



ליקוטי פשטים

HEBREW THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE TOURO COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

NOACH

נח

תשפ"ב

MAN'S INFLUENCE UPON HIS ENVIRONMENT

"וַתִּשְׁחַת הָאָרֶץ לְפָנֵי הָאֱלֹקִים וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ חֲמָס׃ בְּרָאשִׁית ו׳:א

"And the earth had become corrupt before God, and the earth had become filled with robbery."

Bereshis 6:11

Sefer מראש אַמְנָה notes that the wording of this verse must be studied, for one would think that it should have said that the residents of the land became corrupt, and not that the land became corrupt.

This can be understood based upon the Gemara (Yevamos 96b) where a story is told of Rabbi Yose and Rabbi Elazar, who were arguing about a certain detail in the laws of Shabbos. The discussion became so heated that as they grasped a Sefer Torah and each defended his view, the Sefer Torah accidentally became torn. Rabbi Yose ben Kisma was sitting and watching in horror as the Torah was torn, albeit unintentionally, and he declared, "I would be surprised if this building does not become a center of idol-worship!" And, eventually, that is exactly what happened.

This story illustrates how the actions of man can cause a spirit of holiness to depart from a place. And in place of the void which occurs, a spirit of impurity can descend. As a result of an argument and its tragic outcome, the very place where the incident occurred became defiled and eventually corrupted enough to be capable of hosting idolatry.

With the sins and corruption of the people who lived before the flood, a great depletion of holiness occurred, and this was followed by a deterioration of the land and even the natural and instinctive conduct of the animals as well. This is similar to the story in the Gemara, where the unfortunate actions and subsequent tearing of a Sefer Torah resulted in the room's becoming a place where the holiness was so lacking that a spirit of idolatry developed.

The power of man to build and perfect the world is great. Unfortunately, man also has the ability to ruin and cause destruction to the world if his actions serve to cause holiness to vanish. No person is isolated and independent of the world environment, and the actions of individuals, groups, and society in general each make an impression upon the world at large.

LIMITED VISION

"וַיָּבֵא נֹחַ וּבָנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְנָשֵׁי בָנָיו אִתּוֹ אֵל הַתְּבֵה מִכְּפֵי מִי הַמְּבּוּל׃ בְּרָאשִׁית ז׳:ד

"And Noah and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood." Bereshis 7:7

As we begin Parashas Noach and continue through בְּרָאשִׁית סֵפֶר we are introduced to Noach as well as the אַבוֹת. As we know, the Torah is not merely telling us the history of our people, but rather we are supposed to learn from each one of our אַבוֹת. Therefore we tend to be hypercritical of their actions in order to find the lesson which the Torah wants to teach us.

"Rashi comments on the words "מִפְּנֵי מִי הַמַּבּוּל" that Noah was מִקְטְנֵי אֱמוּנָה – one of those with little faith – since we know he believed the מַבּוּל was coming and he built the תֵּבָה, but at the same time he did not actually enter the תֵּבָה until after he was forced to because it started raining.

Rav Shimshon Pincus (תְּפִאֲרַת שְׁמֵשׁוֹן דָּף צ"א) asks: How could it be that Noah, who is referred to as "אִישׁ צַדִּיק תָּמִים" – "a righteous man", was one of those with little faith? Rather, Rav Pincus answers that Noah believed that in the last moment Hashem would forgive and decide not to bring the flood.

Let us contrast Noah to Mordechai in the story of Purim. Mordechai became aware of a decree against Klal Yisrael and immediately started fasting and wearing sackcloth. Not only that, but he encouraged all the members of Klal Yisrael at the time to do the same. Mordechai would not even take off his sackcloth when Esther wanted him to come to the palace. Until the decree was annulled, Mordechai did not stop davening and fasting.

This is where Noah was of little faith. One cannot just believe that Hashem will annul His own decrees without a tremendous amount of tefillah and fasting!

