

YERUSHALAYIM SHABBAT NOACH ZMANIM CANDLES 4:13 PM • HAVDALA 5:26 PM • RABBEINU TAM 6:05 PM



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A SHORT VORT

BY RABBI CHANOCH YERES
RAV, BEIT KNESSET BEIT YISRAEL, YEMIN MOSHE

"Go forth from the ark" (8:16) - (דצא מן התיבה (ח:טד) (Why did Noach wait for a Divine command to leave the ark and not just look to see if the ground is dry and make up his own mind to exit?

The Midrash (Bereishit Rabbah 34:4) quotes a verse in Kohelet (10:4) "If the spirit of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place", referring to Noach's entering the ark with Divine permission. Similarly, Noach can only disembark from the ark with Divine permission.

Since the entire experience of being saved was beyond normal, so too, leaving the ark could only be with permission from G-d.

The Malbim (Rabbi Meir Leibush ben Yechiel Michel Wisser 1809-1879, Kyiv) answered that although G-d could have saved Noach and his family in a more natural way, like placing them on an isolated island, not touched by the flood, G-d chose not to so. G-d had decreed that the earth and its inhabitants be destroyed. Therefore, Noach entered the ark, seven days prior to the flood, to establish residency on the ark, underlying that he is no longer an inhabitant of the earth. He would be now considered an inhabitant of the waters, like the fish, which were excluded from the cursed decree. Therefore, Noach needed the Divine command to leave the ark, since he was unaware of how long the earth was decreed to remain desolate.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

© KIDDUSH LEVANA:

Earliest Kiddush Levana 3 Days After Molad: 3 Marcheshvan/Sun. night Nov. 3
7 Days After Molad: 9 Marcheshvan/ Motzei Shabbat Nov. 9
Last Opportunity to Say Kiddush Levana until: 14 Marcheshvan/ Thurs. night Nov. 14

iii On the 7th of MarCheshvan we begin to recite in the Amida טל ומטר



COVER IMAGE Photographed by Moshe Rosenberg

This picture was taken in the Safari in Ramat Gan. Before coming to Israel I lived in Kew Gardens New York. I came to Israel for the first time as a volunteer during the 6 day war in 1967. That visit changed me and 2 years later, August 1969 I came on Aliyah by myself (leaving behind my parents and 6 siblings). I am retired now and live in Rehovot. I enjoy taking pictures ever since getting my first camera for my bar-mitzvah. I feel it's not the camera but seeing the picture that counts.

CANDLE LIGHTING



OTHER Z'MANIM



	Noach		Lech Lecha	
	Candles	Havdala	Candles	Havdala
Yerushalayim/Maale Adumim	4:13	5:26	4:08	5:21
Aza Area (Netivot, Sderot et al)	4:32	5:29	4:26	5:24
Beit Shemesh/RBS	4:32	5:27	4:27	5:22
Alon Shvut	4:29	5:27	4:24	5:22
Raanana/Tel Mond/Herzliya/K.Saba	4:30	5:27	4:24	5:22
Modiin/Chashmonaim	4:29	5:27	4:24	5:22
Netanya	4:30	5:27	4:24	5:22
Be'er Sheva	4:31	5:29	4:26	5:24
Rehovot	4:30	5:28	4:25	5:23
Petach Tikva	4:13	5:27	4:08	5:22
Ginot Shomron	4:29	5:26	4:23	5:21
Haifa / Zichron	4:18	5:26	4:13	5:21
Gush Shiloh	4:28	5:26	4:23	5:21
Tel Aviv / Givat Shmuel	4:30	5:28	4:25	5:23
Givat Zeev	4:33	5:26	4:28	5:22
Chevron / Kiryat Arba	4:30	5:27	4:24	5:22
Ashkelon	4:32	5:29	4:26	5:24
Yad Binyamin	4:30	5:28	4:25	5:23
Tzfat / Bikat HaYarden	4:20	5:24	4:14	5:19
Golan	4:26	5:24	4:20	5:19
Nahariya/Maalot	4:27	5:26	4:22	5:20
Afula	4:27	5:25	4:22	5:20

