

Questions & Answers for the Shabbos Table

Written By Rabbi Yitzy Fox

This week's Parsha newsletter is generously sponsored by:

- L'iluy nishmas Yaakov Yosef ben Natan Nateh.

Now available for purchase: *The Ultimate Parashah Challenge* at RabbiYitzyFox.com

~ פרשת נח ~

Warm Up Questions: From the Pesukim *(answers on back)*

1. What is "3" in the parahsha? (2 answers)
2. How long did it rain during the Mabul?
3. Who was cursed by Noach?
4. What were the dimensions of the teivah?
5. How old was Noach at the time of the Mabul? At what age did he die?
6. Which of Terach's sons died during his lifetime?
7. Where was the Tower of Bavel built?

More Challenging Questions: From Rashi

8. How long did it take Noach to build the teivah?
9. Who could have used some medical attention on the teivah?
10. Rashi says that skipping a certain mitzvah in this parsha is like killing someone—what is it?
11. What year from the creation of the world did the mabul take place?
12. Who survived the flood besides those in the teivah? (Two answers)
13. Which sinners of the parsha do not receive a portion in Olam Haba?

Bonus Questions *(answers will be provided in next week's issue):*

- 1) What **אור** is in this week's parsha? What **אור** was in last week's parsha (2 answers)?
- 2) What is the proof that Eiver was a Navi?
- 3) Which 3 mountains are mentioned by name in the Parsha?

Did You Know?

Q: Can a non-Jew receive a portion in Olam Habah if he keeps the Sheva Mitzvos Bnei Noach?

A: The Gemara in Sanhedrin 105a records a machlokes between Rabbi Eliezer and Rabbi Yehoshua regarding whether non-Jews can receive a portion in Olam Habah. Rabbi Eliezer maintains that they are not eligible, while Rabbi Yehoshua holds that they can merit Olam Habah. The Rambam (Hil. Melachim 8:11) writes that a non-Jew who observes the seven mitzvos of Bnei Noach is considered one of the chassidei umos ha'olam and thereby merits Olam Habah. However, the Rambam adds an important condition- the person must keep these mitzvos because Hashem commanded them, not merely for intellectual or moral reasons. If one observes them solely based on logic or ethics, he does not receive this status.

From this Rambam, it seems that only a limited number of non-Jews will merit Olam Habah since even if they observe the seven laws, many may do so because of another religion's rules or moral philosophy. (Additionally, such religious frameworks themselves may involve avodah zarah, which is a violation of one of the Sheva Mitzvos Bnei Noach.)

The Gemara in Avodah Zarah 18a relates the story of the executioner of Rabbi Chananya ben Teradyon, who was promised a portion in Olam Habah after he mercifully hastened the Rabbi's death to spare him further pain. A bas kol then proclaimed that he indeed received his portion in the World to Come. This story clearly shows that there are other paths for non-Jews to merit Olam Habah, even outside the framework of the Sheva Mitzvos.

In Peninei Rabbeinu Kehillos Yaakov (p. 71), it is explained that it seems obvious that any non-Jew who acts with righteousness by saving Jewish lives can also merit Olam Habah, just like an observant Ben Noach or Ger Toshav. The Tiferes Yisrael (on Sanhedrin 10:2) expands this idea further, suggesting that even many ordinary non-Jews who are moral, believe in a Creator, and act compassionately toward the Jewish people would also receive a share in the World to Come.

There is a much broader discussion regarding the scope and definition of each of the Sheva Mitzvos Bnei Noach, and to what extent a non-Jew must adhere to them to be included among the chassidei umos ha'olam.

Parshas Noach Answers:

1. 1. Noach's 3 sons- Shem, Cham, and Yefes. 2. There were 3 floors on the teivah.
2. Forty days and forty nights (7:12).
3. Canaan, the fourth son of Cham, was cursed that he and his descendants would be slaves to Cham's brothers, Shem and Yefes (9:25; see Rashi 9:22).
4. The length was 300 amos, the width was fifty amos, and the height was thirty amos (6:15).
5. a) 600 (7:6). b) 950 (9:29)
6. Haran (11:26; see Rashi 11:28).
7. Shinar (11:2).
8. 120 years. (Rashi 6:14)
9. Noach, who was coughing or was injured from being bit by a lion (Rashi 7:23).
10. Peru Uravu (Rashi 9:7).
11. 1656. (Rashi 11:1)
12. 1. The fish in the water (Rashi 7:22), 2. Og (Rashi 14:13. Interestingly, the Baal Haturim 7:23 says the gematria of נח אר is ג'ו). **It is possible that other giants did survive (Rashi, Bamidbar 13:33) based on a Midrash that says that Eretz Yisrael was unaffected by the Mabul. (Bereishis Rabbah 33:11; Daas Zekeinim, Bamidbar 21:34).*
13. The sinners of the Dor Haflgah, since they rejected Hashem by attempting to "wage war" on Him by constructing the Tower of Babel (Rashi 11:9).

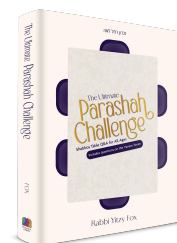
Answers to Last Week's Bonus Questions (Parshas Bereishis)

1. What is the name of Noach's wife, who is mentioned in the parsha?
Naamah (Rashi 4:22).
2. Who lost a son in their lifetime in the parsha? (4 answers, one in Rashi)
 1. Adam and Chavah, whose son Hevel was killed by Kayin (4:8).
 2. Lemech, who was blind and accidentally killed his son, Tuval Kayin (4:23, Rashi).
 3. Yered lost his son Chanoch at the "young" age of 365, and he lived 800 years after having Chanoch (5:18-23).
 4. Mesushelach lost Lemech (Noach's father) five years before his death (5:26, 5:31).
3. Who in the parashah has a father and a father-in-law with the same name?
 1. Noach. His father's name is Lemach, the son of Mesushelach and a descendant of Adam's son Sheis (5:28, 29). Also, Naamah's father (Noach's father-in-law) is also Lemach, but is a descendant of Kayin (4:19, 22).
 2. Kayin and Hevel, who married their sisters (4:12, Rashi).

Now available for purchase at your local seforim store:

The Ultimate Parashah Challenge

Or at RabbiYitzYFox.com



Please share the Parsha Sheet with your friends and family!

CHOFETZ CHAIM KOLLEL & BEIS MEDRASH Rosh Kollel: Rabbi Eli Meir Zaks

1401 Arcola Ave Silver Spring, MD 20902 / 301.649.4425 / ChofetzChaimKollel@gmail.com