The same is true for us in our generation. Of course, we are all certain that Torah learning and Yiddishkeit will continue to flourish no matter who tries to impede it. However, that does not mean we are able to be complacent. Whenever there is a decree against Klal Yisrael it is our job to increase and grow in our tefillah and our service of Hashem in order to nullify any evil decree.

THE MISSION OF THE DOVE

וַתָּבֵא אֵלָיו הַיּוֹנָה לַעֲתֹב עֹרֵב וְהָנָה עָלֶיהָ זַיִת טָרֵף בְּפִיהָ וַיֵּדַע נֹחַ כִּי קָלוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ בְּרֵאשִׁית ח' י"א

"And the dove came back to him in the evening – and behold! an olive leaf it had plucked with its mouth. And Noah knew that the waters had subsided from upon the earth." Bereshis 8:11

The Torah seems to be quite clear that the entire inhabited world had been obliterated by the flood and its churning waters. Where could the dove have possibly found a leaf from an olive tree to bring back to Noah?

Ramban surmises that the narrative is informing us that trees were not uprooted nor disturbed due to the flood. This olive tree, which had survived, was discovered by the dove, and this is where it found the leaf.

The Midrash (Bereshis Rabbah 33:6) explains this episode differently. "From where did the dove retrieve the olive leaf? Rabbi Levi says that it brought it from Har HaMishchah, the Mount of Olives in Yerushalayim, as the flood did not affect Eretz Yisrael. Rabbi Birai says that the gates of the Garden of Eden opened for the dove, and it entered and found the olive leaf there."

We might ask, though, according to the Midrash, if the olive leaf came from somewhere else other than the flooded areas of the earth, how would its being found indicate to Noah that the flood waters across the earth had receded? Ramban answers that although the waters of the flood did not fall in Eretz Yisrael, water from the areas surrounding Eretz Yisrael overflowed and covered the ground there as well. This overflow, however, did not cause extensive damage, and the trees of the Holy Land remained intact. Now, with the retrieval of the olive leaf from the Holy Land, Noah realized that the waters of the flood of the entire earth, together with the resulting overflow to Eretz Yisrael, had subsided. According to the opinion that the leaf was brought from Gan Eden, Ramban suggests that perhaps the gates of Gan Eden were sealed to prevent the damaging waters of the flood from inundating the Garden. Only when the waters receded were the gates opened, and it was at that point that the dove was able to enter to get the leaf.

Alshich explains that Noah knew that the dove could not possibly fly directly from Mount Arrarat (where the ark had settled) to Eretz Yisrael or to Gan Eden without stopping to rest along the way. As Verse 8 states, upon its first mission to fly from the ark, "the dove could not find a resting place for its legs." This means that the waters covered the land, and there was no patch of land for the dove to rest along its way to Eretz Yisrael or Gan Eden. It was only in its second mission, when the dove succeeded in flying to and back from these distant stations that Noah realized that the waters had receded from the entire land, thus allowing the dove the ability to rest along its flight and to complete its assignment.

HALACHIC CORNER

Zmanim for Parashas Noach 5782

	Krias Shma - Sat.	Tefilah - Sat.	Sunset	Sunrise	Sunset
According to the Vilna Gaon	9:47	10:44	Fri.	Sat.	Sat.
According to the Magen Avraham	9:11	10:20	6:21	6:56	6:19

Daf Yomi: Beitzah 39

Men are obligated to recite Krias Shema twice a day, once at night and once in the morning, since it is written (Devarim 6:7): "וּבִשְׁכַבְּךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ" - "and when you lie down and when you get up". When a person recites Krias Shema he should not recite it in a rote fashion, as if he has done it so many times, but rather as if it is new and dear to him, as if commanded that very day, for the Torah states, "that I have commanded you this day". When reciting the Shema, a person must accept the yoke of the heavenly kingdom - to know that Hashem is One and that He is the ruler of the universe. He should maintain proper intent during the reading of all three paragraphs. If he did not have kavanah in the first verse of "Shema Yisrael" and in "Baruch shem k'vod", then he does not fulfill his obligation and must repeat Krias Shema with kavanah. Some say that one must have kavanah at least until the words "עַל לְבַבְךָ". A person should be very careful to enunciate each letter and every word.