Rabbeinu Tam (Jerusalem): Noach - 6:05PM • Lech Lecha - 6:00PM

All Times According to MyZmanim (20 mins before Sunset in most Cities; 40 mins in Yerushalyim and Petach Tikva; 30 mins in Tzfat and Haifa)

Daf Yomi: Bava Basra 130



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JERUSALEM

Ranges 11 days Wednesday - Shabbat Oct. 30 - Nov. 9 / 28 Tishrei - 8 Marcheshvan Earliest Tallit and Tefillin 5:03-5:11 Sunrise 5:55-6:04 Sof Zman Kriat Shema 8:38-8:43 Magen Avraham 8:01-8:05 Sof Zman Tefila 9:33-9:36 (According to the Gra and Baal HaTanya)

 Chatzot (Halachic Noon)
 11:22

 Mincha Gedola (Earliest Mincha)
 11:52

 Plag Mincha
 3:41-3:34

 Sunset (Including Elevation)
 4:55-4:47



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DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

RABBI AVI BERMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OU ISRAEL
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My family and I love having guests, and *Baruch Hashem* our house is full most Shabbatot and *chagim*. As special as our company is, there's that moment when the guests go home when my wife and I sit with our children and are able to give them our full attention. This reminds me of an idea that comes up every year on Shemini Atzeret.

The gemara (Sukkah 55b) tells us that during the first seven days of Sukkot, the service in the *Beit HaMikdash* was devoted to the whole world and all the different nations (adding up to seventy bull sacrifices). However, the last day is Shemini Atzeret, a day with just one bull sacrifice, devoted to the personal relationship between Hashem and the Jewish people. The gemara says that Hashem is telling us, through Shemini Atzeret, "While I love all the nations, you are My children. Please stay with Me for one more day, after all the other nations have left, so that we can have a closer time together."

That thought has always been so heartwarming to me. Every Simchat Torah is really about the Jewish people celebrating *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* and His Torah, with dancing, singing, and praise, along with members of our shul, yeshiva, seminary and community. It has become a day where we can tell our Father in Heaven how much we love His Torah, and Him telling us how much He wants to be with us.

And if we think about it, the theme makes perfect sense for this time period. We began with starting to blow the *shofar*



every morning during the month of Elul, and adding Psalms 27 ("Le'David Ori ve'Yishi). We then add selichot, followed by the Yamim Noraim and Sukkot. Simchat Torah then caps all of these events and brings them all into perspective. We are Hashem's children.

I have always felt that there needs to be something to recognize this at the end of Simchat Torah. Why does it feel like we just let Simchat Torah come to an end and get on with our lives without any fanfare, even though it is the most important part of this whole season of holidays? Shouldn't there be something to recognize and express that theme that Simchat Torah represents as the capstone of our High Holidays and our relationship to Hashem?

Fifteen years ago, after moving to our current home in Givat Ze'ev, I shared with my family that I wanted to invite the community to our house for the last hour of Simchat Torah. During this time, we sing *shirei neshamah*, deep, thoughtful songs,

and say goodbye to Simchat Torah and the whole holiday season. That first year, we got seventeen or eighteen people to come from the community, and every year after it continued to grow.

The singing is really a cathartic experience. It allows us to say farewell to the last 52 days that have been so meaningful and so special between us and our Father in Heaven. It allows us to close our eyes and reflect back. We can consider what we as individuals, as a community and nation, have gone through in the last 52 days. It becomes an opportunity to think about how we will implement the changes we promised to make in our lives for the rest of the year.

