



#2 Noach Genesis 6:9 to 11:32
By Moshe Schwab
Torah Study 2024

Today's portion is Noach and is the Hebrew name for Noah. Noah 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 (יָחַד – khāne) in the eyes of Yēhōvāh the Hebrew says.

The portion of Noach begins by telling us that Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth and that Noah walked with God. Walking with God means that he kept God's commandments, and that Noah also listened to God's personal directions. God had Noah build an Ark. Genesis 6:22 NKJV says, "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."

I would like to begin by talking about God's provision. God is our provider. He has done that through all that He has created, through His commandments, through the Holy Spirit given by the Messiah Yeshua, and so much more. All that God gives us is intended to provide for us in many ways and to make us a better people, a good people, and make us into a people that is optimal for life, a good and pure people.

God wants us to be the kind of people He intended us to be, a successful, good, and blessed people. There are some things in life that can distort truth and cause us not to be what God wants us to be, and we will address some of those things in our teaching for today, especially what we call, "Spiritual Warfare."

Many of us think in terms of our job, education level, or what we do in life. In our families, children depend on their parents. Some parents have jobs that provide for some of the things we need in life. There is a lot to consider in life. But the most basic concept of our provision comes from God in every area of life no matter what. For example, without God we would have no food, building materials, land, metals, or even rocks. Without God, nothing would exist. God tells Noah in Genesis 9:3 NKJV, "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs." God is our provider.

Unbelievers think this concept is a fairy tale because they do not believe in God. We do not need a father figure as some deceptively say. They are not right, they are deluded. As we have talked about at times, there is a spiritual side to life that they are unaware of because of their unbelief. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJV says, "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe."

Rabbi Shaul is talking about demonic spiritual powers that are at work behind the scenes and blinding the minds of people so they will not believe. These people have the ability to believe but instead they listen to demonic spiritual powers that keep them away from truth and God.

In Isaiah 14:12 it says that these spiritual demonic powers work to weaken the nations and the lives of mankind. The devil spirit world rebelled against God, and it wants to destroy mankind. So, we are in a spiritual battle. Rabbi Shaul says Ephesians 6:10-12 NKJV, "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." We are in a physical world, but we are in a spiritual battle. We need to pursue the goodness of God through His commandments and the help of the Holy Spirit instead of wickedness. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NKJV says, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

The atheist says there is no God, and that we are no more than dust and rocks, but we know better. People that believe in God often experience the goodness of God in their lives through God's commandments. Therefore, we do not believe in something that is hidden. God will also do things on behalf of His people. Yeshua said that those who believe would experience God. As believers, we do not have to have blind faith in something that is not seen. John 11:40 NKJV says, "Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" Yeshua then raised a man from the dead.

God reveals himself in the complexity of creation, but since He is the creator, He can do supernatural things for us so that we do not have to have blind faith. God can do anything because He is the creator, and He did amazing works for Israel to help them escape their terrible conditions in Egypt. Exodus 14:31 NKJV says, "Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses." They saw what God did and believed. If we believe, we can also experience God.

Following our introduction there is a section on what is often termed "Spiritual Warfare" to cover this subject in more depth. Let's continue on with our introduction.

We live a patterned life that is essentially beautiful and good and not just a life of frills and made-up ideals. We live to a solid standard and not a wasteful life.

Our life is to be patterned and developed from God's commandments. Some people think all there is to life is to eat, drink, and be merry or some personal physical or emotional thrill. They waste their life on things that are only temporary and fleeting.

Those that think they can do anything they want will one day cease to exist and nothing will become of what they strived for. Ezekiel 7:11 NKJV says, "Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness; none of them shall remain, none of their multitude, none of them; nor shall there be wailing for them." Can anyone tell us about someone who lived in the 8th century?

Not many people can. Just like the wind, the people of the 8th century are gone. Psalms 103:16 NKJV says, "For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more."

The followers of God and His commandments have a different future. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NKJV says, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." The world and its sin will pass away, but those who believe in God, keep His commandments, and believe in the Messiah Yeshua will live on forever. 1 John 2:17 NKJV says, "The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

We have direction in life that sets us on a proactive path (this short section is repeated in our section on spiritual warfare).

