

Parshas Noach Q&A

Twenty questions — guess first, then turn over for the answers, every one from Rashi

- 1** The pasuk says, “These are the offspring of Noach,” and then, instead of listing his children, tells us Noach was a tzaddik. What do we learn from that?
- 2** The pasuk says Noach was a tzaddik “in his generations.” Is that praise for Noach?
- 3** The generation of the Mabul did many terrible things. Which one sealed their decree?
- 4** Hashem had many ways to save Noach. Why did He have him build a teivah?
- 5** How many floors did the teivah have, and what was each floor for?
- 6** Hashem told Noach, “In seven more days I will bring the rain.” Why did He wait those seven days?
- 7** The pasuk says Noach went into the teivah “because of the waters of the Mabul.” What does that tell us about Noach?
- 8** At first the pasuk calls it “rain,” and later it calls it a “Mabul.” Why the difference?
- 9** Why does the pasuk say Noach went into the teivah “on that very day”?
- 10** Noach sent out a raven, but it just flew in circles around the teivah. Why didn’t it go on its mission?
- 11** The dove came back with an olive leaf in its mouth. What did Chazal learn from that?
- 12** How many seasons does the pasuk list after the Mabul, and how long is each one?
- 13** What new food did Hashem permit to Noach and his sons?
- 14** When does Hashem look at the rainbow and remember His promise?
- 15** After the Mabul, Noach planted a vineyard. Where did he get the vines?
- 16** The Torah calls Nimrod a “mighty hunter.” What was he hunting?
- 17** The pasuk says, “From that land Ashur went out.” Why did he leave?
- 18** The pasuk says Hashem “came down to see” the Tower of Bavel. Did Hashem need to come down to see?
- 19** The generation of the Tower rebelled against Hashem Himself, but it was the generation of the Mabul that was destroyed. Why?
- 20** Terach was still alive when Avram left Charan. Why does the Torah mention Terach’s death before describing Avram’s departure?

Turn over for the answers »

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1 / 2

Parshas Noach Q&A **ANSWERS**

- 1 The main offspring.** That the main offspring of tzaddikim are their good deeds. (Rashi 6:9, אלה תולדת נח איש צדיק)
- 2 "In his generations."** Two views. Some of our Rabbis learn it as praise: he was a tzaddik even in his own generation, so in a generation of tzaddikim he would have been even greater. Others learn it the opposite way: compared to his own generation he was a tzaddik, but in the generation of Avraham he would not have been counted for anything. (Rashi 6:9, בדרתיו)
- 3 The sealed decree.** Robbery. The decree against them was sealed only because of it. (Rashi 6:13, כי מלאה הארץ חמס)
- 4 Building the teivah.** So that the people of the generation of the Mabul would see him busy with it for 120 years and ask him, "What is this for?" He would tell them that Hashem is going to bring a Mabul on the world — maybe they would do teshuvah. (Rashi 6:14, עשה לך תבת)
- 5 Three floors.** Three, one above the other: the top for people, the middle for the animals, and the bottom for waste. (Rashi 6:16, תחתים שנים ושלשים)
- 6 Seven more days.** Those were the seven days of mourning for Mesushelach, a tzaddik. Hashem honored him and held back the punishment. (Rashi 7:4, כי לימים עוד שבעה)
- 7 Noach's emunah.** Noach was also among the people of little emunah. He believed, and yet he didn't believe, that the Mabul would come, so he didn't go into the teivah until the water pushed him in. (Rashi 7:7, מפני מי המבול)
- 8 Rain, then Mabul.** At first Hashem sent the water down with rachamim, so that if the people did teshuvah it would be a rain of bracha. When they did not, it became a Mabul. (Rashi 7:12, ויהי הגשם על הארץ)
- 9 "On that very day."** The people of his generation were saying, "If we see him go into the teivah, we will break it and kill him." Hashem said, "I will bring him in before everyone's eyes, and we will see whose word stands." (Rashi 7:13, בעצם היום הזה)
- 10 The raven.** It suspected Noach of wanting its mate, so it kept circling the teivah instead of going. (Rashi 8:7, יצוא ושוב)
- 11 The olive leaf.** Chazal teach that the dove was saying: "Let my food be bitter like an olive but from the hand of Hashem, and not sweet like honey from the hand of flesh and blood." (Rashi 8:11, טרף)
- 12 Six seasons.** Six, each two months long. In order through the year: zera (seedtime), kor (cold), choref (winter), katzir (harvest), kayitz (summer), and chom (heat). (Rashi 8:22, עוד כל ימי הארץ וגוי לא ישבתו)
- 13 A new food.** Meat. Adam HaRishon was not allowed to eat meat, only plants (yerek esev). Now Hashem gave Noach's family everything, just like the yerek esev — except a limb from a living animal. (Rashi 9:3, לכם יהיה לאכלה; 9:4, בשר בנפשו)
- 14 The rainbow.** When Middas HaDin comes to accuse people and find them guilty, Hashem sees the rainbow and remembers. (Rashi 9:16, בין אלקים ובין כל נפש חיה)
- 15 The vineyard.** When he went into the teivah, he took along vine shoots and fig cuttings. (Rashi 9:20, ויטע כרם)
- 16 Nimrod's hunting.** People's minds. With his words he trapped them and led them to rebel against Hashem. (Rashi 10:9, גבר ציד)
- 17 Ashur leaves.** He saw that his sons were listening to Nimrod and rebelling against Hashem by building the Tower, so he left them. (Rashi 10:11, מן הארץ וגוי)
- 18 "Came down to see."** No. The Torah is teaching judges not to declare someone guilty until they have seen the case and understood it. (Rashi 11:5, וירד ה' לראות)
- 19 Two generations.** The generation of the Mabul were robbers, and there was fighting among them. The generation of the Tower treated each other with love and friendship. This shows how hateful fighting is and how great peace is. (Rashi 11:9, ומשם הפיצם)
- 20 Terach's death.** So that people would not say Avram didn't honor his father, leaving him when he was old. The Torah calls Terach "dead" because the wicked are called dead even while they are alive. (Rashi 11:32, וימת תרח בחי)

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