

Torah Study

This is our Torah study for this week. We also have an accompanying teaching available for the portion entitled, "Be Prepared and On Track Spiritually." Noach means, "comfort" and is the name of the righteous man that walked with God and saved mankind from the flood. We see messianic figures throughout the Torah and Noah was one of those messianic figures. One righteous man, Noah, saves the world; Yeshua the Messiah also saves the world. Noah's name spelled backwards means grace. Noah found grace ($\eta - khane$) in the eyes of Yehováh the Hebrew says. The portion of Noach begins by telling us that Noah had three sons and that he walked with God.

God saw that the earth was corrupt and filled with violence so He told Noah that He would save him and his family. He was to build an ark because God was about to destroy the earth. Noah was to bring two of every animal into the ark along with food and 7 pairs of clean animals and birds.

Noah was 600 years old when the earth flooded. Water came up from the ground and down from the sky and the Bible says that God shut the ark Himself. It rained for 40 days so that even the mountains were covered. Everything under the water died and the ark was afloat for 150 days and then the water subsided. The ark came to rest on the 17th day of the seventh month (Tishri) on one of mountains in the Ararat range. Notice it is not on Mr. Ararat, but on one of the mountains in that range. Noah sent out birds to see if the water had subsided and by the first day of the first month (Nisan) the earth had dried up and Noah and all that was in the ark departed on the 28th day of the second month (Iyar) near Shavuot (Pentecost).

Many think the story of Noah is a fairy tale, but when we read the text, specific times and dates are given. Since we see specific details like this, it would lead us to conclude that this was no fairly tale. They say that Noah's ark has been discovered in Turkey. Turkey actually has a visitor's center at the location of the ruins of Noah's Ark in the Ararat range of mountains. I should note that science often tries to discredit biblical findings and that is probably why this is not widely known.

God must have wanted Noah's ark to be found and he put it on Ron Wyatt's (an amateur archaeologist) heart to go look for it. After he found it, there wasn't that much of it exposed so he came back to the United States and began praying for God to expose more of it. There was an earthquake in that region and he then planned another trip back and found quite a bit more of the Ark exposed. Numerous studies have been made since its discovery and the site

have been authenticated.

Yeshua said in Luke 19:40, "But he answered them, "I tell you that if they keep quiet, the stones will shout!" It is ironic that man has ignored God, yet even the petrified rocks of Noah's Ark shout out from the earth exclaiming that God and His word is true. You can see a video about Noah's Ark at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoTkguzRaCU&t=205s.

This portion should make us think about how God wants to use us. God told Noah to build an Ark, and God gave him the drive to complete the task. So, whatever God gives you to do, be faithful and keep at it. Remember, we don't have to try to do everything; just do the things God is leading you to do. Noach walked with God and did what was right. He was righteous because he did what was right.

What are some of the ways we can accomplish walking with God?

Agree every day to keep His commandments forever – keeping God's commandments is one way to walk with God.

God expects us to do what He already gave us.

God says we should hate what God hates. We love others, but hate sin.

If we think anything wrong in our minds, immediately correct our thinking.

Be thankful to God.

Praise God.

Live in God's presence; He sees us and is with us.

Learn to discern between God's voice and the voice of the world.

Noah made a sacrifice to God near Shavuot or on Shavuot and God said He would not flood the whole earth again. The rainbow would be a sign of that. Three major events in history happened on Shavuot. Noah gave thanks on Shavuot for God saving him; the Mount Sinai law was given on Shavuot; and the Holy Spirit was given on Shavuot.

The portion continues; all plant life and animals could be food for man, but they were not to eat the blood of animals. God would hold those accountable who take the life of a person because God made man in His image. It says that Noah walked with God and so we see man communicating and hearing from God. God created man in His image so it appears man was created to be in fellowship with God from the beginning. Shem, Ham, and Yefet were the sons of Noah and they reestablished human life on the earth.

Ham saw Noah naked and so Noah cursed Ham's son Kena'an because of that. Noah lived to be 950 years old. And then the genealogies of Noah's descendants are given. They all spoke one language at that time, but the Lord made them to speak other languages so that they couldn't complete the Tower of Babel. More genealogy is given and the portion ends with Abraham leaving Ur and stopping off at Haran. In the next portion Abraham goes on to the land of Canaan.

In the Haftarah it says that **God will never forget Israel.** We need to remember that. "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no

longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed;" Isaiah 54:9-10 NKJV.

In Isaiah 53 it talks about Yeshua our Messiah coming and giving Himself for our sins. Since we believe that, we should also take seriously God's promises to Israel. We want to be honest with our interpretation of the Bible. It clearly says that God is NOT done with Israel.

Noach did what was right and saved the world. We too can bring blessings to the world by living right. Just as Noach walked with God, we should make it our aim in life to walk with God and keep His commandments. Noah's Ark has been discovered, but more important than that, is for each of us to discover the mighty God of the universe. After that, we need some direction in our lives. See our teaching called, "Be On Track Spiritually" that accompanies this Torah study.