How amazing it is to have direction in life that is from a good God. We can be satisfied in life no matter what our status in life is, whether rich or poor. I have known believers who were poor that were satisfied and happy in life. I knew a very rich person tell me that all they had was meaningless. God is the good God for all the world and every kind of people if only people will accept His goodness and help in life. Deuteronomy 10:12-14 NKJV says, "Fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it."

God is the creator and has good intentions for us. Deuteronomy 6:24 NKJV says, "And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always." God always has our best interests at heart if we will only trust Him. Psalms 34:8 NKJV says, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" When we do what God says, we are doing good. Psalms 37:23 NKJV says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way." We can become a good people through God and then also have a good life in His future eternal kingdom. Psalms 37:27-28 NKJV says, "Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore. For the LORD loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever."

Sometimes we envy those who are evil and who do not suffer the consequences. Proverbs 23:17-18 NKJV says, "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day; for surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off." We can live a good life in the present and we can have hope in the eternal life that God promises to those who do good, those who follow God. The prophet Daniel tells us that there is such a thing as eternal life for those who follow God's commandments. Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever."

Those who are wise are those who believe in God and keep His commandments. Daniel is referring to Deuteronomy when he talks about those who are wise. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your **wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" It is my hope that you will be wise and lead many to do what is right, and shine like the stars forever.

This is our section on "Spiritual Warfare."

The term Spiritual Warfare is used to describe the battle we are in with evil demonic forces that we do not see. We believe spiritual awareness is an important part of our Messianic life. The Bible says there is a devil and that we are in a **spiritual** battle. That's why we use the words "spiritual warfare." We wrestle against evil spiritual powers in order to do what is "right and good."

Ephesians 6:11-12 NKJV says,

" Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

The devil is against us, and we must resist his attacks. 1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith." We must resist the devil and sin.

1 John 3:4 NKJV says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." Sin is not keeping the law it says. And in verse 8 it says, "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning."

People think that the choices they make in life are inconsequential and they think they can choose to do anything they want. But if they are not following God's good commandments, they are being deceived by devil spirits either directly or indirectly. A person will have a sinful thought that a devil spirit speaks to their mind and then they will act on it. That is direct demonic deception. Sometimes people act on ideas or ideals that are wrong. In either case, it is the devil that is at work behind the scenes to deceive people. People often don't realize what is going on.

God's wants what is best and good for us and in the end, eternal life with a good and all-powerful God.

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belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it."

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Do not be deceived by sin or by demonic forces.

2 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV says, "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted." Eve was directly tempted by the devil that spoke through a serpent. The devil told her that if she disobeyed, she would be like God. The devil says in Genesis 3:5 NKJV, "God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God." It is the same lie the devil told himself in Isaiah. Isaiah 14:12-13 NKJV says, "O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." The devil wanted to be God and that is what people do when they sin. They are saying to God that they know better than God when they sin.

What does science and medicine often say about devil spirits? They say they are not real; it is just a disease, a conditioned response, or a neural disorder. When we think of the devil what image do we see? We may think of an imaginary dark red creature with horns. The image makes us think that the devil is not real and that all this is nonsense. That is part of the plan and deception of the devil.

Extraordinary or habitual sinful activities are sometimes not just bad habits or due to disease or due to conditioned responses. Sometimes people can get sick or are born that way, but the devil can confuse some of us into thinking that that is just who we are.

Devil spirits are real, in Acts, the man with the devil spirit leaped on seven men and overpowered them so the seven men left the house wounded and naked. Acts 19:16 NKJV says, "Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." The devil spirit caused the man to lose control.

We can have control of our life by following God's commandments and resisting the devil. Yeshua is over all including the devil.

Ephesians 1:19-22 NKJV says,

And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet.

Therefore, when we use the name of Yeshua with faith, the devil must leave. We can say, "Get out" to the devil spirit "in the name of Yeshua." Matthew 10:1 NKJV says, "And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease." We have power over the devil through Yeshua in His name. Luke 10:17 NKJV says, "Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

You can use the name you call Yeshua in your own language, but I think it is better to get used to using Yeshua's real name. Remember, you must say it in faith, or you may leave the room naked and wounded. Here are some examples of Yeshua casting out devil spirits. See Mark 1:23-27, 5:13, 7:25-29, and 9:25. New Testament believers also cast out devil spirits. See Acts 5:16 and 8:7.