A number of years ago, when Rabbi Eli Sheinfeld became the rabbi of our shul in Givat Ze'ev, he asked me if he could have the honor of hosting this singing at his house. I was flattered, in fact, that this event was considered important enough to the community that the Rabbi desired to make it an official event of the community and that he would host it. When this happened, Baruch Hashem, the crowd really grew. It now has approximately 50-60 people every year, all coming to sing and hear a few words from the Rabbi. In fitting with the theme of reflecting on the life we have lived for the last 52 days, the singing begins with tunes from Elul, Rosh Hashanah, selichot, Yom Kippur, and then to Sukkot. It is a beautiful way to relive these moments and recap them in a visceral, emotional, and heart-stirring way, and also to say goodbye to them and move on to the time we call here in Israel, "acharei hachagim," after the holidays.

As I've written about before, our neighbors in Givat Ze'ev, the Steinberg family, tragically

lost their son, Yoni *Hy"d*, on Simchat Torah last year. This year, in discussion with the Steinberg family, we moved the singing to the Steinberg home. The entire community came to their home, and it was jam-packed. A feeling of togetherness and unity was in the air and in all of our hearts.

Many have tried to answer the question, how should we balance the tension between commemorating the devastating massacre of last year while maintaining joy for the *chag* itself, where a holiday has also become the *yahrtzeit* of so many holy Jews? How do we act differently? What do we change in davening? How do we change our *hakafot*?

All I needed was the singing that would take place at the Steinberg home. I knew that no matter how I danced with the Torah, and how my davening was, the singing would be there to allow me to sit down and reflect; reflect on who we have lost, reflect on our feelings of hurt and sadness, and reflect also on that most important relationship - HaKadosh Baruch Hu. This thought enabled me to dance with the Torah with all my might because I knew that the singing at the end of Simchat Torah would be there to keep that balance. It enabled me to have a "normal" Simchat Torah. Perhaps because of this article, other communities will end

The OU Israel Family and Israel Free Spirit send heartfelt condolences to Barak Schecter and family and to the Nahary and Vega families on the passing of his wife/ their mother/daughter and sister

SARAH a'h

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

the chag with heartfelt singing as well and this can help others find their balance on Simchat Torah for many years to come.

Yoni's father, Danny, spoke at this event. He recalled how last year, when he walked home during the last hour of Simchat Torah, he encountered the army personnel who had come to notify his family that Yoni had fallen as a hero. He said that looking around the room, at the same time that last year was so, so bitter, and seeing the entire community surrounding them, he knew this was the proper way to recognize and commemorate this time.

May we take this special relationship with *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* that we have formed throughout the last two months, and continue to pray that Hashem take these *tefillot* from Elul to Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur to Simchat Torah, *tefillot* that were so different this year from any other year, and see them for what they are: expressions of how much we love Him, how much we are willing to sacrifice for Him, and for each other. This past week we had way too many funerals and over 60 Jewish children have become orphans the past two weeks. Our hearts and minds are with them. May Hashem thereby grant us a healthy winter,

May the Torah learning from the Torah Tidbits be in loving memory of

VIVIAN CHESNER a"h Beloved Mother and Grandmother

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a winter of victory over our enemies, and may we only hear *besorot tovot*.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,

Rabbi Avi Berman Executive Director, OU Israel aberman@ouisrael.org

Before Rosh HaShana, my column thanked our many Torah Tidbits volunteers for all of your efforts to ensure your beloved Torah Tidbits reaches you before Shabbat. As I wrote then, since our Torah Tidhits volunteer network is so expansive, we don't even know who all of you are. Whether you, our valued volunteer, just started today or you have been with us for years, whether you deliver to many *shuls*/establishments or just bring them from one shul to the other, if you have not done so already, please fill out the short form using the QR code below so that I can get to know you and express our appreciation for your efforts.





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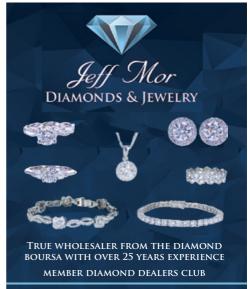
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Noach: Moral Leadership

The ethics and morals of leaders are of essential importance.

