

## “Parshat Hashavua- One Text-- Many Voices”

### בראשית ח:ו-ח

וַיְהִי מִקְצֵה אֶרְבָּעִים יוֹם וַיַּפְתַּח נֹם אֶת־חַלּוֹן הַתְּבָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה: וַיַּלְאֵחַד־הַעֲרָב וַיֵּצֵא וַיֵּצֵא וַיָּשׁׁוֹב

עַד־יָבֹשֶׁת הַמְּפִימִים מִלְּעַל הָאָרֶץ: וַיַּלְאֵחַד־הַיּוֹנָה מִאֶת־הַקְּלָוֹן הַמְּפִים מִלְּעַל פָּנֵי הָאָדָמָה:

And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made. And he sent forth the raven, and it went out, back and forth until the waters dried up off the earth. And he sent forth the dove from with him, to see whether the waters had abated from upon the surface of the earth.

### Daniella Scheider- Class of 2023- “A Hasidic Approach”

In Parshat Noach, we read about a man who lived in a world of bad. Being the only righteous person, Hashem told him of the flood that was to come and he was commanded by Hashem to build an ark for himself and his family, as well as two of every animal. Noach built the ark, as commanded, with one window. We read that he sent a raven followed by three doves out through the window to see if earth was once again habitable for the living. The second dove Noach sent returned with an olive branch, and the third didn’t come back at all. Noach then knew it was time to return to the outdoors.

We obviously know that Noach was eager to get back to land and begin rebuilding what had been destroyed in the flood, but why send out birds to check out the land? If there was a window couldn’t Noach simply look outside himself?

Yanki Tauber, a modern Hasidic scholar, says that perhaps Noach could have looked outside at the land, but he wouldn’t be the only one to live outside of the arks walls. Perhaps Noach sent out the birds to receive a second opinion on the land; to make sure it was safe for also for all animals, not only his family. I completely agree with Yanki Tauber on this. Noach lived in a world of greed and hatred, if he only thought about himself the flood would have been for nothing and Hashem would once again have to destroy the world.

### Elie Gelman- Class of 2022- “A Medieval Approach- Chizkuni”

After 40 days of flooding were over and Noach was able to see the tops of the mountains he sent out a raven. Noach sent the raven to see if the water level had gone down. After the raven came back to the ark Noach sent a dove. He sent the dove to see if the water had dried up and if the dove was able to land it would show that some parts of the earth were uncovered. The dove was unsuccessful finding a place to rest so Noah waited another seven days to sent the dove out again.

וַיַּלְאֵחַד־הַעֲרָב וַיֵּצֵא וַיֵּצֵא וַיָּשׁׁׁוֹב עַד־יָבֹשֶׁת הַמְּפִים מִלְּעַל הָאָרֶץ:

and sent out the raven; it went to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. Chizkuni: Hezekiah ben Monah (also known as the Chizkuni) was a French commentary that lived in the 13th century.

The Chizkuni asks: Why did the raven continue to go back and forth from the ark and not just take one trip?

To answer this the Chizkuni quotes Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish. Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish says that the raven kept coming back to the ark because the raven was one of the animals that only had a single pair. So when Noach sent the raven the raven was upset that we would not be able to protect his mate. So the raven kept coming back and forth to protect his partner.

I like how this commentary gives the raven some type of emotion. In the Torah and in the world as a whole, people sometimes think that animals don't have feelings and totally disregard their emotions. But this commentary shows a different view. The raven was nervous to leave its partner alone and really cared about its mate. Through the analysis of the raven, we learn about the animals like humans exploring their feelings and concerns.

### **Mrs. Rivkie Gottleib- Lower School Judaic Principal**

It is interesting to note that the Pasuk makes sure to mention that Noach opened the window of the Ark that he made. We know that the Torah is concise in wording, letters, and even vowels;

why then would the fact that Noach made the window of the Ark be included in this Pasuk? We already know that Noach built the Teiva.... Perhaps Noach had pride in his work and here the Torah is validating this feeling. We know that Noach had a life of struggle, standing up to do good in the face of adversity. We know that Noach worked laboriously for 127 years to complete the Teiva - to its finest detail - the window, all the while warning his neighbors of the impending doom thus giving them the chance to change their ways.

What lesson can we take from this unmentioned pride? Looking at the wording surrounding the phrase "the window of the Ark that he made" we see that he opened it and he sent a raven and then a dove. Noach put to use that wonderful window of the ark that he made. This could be a lesson in "yes be proud, but put to use that thing that you are proud of" - In daily life this could look like a student mastering a subject, a good reason to have pride but putting it into action could be done by helping to teach a struggling peer, and so on.

**Art in the Parsha**

**Mark Balma- master painter (1957- present)**