The Jews understood there are devil spirits. In Acts 19:13-16, it says that some unbelieving Jews tried to cast out a devil spirit. That's why the New Testament portion talks about the casting out of spirits. It was something revealed to the ancient Rabbis. The typical Jewish method for casting out devil spirits was to obtain the devil spirit's name. Since a dumb and deaf person could not communicate, the rabbis said only the messiah would cast out a dumb and deaf spirit. Yeshua cast out a dumb and deaf spirit in Mark 9:25 which says, "When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!'"

The Jews and ancient believers knew about devil spirits. Yeshua is Jewish and Shaul was Jewish. In Luke 4:36 NKJV it says the people back then understood Yeshua was casting out devil spirits. Luke 4:36 NKJV says, "Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves,

saying, 'What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.'"

The devil spirits are against us and will try to sidetrack our spiritual life. Genesis 1:26 NKJV says, "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." We are created in God's likeness with the ability to decide, think, create and so much more. Since we are created in the image of God, the devil wants to degrade and destroy mankind because the devil has rebelled against God. Ezekiel 28:14-15 NKJV says, "You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you." In Isaiah 14:12-14, we find out that the devil wanted to be God and rebelled against God.

Yeshua describes the devil in John 8:44 NKJV which says, "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." The devil is a murderer and the father of lies. There is no truth to what the devil has to say and in the ways he deceives people.

We need to know about the devil and how he works. 2 Corinthians 2:11 NKJV says, "Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices." God's people need to know that we are in a spiritual battle!

Not all magic is devil spirit backed like slight of hand or some type of trickery. Some activities are devil spirit backed. Deuteronomy 18:9-11 NKJV says, "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead." Idols and different kinds of diviners often have devil spirits attached to them or with them. Zechariah 10:2 NKJV says, "For the idols speak delusion; the diviners envision lies, and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain."

Sin (which is not following God's commandments) is backed by devil spirits because it is rebellion against God. The devil tries to influence people and sometimes gives people suggestions. If a person gives place to the devil, the devil can control a person in certain areas of their life. For example, if a person lies a lot, a lying spirit can influence or even control that person and make them lie. The same is true for sexual sin or other sins.

The Bible says we shouldn't allow the devil a place in our lives; instead, live good lives.

Ephesians 4:26-32 NKJV says,

Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And

do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

We need to be careful with unforgiveness and divisive attitudes.

Romans 16:17 NKJV says,

"Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them."

We need to watch our attitudes and what we say to ourselves.

2 Cor. 10:3-5 NKJV says,

For although we do live in the world, we do not wage war in a worldly way; because the weapons we use to wage war are not worldly. On the contrary, they have God's power for demolishing strongholds. We demolish arguments and every arrogance that raises itself up against the knowledge of God; we take every thought captive and make it obey the Messiah.

The devil is the destroyer.

Revelation 12:9 NKJV says,

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Also see, Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:15-16; John 8:44; and Hebrews 2:14.

The devil is a deceiver.

1 John 4:1 NKJV says,

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Also see, 2 Tim. 4:1-4; and 2 John 1:7.

If believers don't resist the devil they can be influenced and even controlled by the devil. Some argue that possession means they are owned – the devil doesn't own anyone, but believers and unbelievers alike can give themselves over to behaviors that the devil can control; we call these demonic strongholds in people.

We can break demonic strongholds.

James 4:7-8 NKJV says,

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Notice that it says that a person must resist the devil spirit and stop sinning.

Also see, Daniel 10:1-21; John 8:36; John 17:15; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Ephesians 6:1-13; and 1 Peter 5:8-11.

We have victory over the devil through Yeshua.

Colossians 2:15 NKJV says, "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

In Acts 19:13-16, even though they called on the name of Yeshua, they did not believe in Yeshua. The power is not there outside of a believing relationship with Yeshua.

* We must believe and trust in Yeshua.

* The person being controlled must also be willing to take action on their own and fight the demonic impulse – we should have holy contempt and resist the devil. The person should be fed up with the devil, and not want to sin any more or be controlled any more.

We have authority and power through Yeshua and we each must stand and fight spiritually.

