



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

### The Waters of Noach

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Adjunct

**"Like the waters of Noach shall this be to Me..." (Haftorah for Noach - Yeshaya 54:9)**

This week, we read the story of Noach. Noach remained pure and uncorrupted in a world drowning in wickedness and immorality. As the Torah itself bears witness (Bereishis 6:9), "Noach was a righteous man, perfect in his generation." Noach lived a solitary, righteous life for six centuries and did not let the swirling storms of sin overcome him. Thus, when the whole world was engulfed in the raging waters of the flood, Noach was spared and he eventually rebuilt the world.

The Midrash teaches us, however, that despite his personal greatness, Noach was faulted for not appealing to Hashem for mercy on behalf of his generation. Thus, he is blamed, at least in part, for their destruction. This is why the flood is referred to as "the waters of Noach." Had Noach prayed for the people of his generation, the devastation might have been prevented.

The Alshich adds that Noach is faulted for failing to influence his generation to do teshuva (repentance). Instead, he spent 120 years building an ark and hoped that when people would ask him what he was doing, he would then warn them of the upcoming catastrophe. He did not go out, as Avraham Avinu would later do, to bring people to a belief in G-d.

Rav Pam once expressed that in many ways our generation is comparable to that generation of Noach. While we may feel insulated and protected from the ravages of impurity and depravity around us, we must feel a sense of responsibility to our fellow Jews who are exposed to and influenced by immoral and atheistic views that abound in our society. Therefore, we should not repeat the error for which Noach is criticized, but we should do our utmost to bring our fellow Jews closer to a life of Torah and Mitzvos.

**Wishing you a Good Shabbos!**

## SPONSOR

To sponsor a Shabbos Delights, please contact [info@gwckollel.org](mailto:info@gwckollel.org)

## TABLE TALK

### Point to Ponder

**And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years... (9:29)**

If one calculates the years that Noah lived, it was really nine hundred and fifty-one years, as he was six hundred at the time of the flood, and he lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood. That does not include the year that he lived on the teivah during the flood. However, since the constellations were not functioning during the flood, that year does not count (Chizkuni).

In all other calculations we do count that year (8:13). Furthermore, the verse says that the teivah landed on the seventh month. If that year did not count, how did the months advance?

**What is the similarity and dissimilarity between Noah and Moshe?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

**Which creation was given the opportunity to live the longest?**  
**Answer: The human being given the opportunity to live the longest was Adam. The animal given the opportunity to live the longest was the Levyoson (Leviathan).**

### Parsha Riddle

## HATORAH V' HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In *parashas Noach*, Hashem instructs Noah to enter the Ark before the Deluge and to exit it afterward:

You shall enter the Ark – you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you (6:18)

Go forth from the Ark: you and your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. Every living being that is with you of all flesh, of birds, of animals, and all moving things that move on the earth – order them out with you, and let them teem on the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth. (*Bereishis* 8:16-17)

The Talmud Bavli comments on these verses:

**And Rabbi Yoḥanan says: From here, the Sages derived and said that it was prohibited to engage in intercourse while in the ark, as when Noah and his family entered, the husbands and wives were listed separately, and when they emerged, the husbands were listed with their wives. (*Sanhedrin* 108b, and cf. Rashi to 8:16-17)**

The Talmud Yerushalmi, after presenting this exegesis, continues as follows:

R. Avun says: it is written "They were lonely in privation and hunger" (*Iyov* 30:3) – at a time that you see privation come to the world, make your wife lonely (i.e., abstain from conjugal relations with her). R. Levi says: it is written "Now to Yosef were born two sons" – when? - "when the year of famine had not set in" (*Bereishis* 41:50 - i.e., Yosef abstained from conjugal relations during the year of famine) (*Ta'anis* 1:6, and similar in *Bereishis Rabbah* 34:7).

The inference from Yosef appears in the Talmud Bavli as well:

**Reish Lakish said: It is prohibited for a person to have conjugal relations in years of famine, as it is stated: "And to Yosef were born two sons before the year of famine came" (Genesis 41:50). It was taught in a baraita: Nevertheless, those without children may have marital relations in years of famine, as they must strive to fulfill the mitzva to be fruitful and multiply. (*Ta'anis* 11a)**

While the Bavli mentions famine specifically, the Yerushalmi apparently extends the admonition to abstain from conjugal relations to other calamities as well (see Rema OC 240:12), although some limit this to disasters involving the food supply, as opposed to plague and war (see the sources cited in *Elyah Rabbah ibid. os* 20).

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

## KIDS KORNER

### Who Am I?

#### #1 WHO AM I ?

1. I refer to a box.
2. I am not nature.
3. In English I am for Torah.
4. In the end I got stuck in a 'a rut'.

#### #2 WHO AM I ?

1. My name is for non-Jews.
2. I needed gloves not mittens.
3. Was I righteous?
4. I was permitted to eat meat.

#### Last Week's Answers

**#1 BeHaB** (Two Mondays and a Thursday, Holiday desecration caused me, Some fast for me, Pray for sick children.)

**#2 The letter "Beis"** (I am two, I am with or in, I begin the beginning, I sound like a house.)

## KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

**REVOLUTIONIZE**  
your Torah learning!



SEMICHAT CHAVER PROGRAM

## SEMICHAS CHAVER PROGRAM

Tuesdays 8:45pm at YISE – NEW TOPIC begins Oct. 24  
To find out more or to register visit  
[thegreaterwashingtongcommunitykollel.com/scp](http://thegreaterwashingtongcommunitykollel.com/scp)  
Men's Programming