subsided enough for the ark to finally rest itself upon the top of mount Ararat.
- ✚ Noah sent out a raven to check if the flood had dried up completely but it came back, He then twice sent out a dove. The first time it came back with an olive branch, but did not return at all the second time. So Noah knew it was now safe enough to disembark.

R'Vi' - Fourth Aliya: Page 42, Chapter 8, verse 15 - Chapter 9 verse 7

- ✚ Noah built an altar and gave korbanas (Sacrifices) to Hashem as a thank you for saving his and his family's life.
- ✚ Hashem blessed Noah and his sons to become fruitful and multiply in order to repopulate the earth.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya: Page 45, Chapter 9, verses 8 – 17

- ✚ Hashem makes a pact with Noah that he would never cause a flood to cover the entire world again
- ✚ As a token of the covenant, Hashem formed a rainbow in the sky which would serve as a constant reminder of his pledge.
- ✚ The seven Noahide laws are introduced.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya: Page 46, Chapter 9, verses 18 - 32

- ✚ The lineages of Noah's three sons Shem, Ham and Japheth are recorded in detail.

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya: Page 51, Chapter 11, verses 1 - 32

- ✚ As a united entity, the people began constructing 'The Tower of Babel' which they hoped to reach right up to heaven to be able to connect with Hashem himself.
- ✚ In order to thwart their plans, Hashem confused the people by creating and mixing up their one spoken language into many different ones and dispersed them throughout the entire world
- ✚ Avram (Abram) is born to Terach and is later married to Sarai (Sarah)

Maftir — Page 944, 2nd day Rosh Chodesh, Bamidbar Chapter 28 Verses 9 - 15

- ✚ The Maftir relates to the special additional korbanos (Sacrifices) which were brought up to the Beis HaMikdash (Temple) which were offered up on Rosh Chodesh

Haftorah — Page 1188, 2nd day Rosh Chodesh Yishayah (Isaiah) chapter 66 verses 1 - 25

OVERVIEW:

- ✚ Yishayah relates to the fact that today is also Rosh Chodesh.
- ✚ He describes the ultimate downfall of all our enemies during the war of Gog and Magog.
- ✚ Yishayah explains that this world is the manifestation of Hashem's presence and glory. Yet, we are incapable and sometimes unwilling to properly recognize his existence at all.
- ✚ Even when the Beis HaMikdash (Temple) stood the B'nei Yisroel (Children of Israel) did not appreciate their opportunity to be close to Hashem as they were at Sinai and serve Him with great love and awe.
- ✚ Yishayah forewarns that insincere expressions of devotion are tantamount to offering blemished sacrifices and Hashem will punish those who lack sincerity and devotion.

LINK TO SEDRA READING:

- ✚ As it is Shabbat Rosh Chodesh today the Haftorah is normally linked only to the subject of the Maftir and not the regular Haftorah generally read for parshas Noach.
- ✚ Nevertheless; today marks the 1st day of the new month of Cheshvan which is often referred to as Mar Cheshvan because the word Mar in Hebrew means bitter.
- ✚ Some say that this month is called bitter because - especially in contrast to the preceding month of Tishrei that had 4 major holidays - it is a month without any holidays or events to commemorate. That is except for one. It was in this month of Cheshvan when the Flood commenced. This I think although tenuous is a justifiable link between parshas Noach and the Haftorah.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION:

I don't know about you but when I see a rainbow in the sky, I'm always awe struck by its beauty. However when I later reflect on the reason why Hashem gave us the rainbow. I wonder if my first reaction should have different.

The natural phenomenon of a rainbow is the symbol of the very first covenant entered into by Hashem with the earth and all of humanity, guaranteeing "that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."

Rabbi Samson Raphael asks: How can a rainbow which must have existed before the flood, now symbolise the expression of Hashem's new 'Divine covenant' with us? He answers as follows. When one looks at a rainbow, one sees seven magnificent hues or colours: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet; but as any scientist will tell you, they are not really there. Basically it's just refracted white light emanating from the sun's rays passing through the rain clouds which emits the appearance of these seven distinct colours.

Rabbi Samson Raphael explains, in order to truly understand the symbolism, we must realize that the rainbow is at best only half a symbol; the complete symbol would be a whole circle, comprising two halves together. This phenomenon is a metaphor for the human race too. Meaning that this covenant instituted by Hashem obligates us 'Man' as well as Hashem himself. Hashem's half rainbow assures that He personally will not destroy the world. However He did not guarantee that the world will not destroy itself by other means.

People appear in many different colours, religions and race: However, metaphysically within the human form, there's no difference whether the rest of the world have to follow the seven Noahide laws whereas we are obligated to perform six hundred and thirteen mitzvot's, every one of us is the same and are all responsible in saving our planet. So when you next look at a rainbow, remind yourself that Hashem has fulfilled his half of the bargain, of not destroying the earth, maybe now is the time to fulfil our half of the covenant too.