Ephesians 6:10-13 NKJV says,

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Yeshua wants something better for us.

In John chapter 10 Yeshua talks about the religious leaders of His time. They were immersed in the world and the ways of the world and influenced by the devil.

John 10:9-11 NKJV says,

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

The leaders of Yeshua's time had bought into the devil's corrupt system.

The devil steals, kills, and destroys, but Yeshua came to give us life.

Yeshua gives us back our lives and wants us to engage in spiritual warfare. Luke 9:1 NKJV says, "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. Then in Luke 10:1 it says, "After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also." And in verse 17, "Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.'"

Yeshua wasn't training people and giving them authority so that it would end after He ascended to heaven. Yeshua wants that to continue.

Paul said that we are to stand against the devil in Ephesians 6:10-13.

We can trust in Yeshua because He is over all. (see Ephesians 1:21).
Yeshua gives us authority through Him and power over the demonic.

We are set free by the power of God, and we can help others to be set free. 1 John 4:4 NKJV says, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." Yeshua came to not only give us eternal life, but power to set us free from sin and the demonic and give us something better than what this world has to offer.

Shaul (Paul) tells Timothy that we should be gentle to others who are caught in sin and help them to know the truth and help them to come to their senses. This is so they may escape from the traps of the devil.

2 Timothy 2:25-26 CJB:

Also he should be gentle as he corrects his opponents. For God may perhaps grant them the opportunity to turn from their sins, acquire full knowledge of the truth, come to their senses and escape the trap of the Adversary, after having been captured alive by him to do his will.

Yeshua said in Revelation 2:7 NKJV, "To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." Each person has the choice to overcome sin and the devil or be trapped by sin and by the devil. Stand strong and be the man or woman of God you are supposed to be. To be wise means to keep God's commandments and righteousness means to do what is right and keep God's commandments. Again, Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever."

Torah Study

Noah 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. God's commandments in the Bible have become known throughout the world through Yeshua. Noah's name spelled backwards means grace. Noah found grace (יָדָו – khāne) in the eyes of Yĕhōvāh the Hebrew says. The portion of Noah begins by telling us that Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth and Noah walked with God.

It is particularly important to understand that Noah was a righteous man. Righteous means to do what is right. It says in the Hebrew he was a *tzadik*, he was righteous. In my bible it says Noah was just. That carries a slightly different idea. Even Jewish Bibles use the word righteous. Genesis 6:9 CJB says, "Noach was a man righteous and wholehearted; Noach walked with God."

Doing what is right.

Again, righteous means to do what is right and Deuteronomy 6:18 says that God's commandments are "right and good." The fact that Noah was righteous means he kept God's commandments. Other ancient writings tell us that Noah taught God's commandments. We see that there is an obvious correlation between being righteous and keeping God's commandments. Noah did what was right and the only way to do that was to follow God's commandments. Some say that mankind in the time of Noah did not know much about God and there was an evolution in understanding about God.

We know that is not true because Adam and Eve were in communication with God in the beginning. They were perfect at first. We see Cain and Abel making sacrifices and Noah also communicated with God. He walked with God. Also, God told Him to build an Ark. The world had become corrupt, but Noah was righteous and did what was right. There is a distinction between what is right and wrong that the original believers understood.

The Bible says that Abraham kept the Torah which are the laws contained in the first 5 books of the Bible. Genesis 26:5 NKJV says, "Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." This seems to be an emphatic statement. Abraham kept God's charge, commandments, statutes, and laws. The word for laws in this verse is the Hebrew word *Torah*.

So, the whole evolution of relationship with God is made up. Early believers passed on their beliefs in the one true God and passed down His commandments. The reason for the giving of God's commandments at Mount Sinai was to write down God's commandments so mankind would have them in perpetuity. It was not only for the purpose of helping Israel. The reason for the gift of the Holy Spirit from the Messiah is to give us another helper, the first were God's written commandments at Mount Sinai. John 14:15-17 NKJV says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever the Spirit of truth."

God intended for the Gentiles to also be believers. Isaiah 56:6-7 says, "And the foreigners who join themselves to ADONAI to serve him, to love the name of ADONAI, and to be his workers, all who keep Shabbat and do not profane it, and hold fast to my covenant, I will bring them to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples." The believing Gentiles were to be fully accepted in the household of believers and believing Israel.

