

Thought of the Week

The usual take on Noach seems to be that even though he was himself a righteous individual he really is not to be overly commended since he was unable – some say even unwilling – to save his generation from the cataclysm of the flood.

Since the opinions of the rabbis and the sages of Israel over all of the ages is pretty much divided on how to deal with Noach – especially vis a vis Avraham – I really cannot venture a definitive opinion on this matter. However as an individual and certainly as a rabbi I empathize greatly with Noach and the challenges that he faced.

The story is told about a great Jewish holy man who once ruefully stated: “When I was young and fresh out of my yeshiva training and undertaking my first rabbinic post I was convinced that I could influence all of humankind for the good. However, as I grew older I realized that this was beyond my abilities, so I concentrated my efforts on changing my community for the better. As I grew still older, I realized that this was also beyond my capabilities so I decided to concentrate my efforts on my synagogue members solely and elevate them spiritually to proper heights. This I also discovered was not within my capabilities so I now concentrated on changing my family members for the better.

When it became apparent to me that this was also a somewhat futile effort, I finally realized that my efforts should be directed solely towards my own personal self-improvement.” Though this is obviously an overly pessimistic view of Jewish spiritual leadership and its ability to change and influence people, it certainly gives us an insight into Noach, his greatness and eventual tragedy.

Noach builds his ark publicly and painstakingly over many decades. He exhorts his generation to repent from its evil ways and warns of the coming apocalypse. For his pains and prescience he is mocked and reviled, rejected and isolated. Some of his own descendants will eventually betray him with their behavior and attitudes.

It is not the trauma of the Flood itself that so depresses Noach as much as it is that somehow he has not found a way to communicate his message to his society and even to his own family. We are told little about Noach after his family disappointments upon emerging from the ark. He is apparently sapped of his will to influence others after so many years of being rejected. He sees no basic difference in post-flood humankind than in pre-flood humankind.

Avraham will also face many disappointments and failures in his chosen mission of spreading Godliness in a heathen, immoral and violent world. But if Avraham will initially fail with ...

[...continued inside]

בס"ד

Young Israel of the Main Line

273 Montgomery Ave
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
www.yiml.org
www.chaseplanet.us/yiml

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg
610-667-3255
rabbi@yiml.org



Sherman Frager, President
610-667-7063

Parshas Noach
October 8-9

פרשת נח
א' חשוון



Shabbos Schedule *Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan*



Candle lighting: 6:14pm

Mincha - Friday: 6:14pm

Parsha Chaburah given by Drew Dorman: 7:55am

Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur: 8:15am

Shacharis: 8:45am

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 9:56am

Kiddush is co-sponsored by Sid and Susan Laytin to commemorate Sid's father's yahrzeit, Meir Laytin Mayer ben Shlomo z"l, and Israel and Inna Pendrak to commemorate the yahrzeits of Israel's father, R' Mendel ben R' Yisroel, and his grandfather, R' Yisroel ben Eliyahu, and his grandmother, Basya bas Yitzchak.

Mincha: 6:00pm

Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by David Chase and family in honor of him making a siyum on Meseches Bava Metzia.

Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.

Maariv: 7:15pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis: Sunday:	8:00am
Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv: Sunday through Tuesday:	6:10pm
Candle Lighting and Mincha Friday:	6:03pm

Weekday Shiurim

Daily Mussar Shiur:	15 minutes before Shacharis
Mishna Brura:	Mon and Wed after Maariv
Father-Son Melachim Aleph Shiur:	Monday at 8pm
Halacha Shiur:	Tuesday at 8:30pm.
Nefesh HaChaim:	Thursday at 10:10pm
Check with Dr Daniel Eisenberg to confirm.	

Women's Learning Experience - Fall Session

Mon at 9:00am: Tehillim for Cholim.
Mon at 9:30am: Steven Goldman teaches Parsha HaShavua.
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman teaches Tehillim at LMS.
Wed at 9:00am: Rachael Biberfeld teaches Michtav M'Eliyahu.
Thurs at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg teaches The Chozen Ish-Faith and Trust.
All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. Free babysitting provided if you call in advance.
For information, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477 or 610-617-0913

The Chevra Mishnayos is learning Seder Zeraim. See shul bulletin board to sign up or email eisenber@pol.net with your name and the masechta (and chapters) you intend to learn.

To subscribe to the YIML email list, visit
<http://mail.chaseplanet.us/mailman/listinfo/yiml>

Yishmael he will succeed with Yitzchak. If Avraham cannot enlist Lot in his cause he will at least save him from destruction. If he cannot change Sodom he will strive to see that it is never again rebuilt.

The true test of spiritual leadership is what happens after one's dreaded disappointments have proven to have been accurate. Since Noach could not save his generation prior to the flood, he somehow gave up on the generations after the flood as well. Therein lays the undertone of implicit criticism of this great and pious person that is reflected in Jewish rabbinic tradition over the ages.

Adapted from "Noah's Spiritual Leadership" by Rabbi Berel Wein
<http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbiwein/5771/noach.html>

Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach to our members who were honored on Simchas Torah with special Aliyos:
Kol Haneahrim - Dennis Rosen
Chassan Torah - Rabbi Steinberg
Chassan Breishis - Ron Werrin
Haftarah - Dan Perez

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will iy"H meet this Shabbos from 3:30 to 4:30pm at LMS. LAST CALL - register for the Bnos Motzai Shabbos crafts program starting soon! Pre-registration required. Contact Meira Friedman 610-617-9529 for more info.
Pirchei of Bala Cynwyd will iy"H meet this Shabbos from 3:30 to 4:30pm on the Lower Level at LMS. Boys grades K – 8th. Contact Rabbi Ari Silver at SilverDollar@verizon.net or 610-668-6833 for more information.

We regret to inform you of the passing of Mrs. Ilene Henzel z"l, beloved mother of Marc Henzel. May the family be comforted among the aveilei Tzion veYerushalayim.

Thank you to Miles Spiller for disassembling the Sukkah and storing it away until next year (in Yerushalayim) b"eH.

Questions? Comments! Sponsorships\$ weeklyupdate@yiml.org