Halachic Corner is dedicated to Benyomin Freeman in memory of his father Gedalia Freeman, ברוך גדליה ליב בן הירש מוטעל, זצ"ל. May his memory be for a blessing.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT & STUDY

- 1) How did the evil people of Noach's generation sin "before God" ("לפני האלקים")? Isn't everything seen by Hashem? See Kli Yakar 6:11
- 2) Who "helped" Hashem destroy the world in Noach's generation? See Ohr HaChaim 6:17
- 3) Who was responsible to bring all of the food for the animals on the ark? See Malbim and Pirkei D'Rabi Eliezer to 6:21
- 4) What were the sleeping arrangements for the people of Noach's ark? See Riva 8:18
- 5) Besides building a big tower, what did the "generation of dispersion" (דור ההפצלה) attempt to do that Hashem did not like? See Ohr HaChaim 11:8
- 6) If both Avram and Nachor got married to their respective wives, why are their marriages described in singular form? See Ha'amek Davar 11:24

SPONSORSHIPS

HTC Announcements

By בית המדרש לתורה - Hebrew Theological College wishing mazal tov to Mordecai & Dr. Chani Tessler on the birth of a grandson, born to Gad & Liora Koenig; to Rabbi Avraham & Tamar Friedman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Chaim Shimon Friedman; to Rabbi Tzvi & Shifra Haskell on the birth of a granddaughter, Shoshana Bracha, born to Aryeh & Nechama Leiba Fried; to Rabbi Yair & Penina Olstein on the birth of a daughter, Hadassah, and to grandparents, Rabbi Binyamin & Sara Olstein; and to HTC Board of Regents member Dr. Charles Ovitsky and his wife Maureen on the birth of a grandson, born to Dr. Erwin & Bracha Ovitsky; and extending heartfelt condolences to Ira & Debra Clair on the loss of her brother, Dr. Michael Salinger, ז"ל.

Hebrew Theological College invites the community to attend our weekly Virtual Gourmet Torah on Thursdays. Please join Rabbi Ari Zucker over Zoom next Thursday, October 14, 12:30-1:00 PM. Topic: "Magnanimous Monotheists". Zoom info: <https://zoom.us/j/99921240863> or call in +1 312-626-6799. Zoom ID 999 2124 0863.

Fasman Yeshiva High School is seeking a full-time science teacher, comfortable teaching multiple high school science curricula. Please send résumé and cover letter via email to Mr. Peter Gobel, Associate Principal at gobel@htc.edu.

HTC is looking for a Development Associate. The Development Associate is responsible for assisting in and supporting all aspects of fundraising operations at Hebrew Theological College, including donor relations, marketing and communications, direct mail appeals, special events, and capital and legacy giving. Please apply at careers@htc.edu.

Save the date for HTC's 99th Anniversary Gala! Join us on Tuesday, December 7th, as we celebrate HTC and our community leaders: Dr. Stephen and Cheryl Karesh with the Etz Chaim Award, Rabbi Zvi and Rachel Zimmerman with the Marbitz Torah Leadership Award, and Hal and Rochel Garfinkel with the Distinguished Parents Award. Invitation to follow!

Community

Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi is looking to hire qualified and experienced General Studies teachers, as well as assistants, for the 2021-2022 school year. If you're interested in joining our fantastic team of passionate and dedicated teachers, helping to inspire the next generation, please send in a résumé to jsohl@jdbyytt.org for grades Primary through 4th, or to apfeiffer@jdbyytt.org for grades 5th through 8th.

Community Tip Line brought to you by Concerned Citizens League (CCL) Shul Members. 1-855-CCL-SHUL or TIPS@CCLSHUL.ORG. Help us help our community. If you see something, say something to us. We are accepting applicants for our Shul Safety Officer (SSO) Program, now operational in 29 Shuls. If you are committed to being vetted and trained as an effective first responder and developing critical shul security skills, please contact your Rabbi and view our site at cclsso.org.