Gentiles who believed in the Messiah Yeshua joined with the Jews according to Ephesians 2:19 NKJV, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." As believers in the Messiah Yeshua, they were no longer foreigners to what? They were no longer foreigners to the believers of Israel, and they were to learn and do what is "right." Talking about the Gentiles in Acts 15:21 NKJV, "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath." The Gentiles are to learn and keep the Torah.

The Nephilim.

God saw that the earth was corrupt, *timalay*, and filled with violence, *hamas*. Notice that the word for violence is the word for the current leadership in the Gaza Strip. We see that mankind is not inherently good. Cain kills his brother and then the earth is filled with violence. Adam and Eve knew how to live right yet Cain turned out to be bad. Even righteous Noah had a son who was not good, his son Ham. Isaac's son Essau was also evil. We need to keep the commandments of our good God in order to be good. God's commandments are "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18).

Perhaps some of the evil of that time had to do with the Nephilim who were large creatures who also lived on the earth at that time. The Hebrew says the Nephilim "appeared" on the Earth in Genesis 6:4. There are different opinions on who the Nephilim are and that includes fallen angels who took human form or aliens that God did not want on earth. Some think they are still around.

God told Noah that He was about to destroy the Earth and would save him and his sons and their wives, and Noah was to build an ark. Noah was to bring two of every animal into the ark along with food and seven pairs of clean animals and birds, and God brought the animals to Noah. Some think this sounds like a fairy tale but since God is the creator, He can do this.

Noah was six hundred 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 Mt. 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, the month of Iyar, near Shavuot (Pentecost).

Turkey has a Noah's Ark visitor center.

When we read the text in the Torah, specific times and dates are given. Since we see specific details like this, it would lead us to conclude that this was no fairy 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. For science I suppose it is just the ruins of a petrified boat of the size described in the Bible that rests at about 7,000 feet in the Ararat range of mountains. Think about it. Petrified remains of a boat at an elevation of 7,000 feet. 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 heart to go look for it. He was an amateur archaeologist. After he found it, there was not 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 has 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>. It seems the world is covering up the ancient discoveries of the Bible, so they do not have to repent and worship the true God. Unbelieving science has dug in their heels and will not tell the truth because they would have to admit they were wrong. There is nothing wrong with accepting truth. They are not being humble but are too proud to admit their mistakes and some of their made-up science. When I worked in research, I would not have succeeded if I was not willing to figure out the right approach I needed to take.

God can give us a purpose.

This portion should make us think about how God wants to use us, to give us a specific purpose. 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 do not have to try to do everything; just do the things God is leading you to do. Noah walked with God and did what was right. He was righteous because he did what was right and kept God's commandments and then built the Ark he was told by God to build.

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. Also, we are to walk with God through the Holy Spirit which is given to help believers in the Messiah Yeshua.

God expects us to do what He already gave us in His word.

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.

Also, watch out for the temptations from the devil.

After Noah disembarked from the Ark.

After Noah departed from the Ark, Noah made a sacrifice to God near Shavuot or probably 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 which is also known as Pentecost.

All these events have to do with God rescuing mankind. He gave Noah grace and saved mankind, God gave Israel grace by freeing them from Egypt and giving mankind His written commandments, and God gave us grace through the Messiah Yeshua. The Messiah openly revealed the works of the devil and gave believers in the Messiah the Holy Spirit as another helper (see Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 14:12, Acts 26:18, Acts 2:38-39, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 2 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 6:11-12). The Bible says there is a devil. Also, God gave Adam

and Eve grace and the promise of a Messiah to come. God has been giving mankind grace since the inception of time.

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 murder someone intentionally. Life is precious because God made man in His image. God prescribes the death penalty for murder to keep murder from occurring (see Numbers 35:30-36). Therefore, those who oppose capital punishment are causing murder. People will protest the death of a murderer, but would these same people stand up for the person murdered or for the pain of those suffering because of the murder?

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.

