



Message 10-21-17
Noach-Noah (Rest)
Genesis 6:9-11:32
Isaiah 66:1-24
Luke 16:19-31

Introduction

Jewish tradition shares the teaching that “all is in the hands of heaven, except the fear of heaven.” Human beings can choose, within limits, how they will live their lives. We can choose to reflect the best of our environment and our nature. Just as Noah could rise above the misdeeds of humanity in his age, so, too, can we in ours.

Genesis 6:9-13

14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶ Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷ For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰ Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹ Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." ²² Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him. (ESV)

The flood was coming, and the Almighty had made the decision to wipe out all of mankind and all animal life on the earth except for a pair of each animal and eight people – Noah and his family. The ark is representative of how God protects His chosen people. I am not only talking about Israel or the Jewish people but all who believe in Messiah Yeshua and walk in Torah. The Torah is our covenant with our Creator, and our faith in Messiah is our redemption. Simply having faith is not enough. We must put our faith into action, and the action we put it into is found in the Torah. God told Noah to build an ark, and Noah built an ark. It was as simple as that, though the truth of the situation is it was an enormous undertaking

considering it was Noah and family, and they did not have the advantage of modern equipment to build it. What Noah did was to obey God and receive the covenant for him and his family as they would come through the flood, protected in the ark, as God will protect a remnant of mankind during the tribulation coming upon the earth in the latter days. What Noah did reminds me of a TV show I like called Barnwood Builders, where the crew takes down old wood frame buildings over one hundred years old that were cut down in the forests nearby, prepared by hand, put into place by hand, and put together without nails, as they did not have them, but they used wooden pegs to hold everything together. When I watch this show, I think of man in the early days, and I think how did Noah build this ark, with three levels in it?

The Almighty is a covenant-keeping God. He was tired of what man was doing on the earth, and He had decided enough was enough. God does not come to decisions like this easily. I am sure it weighs on Him, but when man breaks his covenant with his Creator, what else do you think God would do?

Genesis 7:1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, with all your household, for you alone have I found righteous before Me in this generation. (TNK)

Noah was righteous before the Creator in his generation. There has been much discussion about what this statement means. Some say that Noah was only righteous in his generation and may not have been up to the standard in another generation, possibly in Abraham's generation. I tend to look at things simply on what is known as the *peshat* or literal level. Noah was found to be the only righteous man in his generation because he did not become part of what the rest of mankind was doing with the violence they were creating that God despised. The important thing to keep in mind is Noah was righteous before God, and God made His covenant with Noah. Noah would carry the covenant through the flood protected by the ark, and he and all those with him in the ark would come out on the other side to a world washed clean from the sin mankind had done before the flood.

Isaiah 66:1-2

1 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? ² All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. (ESV)

When Moses approached the burning bush to see this miracle taking place, as far as he was aware of, he had his first encounter with the Almighty God. He did have one when he was placed in the small wicker boat and placed in the Nile to protect him from Pharaoh's decree. If God's hand was not on Moses back then, then we

might as well as toss the Bible out because we need to learn to see the hand of God at work throughout His word and in our lives.

As God was with Noah, He was also with Moses and everyone else in the Bible whether their experience turned out good or bad. The ark was a form of a house that God used to protect His people and to bring them through the flood, but it was the place where they would meet with Him while going through their ordeal. The same can be said about His Temple. He says Heaven is His throne and the earth His footstool, but what about the Temple? More than the Temple, the Almighty desires us to be humble and contrite in spirit and who trembles at His word. I would assume Noah was this type of man, who God could speak to in a way that was different from Adam and Chavah.

The Temple is a house built to hold God, but how can any place we build, even at His direction, hold the Creator of the universe? The universe cannot contain Him, and He exists within it because that is what He chooses. It is said in an old Jewish tale that when the Almighty created time and space, within that the universe, He had to pull back part of Himself to allow for the room for the earth and all else that exists to come into being. Of course, this is just an old Jewish fable, but what if there were just one little bit of truth in it? Then again, we can simply look upon what God created as the physical part that we and everything else exists in and the spiritual realm where God and the angels exist. God has always existed, and nothing can hold Him unless He allows it, just as nothing could hold Yeshua, yet He allowed some soldiers to take him and crucify Him. He could have stopped the whole event, but He knew His Father's plan for Him, and He agreed to do as His Father asked.

Psalm 34:18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. (ESV)

Again, He says He is near the brokenhearted and those who are crushed in spirit. In many ways, this is the sacrifice the Lord desires that we come to Him without an attitude. Too many people cry out to the Lord in a demanding manner instead of respectfully. Do you think God cannot hear you when you pray to Him? Is He hard of hearing? Do we have to scream at the top of our voices to get a response from Him? He desires something different from us. He is not impressed with someone who huffs and puffs, puts on a good show, and is so confident of themselves they believe they can do just about anything. These are not His people. His people were a humble people, and we know this to be true because Moses was commended as being the humblest man that ever was, and he held all the power and authority that God gave him to lead Israel, make it into a nation, fight its enemies, and give them the covenant of Torah from the Father to His chosen people – Israel! He could have been filled with pride and the power he possessed, but he knew his place, and he was God's servant; in a way, symbolic of the Messiah, interceding on behalf of Israel with the Father every time they sinned against Him.

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (ESV)

Once again, we see the type of person God desires. He wants us to have a broken spirit. Why – because then He can work with us once we will allow Him. His Spirit will not conflict with ours until we let go and allow His Holy Spirit to come into us and reside within us, making us into someone acceptable to be a child of God. He wants a broken and contrite heart. Why – because we must let go of whatever is in our hearts so He can break the heart of stone and expose the heart of flesh in order that He can write His Torah within us, and we will then walk always according to His word and not the Adversary. When we learn His ways and allow Him to change our spirit and our heart, then we can become a child of the Most High God.

Luke 16:19-31

19 "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' ²⁷ And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house-- ²⁸ for I have five brothers-- so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'" (ESV)

In this parable, told by Yeshua, He points out very clearly that one cannot buy their way into Heaven. The rich man did not lift a finger to help the poor sick man who lay by the gate to his home. When the poor man died, he was carried to Abraham's side, sometimes called The Bosom of Abraham. The rich man died and wound up in Hades where he existed in torment. His money could not buy his way out of this. He called out to Abraham to send Lazarus, the poor man, to bring him a finger with cold water to cool his tongue. Abraham, calling him a child, told him that in life he

had the good things and Lazarus the bad, but now Lazarus had his reward because now he was receiving comfort while the rich man was in anguish. In addition to that, there was a great chasm to keep anyone from crossing over either way. Still reaching out for hope, he asked Abraham to send Lazarus to his five brothers to warn them before it was too late for them. Abraham responds that they have Moses and the Prophets, meaning Torah and the Prophets, and all they had to do was to listen to the words being spoken. That was not enough. He wanted someone from the dead to go to them, but Abraham said to them, if they do not hear Moses (Torah) and the Prophets, nothing else will convince them. Money may buy you things in this life, but it will not in the next world. There is nothing wrong with having money. It's what you do with it that the Judge will look at on the Day of Judgment.

Torah Man says, "It is not success that God rewards but always the faithfulness of doing His will."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119. If you are not learning Torah, we invite you to attend Judaic Studies Institute, a Distance Learning Institute for Yeshua based Judaic Studies. Drop us a line at student.support@jsi-edu.org for more information. You can earn a certificate or diploma and take courses to help you grow in your understanding.