Rabbi Zvi and Rachel Zimmerman invite the community to meet with Rabbi Doniel Lehrfield נ'ט"ו, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Bais Yisroel, in celebration of 36 years of Limud HaTorah. A special Covid Campaign for the Yeshiva will take place at their home, Motzei Shabbos, Parashas Lech Lecha, October 16th, at 8:30 PM, 3453 West Arthur Avenue, Lincolnwood.

Rabbis Zvi and Uri Zimmerman would like to invite the community to hear HaGaon HaRav Daniel Lehrfeld, Rosh Yeshivas Bais Yisroel, who will be delivering an important message to the community at Bais Chaim Dovid (3462 West Devon), Wednesday evening, October 13, at 7:30 PM.

HTC is looking for a Development Associate. The Development Associate is responsible for assisting in and supporting all aspects of fundraising operations at Hebrew Theological College, including donor relations, marketing and communications, direct mail appeals, special events, and capital and legacy giving. Please apply at careers@htc.edu.

Congregation Or Torah is seeking a new Executive Director. The Executive Director will be responsible for the management and supervision of the synagogue's day-to-day operations, as well as planning, budgeting & fundraising. A candidate should have a Bachelor's Degree & a minimum of 5 years running an organization, preferably a synagogue or other Jewish organization. In the meantime, the Congregation is also seeking interim office assistance to support the current staff. Send résumé to: office@ortorah.org.

Hillel Torah has an immediate opening for a part-time/afternoon Judaic Studies Assistant Teacher, to fill a maternity leave position from October through November. The ideal candidate will be a warm, nurturing, team player with experience working with elementary students. To apply, please contact natan.brownstein@hilleltorah.org.

The new school year has officially begun! Many children have a difficult time with transitions and acclimating to the new school year. If your child seems to be struggling, the staff at The Mozes and Helen Stern Upward Counseling Center (formerly Madraigos Midwest) is here to help. For more info, reach out to us at 773-478-6000.

More fire of Breslov Torah is coming to Chicago! Join us for "Joy is the Solution", a shiur with R. Meir Elkabas, Tuesday, October 26th, at 7:00 PM. For more info about the shiur and our new initiative to bring this timeless, joyous, healing, and life-changing Torah to our city, visit chicagobreslov.org.

Yasher Koach to all the Chazanim and Gabaim at Ezras Israel who made the entire Yom Tov davening run smoothly. For all those who are interested, Ezras Israel only has mechizah minyanim, with Shabbos davening times at 7:25 AM and 9:15 AM. Daily Shacharit at 7:00 AM and Sundays at 8:00 AM.

Join LJCAGBI in welcoming Jazz Rabbi Greg Wall featured on saxophone, for a spectacular jazz concert this Sunday, October 10. The event honors Rabbi Yehuda Meyers's 1st anniversary at LJCAGBI, 7117 Crawford, Lincolnwood. Doors open at 7:30. Reception & Concert at 8:00. Reduced cost for tickets through 10/9, or purchase at the door (wine & hors d'oeuvres included). Purchase tickets through the shul website ljcagbi.org (A Night of Jazz), by email at office@ljcagbi.org, or call 847-676-0491 during office business hours.

Thank you to the MMW Camps family for an incredible summer, where friendships happened and memories were made! Check out our camp memories at mmwcamps.com. Registration for Camp Maayan and Camp Matzav 2022 coming soon! For more information or if you have any questions, please call 847-440-4940.

Young Israel of West Rogers Park, 2706 W. Touhy, Chicago, offers respectful, quiet davening; interactive, inspirational drashos from Rav Elisha Prero; and award-winning cholent kiddushes. Shabbos morning davening only, starting 9:00 AM. Masks required. For information, contact Joel David Malkin at joeldmalkin@aol.com, or Rabbi Prero at eprero@gmail.com.

For Orthodox College Students – The Chicago Orthodox Student Union invites you to its first program of the New Year 5782! "Meat and Greet!" on Sunday, October 10th, 2:00 PM, at the Caldwell Woods Picnic Shelter, W. Devon Avenue & N. Nagle Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646. Meet new people, and eat great food! Vegetarian options! For questions, please email chicagoorthodoxstudentunion@gmail.com.