Ham saw Noah naked after Noah had too much to drink and so Noah cursed Ham's son Kena'an because of that. We see God covering Adam and Eve so covering oneself is a commandment of God and not looking on others nakedness is a commandment of God. Perhaps it reflects on the dignity of a person or of giving others respect. Ham's brothers covered Noah to give Noah back his dignity. Why didn't Ham do the same? We are not sure if the account means more than that. Also, drinking too much alcohol can cause inappropriate behavior. What happened to Noah is a lesson for us. Perhaps this is the reason that Jews have a lower rate of alcohol abuse.

Noah lived to be 950 years old. If God created a perfect mankind and world in the beginning, it makes sense that people back then would live longer. People lived shorter lives as the years went by probably because they were more removed from the original creation. And then the genealogies of Noah's descendants are given. They all spoke one language at that time. In this portion, Nimrod is building a tower to make a name for themselves, but God made them to speak other languages so that they could not understand each other and complete the Tower of Babel. Perhaps this reflects on the sin that can be present in cities. There are good and bad things in cities. There is more opportunity for evil, but also for good. The text perhaps suggests they were making themselves into god by making a name for themselves. It is interesting to note that many people want to be famous and use that as a motivation for their lives. Perhaps one of the reasons that language was confounded was because there was no agreed upon linguistic pronunciation. The writing of the Hebrew Bible gave people a source for writing and speaking the Hebrew language.

We do not know how pagan thought developed but it appears that it became a mix of the original message of God and of personal opinion or ideas. Societies then carried over some original concepts, but reinterpreted life and gods in their own way. God's commandments are different than pagan practices. For example, an eye for eye put limitations on reparation and called for equal retribution. In pagan societies, this was not true. Pagan societies often imposed extreme punishments.

More genealogy is given, and the portion ends with Terach the father of Abraham leaving Ur

with Abraham and Abraham's wife Sarah and the cousin of Abraham, Lot. They end up living in Haran and Terach dies in Haran. In the next portion Abraham goes on to the land of Canaan.

In other writings like the books of Jasher, Josephus, and Jubilees, we see that Abraham becomes a believer probably because he lived with the family of Noah for a while. Nimrod is the king of the area around Ur in Chaldee, and he became a terrible and selfish person who did not follow God's commandments. He is building a tower to go into the heavens to fight with God according to other ancient writings. For that reason, Shem, the son of Noah, probably leaves the area and carries on teaching the people about the true God in Salem. Shem calls God, *El Elyon* which means God Most High. The city of Salem later became Jerusalem.

Shem is also known as Melchizedek in the Jewish writings which means the righteous king or my righteous king and he leads a school of prophets there in Salem. Perhaps Yeshua is compared to Melchizedek in the book of Hebrews because Melchizedek lived a long time both from before the flood and after the flood and is also known as a righteous man. Yeshua existed before creation (see John 8:58 and John 17:5), and came for the first time to help mankind. He will come again toward the end of time to reign as our good righteous king (see Acts 2:30, Isaiah 9:6, Revelation 17:16, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Shem is already in the area when Abraham arrives. Abraham leaves the area he is from because Nimrod becomes antagonistic towards him.

Hebrew as the original language.

Because Shem was one of the sons of Noah, he spoke the original language of the world before the language was confounded at the Tower of Babel. Shem brought the original language with him to the area of Salem, to what is now Jerusalem. Since Abraham lived with the family of Noah for a period of time, he also spoke the original language. Hebrew was then passed on to the Israelites through Abraham.

It should be noted that we now know that the Phoenicians got their alphabet from the ancient Hebrew alphabet. Archeologists have found ancient Hebrew in Egypt dating to around 1650 BC, it was found at the crossing site on pillars that were put up by Solomon to mark the spot of the crossing, and in the area of the real Mount Sinai in Midian. So, the English alphabet came from the Hebrew alphabet and not from the Phoenicians. They have found ancient Hebrew from when Israel entered Canaan near Jericho. Therefore, the Phoenicians adapted their alphabet from the Hebrew alphabet.

The Haftarah.

In the Haftarah for today it says that **God will never forget Israel.** We need to remember that, and it is not true that God is done with Israel. This scripture in Isaiah refers to Israel. Isaiah 54:9-10 NKJV says "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."

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.

Why did God have Noah build an Ark?

Perhaps it was a test or perhaps it was a witness to that generation. Perhaps Noah was the only one who would listen. Noah taught about the true God, and it appears that most of the rest of the world was practicing their own belief systems and living evil lives. Perhaps Noah's family was unified in believing in the true God, so God chose them to save mankind. At the very least, the flood must have been a terrifying experience, and it was only their trust in God that got them through the flood.