Pirkei Avot is the most well-known section of the Mishna as it is dedicated to articulating the Sages' ethical messages. Surprisingly, according to the Rambam (Introduction to Rambam's Commentary to the Mishna), it was not written for the masses but rather specifically for the leaders and judges of the community, "because if members of the masses are not ethically trained, they only harm themselves, whereas if the judge/leader is not an ethical and well-mannered personality, he loses his way and causes the people to be lost via the harm he causes."

It was corrupt leadership that brought the destruction of the world in the *mabul*, the great flood. "The sons of *elohim* saw that the daughters of man were lovely, and they began to take whomever they chose to be their wives." (Bereishit 6:2) Rashi follows the translation of *Onkelos* and understands that these "sons of *elohim*" were the children of the leaders and judges of the time, leading Ramban to comment that society is doomed when those charged with preserving order and justice in society are themselves corrupt.

In this context, we can have a completely different understanding of God's instruction to Noach upon his emergence from the ark: "One who sheds the blood of man - by man shall his blood be shed, for in God's image man was made." (Bereishit 9:6) The verse here is introducing the death penalty for a murderer and it is being justified by the significance of the life he has destroyed. Yet all indications are that at this point man was further away than ever from reflecting God's image. Why is now the time to elevate the significance and godliness of the victim and therefore initiate the death penalty for his murder?

In context, however, we understand that the "men in God's image" referenced here are not the victims but the judges, those sons of Elokim - the gods of the earth whose essence and actions are supposed to reflect the essence and actions of the God in heaven but often fall short. After the disaster of the flood was brought on by the corruption and failure of the judges and leaders. Hashem turns to man and charges him to lead society towards truth and justice by zealously safeguarding it. "One who sheds the blood of man - by man shall his blood be shed." Leadership cannot sit by and watch impassively as evil is perpetrated; they must respond, "for in God's image man was made." Corrupt and failed leaders destroy the world. Those who strive to live up to the Divine image of care and responsibility redeem it.

Real Life Rescues אֵמָהָה



The Gas Run That Saved A Life

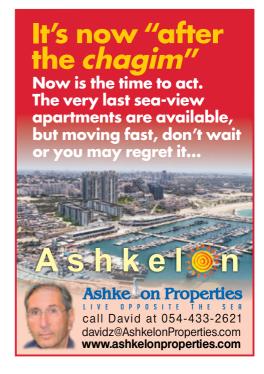
On Wednesday in Holon, just after 9 PM, United Hatzalah volunteer EMT Nehoray Cohen went out to refuel his ambucycle. Just as he was finishing filling his tank, he received a notification on his communications device about a man who had lost consciousness in an apartment building near the gas station. He rushed to the scene on his ambucycle and arrived in under 30 seconds.

Cohen entered the apartment and found a man in his 60s lying on the floor of the kitchen, with blood on his face. Family members said he had suddenly lost consciousness and stopped breathing, causing him to fall on the floor. Cohen checked for a pulse, but there was none. He immediately reported to dispatch and attached his defibrillator to the patient. Cohen administered a shock and initiated CPR. A second shock was administered, followed by another round of chest compressions. More first responders arrived at the scene, and they provided assisted ventilation while Cohen continued the chest compressions.

Shortly after, an intensive care ambulance arrived. The paramedic administered additional shocks, advanced ventilation, and medication, while EMTs took turns performing chest compressions. After over 20 minutes, the patient's pulse was restored, and he began breathing independently. He was transported to the hospital for further care.

"It's always incredibly rewarding to help save someone's life," said Cohen. "When you go out for the most mundane task of refueling your vehicle, you don't expect that something like this is going to happen. Thanks to this refueling and my ambucycle, I was able to respond extremely fast, with a wonderful outcome."









OU... Beyond Kashrut

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The Pearl and Harold Jacobs Zula Outreach Center (also known as הזולה של חצרוני)
is a safe haven for at-risk teens, primarily from religious backgrounds. Thanks to the incredible Zula staff, many Zula alumni stay connected to the Zula after getting married, and many of our young married Zula couples met at the Zula.