Walder Science invites girls and boys grades 4-8 for After School Science for hands-on learning to explore and build cutting-edge science and projects! Study the wonders of flight science. Recreate historical flying machine models, learn the technologies that helped create modern day airplanes, parachutes, elastic flyers, remote control planes, and more. Virtual and in-person class options available. Boys meet Monday and/or Wednesday 5:30 PM; girls meet Tuesday and/or Thursday 4:30. Fall session begins October 11. Sign up/info: www.walderlab.org/afterschoolscience, 773-649-5360, programs@walderlab.org.

Walder Science invites boys and girls for After School Coding. Design games and animations and learn computer science fundamentals. Virtual and in-person class options available. Boys meet Tuesday and/or Thursday at 5:30 PM, and girls meet Monday and/or Wednesday at 4:30. Fall session begins October 11. Sign up/info: www.walderlab.org/3dcoding-2/, 773-649-5360, programs@walderlab.org.

Super Science Sunday fuses fun and learning for kids in grades N-6! Join us in person or on Zoom each Sunday. Girls grades 1-6 meet in person at 10 AM or on Zoom 11:15; boys grades 1-3 meet in person at 2:45 or on Zoom at 1:45; boys grades 4-6 meet on Zoom at 4:00. We also offer special sessions for Kindergarten and Nursery students, meeting at 10:00 and 3:30. Fall sessions begin October 10. Signup/info: www.walderlab.org/sunday, programs@walderlab.org, or 773-649-5360.

A few spots left in the Walder Science Woodshop! Participants construct & create original pieces with kid-approved tools and materials under the guidance & supervision of our expert carpenter. Boys grades 5-8 meet for 6 sessions Mondays or Tuesdays 5:30-6:15 PM. Fall sessions begin October 11. Signup/info: www.walderlab.org/wood, programs@walderlab.org, or 773-649-5360.

Discover Ida Crown Jewish Academy (ICJA) at our Open House, Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 7:00 PM! 7th and 8th grade students are invited to tour ICJA's state-of-the-art building, meet our award-winning teachers, connect with fellow students and families, and learn what ICJA has to offer you.

With ICJA's stellar Judaic studies, top-level academics, over 50 student clubs and sports teams, YU Kollel programs on site, robust community service programs, exciting student activities and warm nurturing atmosphere, our school has something for everyone. Explore what ICJA has to offer you! For more information and to sign up, go to our website at www.icja.org.

New Zman starts this week! Join the Semichat Chaver Program and learn halacha like you never have before! Text-based, interactive shiurim with multi-media and Kahoot quizzes. Learn Hilchot Shabbat with Rabbi Aaron Kraft, Dayan, cRc. Wednesday evenings, 8:15 PM, in the KINS Beit Midrash (2800 North Shore Ave., Chicago). Email aarondkraft@gmail.com for more information and to register (men only).

The YU Torah Mitzion Kollel is excited to introduce two new Torah Podcasts! "The Weekly Torah Controversy" with Rabbi Reuven Brand and "Toras eMeS: Podcasting the Parsha" with Rabbi Mayer Simcha Stomer. Both podcasts drop every Thursday! Visit our website to listen and subscribe on your favorite podcast app! www.torahchicago.org/podcasts.htm.

The Hartman Family Foundation Educator of the Year Awards are back! Who will be the 2022 Hartman Family Foundation Educator of the Year Awardees? Help Decide! Complete a user-friendly, online Nomination Form at www.att.org/For Teachers/Hartman Family Foundation Educator of the Year Award. For paper nomination forms & more information, visit Associated Talmud Torahs, 3531 Madison St., Skokie, or www.att.org, or 773-973-2828. Submission deadline: Friday, November 5, by 1:00 PM.

In Memory

By Dr. Mark Oberlander and family in memory of our dear mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Sally Oberlander, ע"ה, on the occasion of her eighth yahrtzeit on ה' חשוון. The memories of her love, kindness, and wisdom continue to sustain us. May her memory be for a blessing and may her neshama have an aliya.