God gave us a rainbow so that we would remember what God did. Noah drank too much once, but we should understand that he knew it was a mistake. His sons were careful to cover him, so we see a sense of decency in their action. Just like God made clothes for Adam and Eve, their action suggests they understood they were not to expose themselves.

Noah kept the law.

Often, the laws given before Noah are called the Noahide laws, but the ancient writings say that Noah gave them God's laws. The laws we got from the time of Adam and from Noah were probably not just the few laws that are mentioned as some believe. In the Torah it says that we are to love God and our neighbor, but that is not the only laws in the Torah. Short lists are often given as an example or summary in the Bible, and in this case the laws we know of are not the only laws they had. Giving all the laws could be tedious and it should be understood that there were more laws than the Noahide laws which we see in the Bible before Noah. The fact that the Bible tells us that Abraham kept the Torah should be proof enough (see Genesis 26:5).

Also, Enoch was said to rule by the wisdom he knew, and we know that God's commandments give us wisdom, see Deuteronomy 4:6. Even Joseph seems to know the laws of the true God. God is very specific in the Bible about the laws we are to keep so saying that they did not know God's laws when in fact we know it says Noah was a tzadik, righteous, is to say it did not matter what they did. Also, us saying it does not matter what we do is a lie. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone."

Conclusion.

Noah did what was right and saved the world. We too can bring blessings to the world by living right. Like Noah, we need to be faithful to keep God's commandments. We should stand strong and work hard at doing what is right. Last week we read in the portion Bereshit about the trickery of the devil and how the devil negated God's word so that Adam and Eve sinned. In order to do what is right, we need to resist wrongdoing and the trickery of the devil. We are to resist the devil and draw near to God. The first leader of the church says in James 4:7-8 NKJV, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Take care of the matters of life and our spiritual lives. Stay on track spiritually; God should be an important part of our lives. Hang on to spiritual truth and live for God. Noah's Ark has been discovered, but more important than that, is for each of us to discover the mighty God of the universe, our Messiah Yeshua, and follow God's "right and good" commandments (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18).

**Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts.
(We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)**

Noah was a tzadik who kept God's commandments and was led by God just like other believers of his time. We should do the same. Being righteous means to do what is right and keep God's commandments. Genesis 6:9, Genesis 26:5, and Deuteronomy 6:17-18.

We should listen to God's leading. In the Messianic age, we are to believe on the Messiah Yeshua who will then give us the Holy Spirit to help us to follow the Torah and the Holy Spirit also helps us in many other ways. Yeshua the Messiah is God, see Jeremiah 23:5-6, and he gave us the Torah. Genesis 6:11 and John 14:15-17.

John 14:15-17 NKJV says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

We may eat edible kosher animals and plants. Noah understood kosher law because he knew which animals were clean and okay to eat. Genesis 7:2 and 9:2-3.

Marriage between a man and woman and having a family is commanded again. In our present day, not everyone has the opportunity to marry and not everyone can have children, but that is something we are to seek. Genesis 9:1.

We are not to drink blood. Genesis 9:4.

We are not to commit murder, and the Bible teaches that there is to be a death penalty for murder, for those intentionally killing someone. Genesis 9:5-6; and Numbers 35:30-34.

We are to remember that the rainbow is a symbol of God's mercy and that He will not destroy the world by flood again. Genesis 9:13.

We are to cover our flesh. God covered Adam and Eve's flesh, and Noah's sons covered Noah. Genesis 9:23.

We are not God. Shem worshipped *El Elyon*, God Most High, and this suggests that they were wrong for trying to make themselves into god by trying to make a name for themselves and

building a high tower, the Tower of Babel. Genesis 11:4.

In closing, let us say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

We need to explain why we use God's real name in the Aaronic blessing. Some believe we are not supposed to use God's name, but they are mistaken. ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name. Won't you also honor God's and use His true name with respect at times. The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. 2,363 different manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh.

Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה).

Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people. What an honor it is to be a people of the creator and true God.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶּךָ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ
 יְאֵר יְהוָה פְּנֵיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחֲנֶךָ
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.