In order to help these young couples create healthy relationships, we established Binaya — the Center for Young Couples from the Zula. Binaya couples attend monthly meetings at the Zula which include joint learning, experiential activities, and opportunities to enhance personal connections. Seminar topics include communication skills, marriage and Halacha, Jewish ideals and more. Fun

activities, such as a woodworking session, foster teamwork and partnership while the couple gets to bring something they made together home as a reminder of the skills they gained at Binaya. Couples strengthen the foundation of their marriage while gaining tools and techniques that they can use as they build their lives together.

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ALIYA-BY-ALIYA SEDRA SUMMARY

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PARSHAT NOACH

Parshat Noach describes: the destruction of the world through the Flood, Noach and his family, the story of the Tower of Babel and the introduction of Avraham's family.

The first 2 parshiot in our Torah, Breishit and Noach, are essentially parallel creation stories, or more accurately a creation and a recreation.



1ST ALIYA (6:9-22)

Noach is righteous, while the world is filled with evil. Noach is

instructed to build an Ark, for while G-d is to destroy all living beings, He establishes a covenant with Noach to save him. Noach, his family, 2 of each animal and the food are to be brought into the Ark. Noach did all that G-d commanded.

The world will be destroyed with water. The Torah describes in the second verse in

May the Torah learning from this issue of Torah Tidbits be לעילוי נשמת

Joseph (Joe) Manasseh z"ו יוסף בן גבריאל מנשה ומעתוקה ז"ל on his third Yahrzeit - כ"ט תשרי

Greatly missed by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

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the Torah, that the first thing to exist in the world was water: "The spirit of G-d hovered over the waters". If you want to indicate that the world is getting a reboot, is starting again, cover it with water, as it was "In the beginning".

There is a detailed description of the dimensions of the Ark, while there is hardly any description of man's evil that is causing the world to be destroyed. The Torah is more interested in the recreation than it is in the story of man's failure. The title of the Flood story should not be the destruction of the world, but rather the recreation of the world.

2ND ALIYA (7:1-16)

Noach is again described as righteous. Bring 7 of each pure

animal, 2 of the impure, and all the birds into the Ark. Noach was 600 years old and brought his family into the Ark. The waters of the springs of the depths were released and the stores of water above were opened. All entered the Ark, as G-d had commanded Noach.

Both aliyot began with Noach's righteousness and end with him doing as G-d commanded. In a word, righteousness is defined as doing what G-d commands.

The water floods the world from below and from above. We have seen water below and above before: in Creation, Ch. 1:6, G-d separated between the waters above and below and made the heavens between. Creation involved dividing the waters; while here the process of creation is being undone. The waters that were gathered in creation are here being released. The Flood is Creation being redone.



3RD ALIYA (7:17-8:14)

The Flood covers the earth. All living things on land die, save

Noach and all that are in the Ark. G-d remembers Noach. The waters recede. The Ark rests on Mt. Ararat. Noach sends out the raven. Then Noach sends out the dove to see if the water has receded enough for land to be inhabitable. She returns for she has found no place to rest. After 7 days, she is sent out again and returns with an olive branch. The third time she is sent out, she does not return. Noach removes the covering and sees there is dry land.

There is a lot of detail of water and of time. The rising water, the receding water, how many days it rained, how many days it took to recede. This stands in stark contrast to the initial creation of the world. In creation, G-d Said and it was. And after 6 days, the creation ceased. In this recreation, the covering of the world with water took months; the receding of the water took time. Why?

This is the most crucial part of this story. The world was not destroyed – I mean, not back to "tohu v'vohu – to void and empty". G-d did not look at the evil of the world – man and animals - and destroy the world. He could have chosen to destroy the world entirely and begin anew with another 6 days of creation. He did not do that. He "recreated" the existing world – saving Noach, saving the world, covering it slowly with the water that existed.