By the Loeb, Starr, Wagschal, and Lubell families in loving memory of our father-in-law, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Rabbi Selig Starr, זצ"ל, הרב זעליג בן דוד, on the occasion of his yahrtzeit on 4 Cheshvan. In his lifetime, which included over fifty years as a Rosh Yeshiva at HTC, he trained many of our present scholars. His life and his memory are a blessing to us all.

By Larry & Evelyn Yellin in memory of our beloved daughter, Judith M. Yellin, ז"ל, on the occasion of her 26th yahrtzeit on ט' מרחשון. May her memory be for a blessing, and may her neshama have an aliya. She is missed every day.

By Philip and Chana Kovalsky in memory of our grandfather, Rabbi Sholem Bentzion Bozman, ז"ל, on his 63rd yahrtzeit, the 6th of Cheshvan, October 12, 2021. May his memory be for a blessing.

By the Sova/Rosen family in memory of the precious gift we had for such a short time, Ruti Sova, רות מוריה ע"ה בת אריה לוי יוסף שיח', on her first yahrtzeit on the 29th day of Tishrei. Her effervescent personality and love of life touched all who met her. (Ramat Beit Shemesh, Chicago, Baltimore)

By the family of Milton Allswang, ז"ל, on this, his 36th yahrtzeit. We all have fond memories of him and remember him with love.

In memory of our beloved mother and grandmother, Esther Clair - ע"ה, אסתר רייזל בת אפרים פישל, on her 9th yahrtzeit, 7 Cheshvan. Her absence from our lives is felt every day. We miss her endless love, beautiful smile and quick wit, and the twinkle in her eye. We treasure the time we had her in our lives, especially here in Chicago. - Ira & Debra; Efrayim & Aliza, Gavriel Shalom, Elana Rachel (who is named for her), and Daniella Ahuva; Yeshaya & Shira, Netanel Aryeh, and Zev Meir; Leora & Josh and Tehilla Shira; and Akiva.

By Jennie & Avi Rothner in loving memory of Jennie's father, ז"ל, יוסף צבי בן זכריה, - Joseph H. Kirschner, on the occasion of his 17th yahrtzeit on 8 Cheshvan. We strive to instill his values in our children every day.

By Bill Coleman and Carole Groover in loving memory of their father, Colton Perry Coleman, ז"ל, on the occasion of his twenty-first yahrtzeit. We remember him as a patriot who led troops in Europe to defeat the Nazis.

ANSWERS

1) The "אֲלֵהִים" mentioned here is referring to judges and courts. The evil people would steal a very small amount at a time, and that could not be judged as theft. That is how they sinned before judges yet there was nothing that the courts could do.

2) When one sins, "destroying angels" (מַשְׁחִיתִים) are created that work towards punishing that person. These angels were already created through the sins of that generation. It was only in Pasuk 6:17 that Hashem agreed with all of these angels that He would let them destroy the world with him.

3) According to the Malbim, even though animals typically store their own food, Noach was commanded to gather all of the food for all of the animals. This is learned from the extra word "וְאַתָּה" ("and you"). According to Pirkei D'Rabi Eliezer, Noach complained to Hashem that it was impossible for him to gather all of this food, so angels (מַלְאָכִים) for each species helped him gather all that was needed.

4) The men and women slept in separate rooms, as procreation was prohibited. This is indicated by the pasuk (8:18) saying that the men and women left the Ark separately.

5) They wanted everyone to be living in one large city, and not fill the earth, as Hashem had commanded. Hashem punished them by scattering them and having them speak different languages so that it would stay that way.

6) Nachor only got married because he saw that Avram was married.

.....

Likutei Peshatim is endowed by Les, ע"ה & Ethel Sutker in loving memory of Max & Mary Sutker and Louis & Lilian Klein, ע"ה. May their memory be for a blessing.

Likutei Peshatim contains Torah content - please treat it respectfully

To sponsor Likutei Peshatim for a future Shabbos, call Mrs. Naomi Samber at (847) 982-2500, or email samber@htc.edu