It looks like G-d is committed to this world, even binding himself to it; He will destroy it and rebuild it but use the world as it is. The story of the Torah is G-d's commitment to man and to the world He created. He saves the world. He saves Noach. But even before this; Adam and Eve sinned and were punished. But not destroyed. Cain killed Abel, the most egregious sin, and is punished; but is not himself killed. G-d is committed to this world and is committed to mankind. He destroys the world naturally, maintaining it, covering it slowly with water and waiting for the water to recede. That very process communicates His commitment to His world and to mankind.



4TH ALIYA (8:15-9:7)

Noach is told to leave the Ark with his family and with the ani-

mals, blessing the animals to teem over the land. Noach offered sacrifices on an altar. G-d committed to never again curse land and animals because of man, nor the constellations. G-d blesses Noach and family to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth. They may eat creatures but may not kill man.

The echoes of Creation continue. Noach and the animals receive the same blessings made to the animals and to man in Creation, to be fruitful and multiply. Noach is the new Adam. But with one dramatic difference. G-d pledges that never again will there be

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a destruction of land, animals or seasons. This was not promised at Creation.

The notion of G-d promising is shocking. *G-d* making promises to *man*? Really? *He* promises to *us*? Could it be that all the horrible evil that man is capable of perpetrating, and has perpetrated in the history of mankind – that in spite of all that evil, He guarantees the world will never deserve to be destroyed? It must be that mankind, in just the way it has been created, capable of evil but capable of good, *that* creation of mankind is so precious to G-d that He commits to us, regardless of our failings. As such, the story of the Torah is a love story; G-d's love and commitment to mankind, just the way it is.



5TH ALIYA (9:8-17)

G-d tells Noach and his family that He is making a covenant with

all living things that the world will never again be destroyed by Flood. The rainbow is a sign of this covenant between us. I will see the rainbow and remember this eternal covenant.

The word "brit", covenant occurs 7 times in this paragraph of 9 verses. We are so familiar with the story of the rainbow after the flood that its plain meaning slips by unnoticed. G-d is pledging himself to the world. And, as if to make sure He Himself doesn't forget, He places a sign, a reminder of His pledge.

Condolences to Robin & Bruce Epstein and family on the passing of her father

David Lefkovic z''l

Noach has got to be looking around, wondering, "is He talking to me? What did I do to deserve this? The Master of the Universe, who just covered the world in water due to man's failings, He is committing to us? And binding Himself with a rainbow, lest He forget?"

The Creation story crowned man with majesty, created in the image of G-d. The Flood recreation story is a love story, the love of G-d for man, the commitment He has to man. And while a covenant has two parties, each of whom pledges to the other, in this covenant nothing is demanded of man. Only He pledges to us.



6TH ALIYA (9:18-10:32)

Noach plants a vineyard, becomes drunk and lies exposed

in his tent. Cham sees Noach; the other sons cover Noach without looking. Cham is cursed, Shem is blessed, Yefet granted beauty. Noach's numerous descendents are listed, distinctive in geography and in language.

Noach seems to follow in Adam's agrarian footsteps – Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden, Noach plants a vineyard. But the decline of the new man is not long in coming.

The generations of Noach are described as different, distinct, separated into nations, into languages and distinct geographic regions. This gives rise to Nimrod, the warrior – distinctions and groupings give rise naturally to competition.



7TH ALIYA (11:1-32)

The Tower of Babel, an attempt to unite mankind results in a dis-

persion and proliferation of languages. The genealogy of Noach's descendants continues

until Avraham's family is introduced, who journey toward the Land of Israel.

The story of the Tower of Babel begins as a desire for unity but ends with people scattered the world over. The desire for unity would seem to be a good thing. However, unity often implies being united under me, coercing all to be like me. World history is the history of empires, seeking to make the world a better place by being just like me. The theme of dispersion, of exile which began with Adam being exiled from the Garden of Eden, and Cain exiled to wander the world has its next chapter with the dispersion, the exile of the builders of the Tower of Babel.

The dispersion and exile of the first 2 parshiot of the Torah will be reversed with the call to Avraham to come *to* the Land of Israel.



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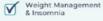
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THE PERSON IN THE PARSHA

BY RABBI DR. TZVI HERSH WEINREB
OU EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, EMERITUS

Nimrod and the Psychology of Evil

Why did I choose the title "Person in the *Parsha*" when I began to compose these weekly columns many years ago? I hesitate to tell you the truth; namely, that I had several reasons for doing so. But one reason was the fact that almost every *parsha* has in it a central human figure, Abraham or Moses for example, and often several such figures. Surely, a weekly column must include some comment about that person's heroic achievements or occasional frustrations.

Often, however, we find names of people of whom we know very little, and at times next to nothing. Surely, the author of a weekly *parsha* column must bring the existence, and significance, of such people to the attention of his or her readers.

In writing this week's column, I decided to focus on one such individual, Nimrod. Here is what the Torah tells us about him:

Kush (the son of Cham) begot Nimrod, who was the first to be a man of might on earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; hence the saying, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord." The mainstays of his kingdom were Babylon, Erach, Accad, and Calneh in the land of Shinar. From that land

he (Nimrod, according to Ramban and others) went forth to Ashur and built Nineveh... (Genesis 10:8-11)

Was Nimrod a "bad guy" or a "good guy"? The simple reading of the text gives us nary a clue about whether he was "good" or "evil". Yet even a cursory study of the rabbinic sources yields the picture of an ambitious and self-aggrandizing tyrant. Even the two phrases "before the Lord" are understood by our sages as testifying to either his arrogance or to his hypocritical and blasphemous relationship with the divine.

As Rashi puts it: "He recognized his Master (i.e. the Lord) but intentionally rebelled against Him." Thus, Don Isaac Abarbanel, who knew a thing or two about palace politics, portrays Nimrod as the first human being to challenge the equality of all mankind and to relegate for himself the role of an egomaniacal autocrat driven by violent ambitions of military conquest.

And yet, his outer behavior, his persona, was "before the Lord". He played the role of a devout believer in the One Above and successfully convinced others that this façade was the "real" Nimrod. We may conjecture that, in his mind, even the Lord himself was deceived by his prayers and religious rituals as he "knew his Master but intended to rebel against Him".

We may conclude that Nimrod was evil, but in a complex and self-contradictory way. For most of us, he remains difficult, perhaps even impossible, to comprehend! This brings us to the tantalizing question, "What is the nature of Evil?" Are all villains as psychologically complex as Nimrod? Does one size fit all the Hamans and Hitlers of our tragic history? Or do they somehow differ from each other in an inscrutable but equally diabolical manner?

These are questions to which I intend to return as we proceed together through the ensuing chapters of the *Chumash* this year. I've begun with Nimrod, but for a *broader* view let's return to the Torah portions we read last week, *Parashat Bereshit*, and the preceding *Shabbat* during *Sukkot* when we read the Book of *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes) in the synagogue.

First, the following reflection of King Solomon, whom our Sages identified as the author of the tantalizing and fascinating Book of *Kohelet*. Let's see what he had to say about evil and, more importantly, about the relationship between good and evil:

Behold the Lord's doing! Who can straighten what He has twisted? In an instance of "good", join it; and in an instance of "evil", reflect: the Lord arranged them as parallel to each other..." (Kohelet 7:13-14, my translation).

Zeh le'umat zeh! "Good" and "Evil" are, in some manner, "parallel to each other". I take that to mean that just as "evil" people are composed of mixed motivations and mixed behaviors in keeping with their individual psyches, so are "good" people complex to the extent that no two of them are exactly like each other.

For another emphatic "coupling" of "good" and "evil" let's flip back a few pages in our *Chumash* to last week's Torah portion, *Bereshit*. There we find the following powerful words:

The Lord took Adam and placed him in the garden of Eden... And the Lord commanded

Adam, saying, "Of every tree in the garden you may eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you must not eat. For as soon as you eat of it, you shall die." (Genesis 2:15-17).

Note! One tree with both "good" and "evil" components. There are many conclusions to draw from the curious juxtaposition of two opposites in one tree. One plausible interpretation is that there is often, if not always, no evil without some good in it, and no good without a dose of evil within.

But I prefer to interpret the presence of both good and evil in the tree as support for my contention that the psychological composition of good and evil people is complex as both are products of mixed motives and contrary dispositions.

Our task is to better understand the differing components of both the "good" and the "evil" within each of us. One approach to this task is offered by Rabbi Yakov Loberbaum, the nineteenth century Torah scholar known for his many Talmudic works such as *Netivot HaMishpat*, who writes in his commentary on *Chumash*, *Nachalat Yakov*:

There are two types of sinners: a) the one who sins because of his uncontrollable personal passions, and (b) the other who sins to defy his Maker even with no personal material benefit.

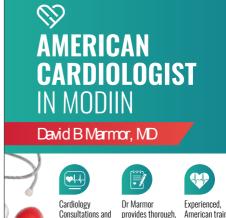
How eloquently Rabbi Avraham Isaac Kook expresses his view of the source of evil in his *Orot HaTeshuvah* (8:4):

What is the reason for the rage evinced by evil doers? What is the meaning of their anger with the whole world, what is the basis for the bitter melancholy that consumes spirit and flesh, that poisons life, that is found among them?... With clear inner certainty we reply to this: All this stems from the source of evil,

"from the wicked emanates wickedness." (Samuel I 24:13)

For Ray Kook, there is evil deep within all of us, but our free will can suppress it. "When the will refuses to leave evil reposing in the depths of the soul, it... disturbs the equitable relationship of the soul with all existence."

This week. I have focused upon the complexities of evil. I deliberately ignored Noah, the force for good in this week's Torah portion, Noach. Next week's Torah portion will give me the opportunity to shift gears to explore the stark contrast between two Biblical representatives of good—Noah and Abraham. Please join me again for *Parshat Lech Lecha* as we strive together to suppress evil and attain only that which is "good" in the eyes of others and in the judgement of our Creator.



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Individual and Collective Responsibility

I once had the opportunity to ask the Catholic writer Paul Johnson what had struck him most about Judaism, during the long period he spent researching it for his masterly *A History of the Jews*? He replied in roughly these words: "There have been, in the course of history, societies that emphasised the individual – like the secular West today. And there have been others that placed weight on the collective – communist Russia or China, for example."

Judaism, he continued, was the most successful example he knew of that managed the delicate balance between both – giving equal weight to individual and collective responsibility. Judaism was a religion of strong individuals and strong communities.

Mazel Tov to
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This, he said, was very rare and difficult, and constituted one of our greatest achievements.

It was a wise and subtle observation. Without knowing it, he had in effect paraphrased Hillel's aphorism: "If I am not for myself, who will be (individual responsibility)? But if I am only for myself, what am I (collective responsibility)?" This insight allows us to see the argument of Parshat Noach in a way that might not have been obvious otherwise.

The Parsha begins and ends with two great events, the Flood on the one hand, Babel and its tower on the other. On the face of it they have nothing in common. The failings of the generation of the Flood are explicit. "The world was corrupt before God, and the land was filled with violence. God saw the world, and it was corrupted. All flesh had perverted its way on the earth" (Gen. 6:11-12). Wickedness, violence, corruption, perversion: this is the language of systemic moral failure.

Babel by contrast seems almost idyllic. "The entire earth had one language and a

common speech" (Gen. 11:1). The builders are bent on construction, not destruction. It is far from clear what their sin was. Yet from the Torah's point of view Babel represents another serious wrong turn, because God scatters all the builders, and immediately thereafter He summons Abraham to begin an entirely new chapter in the religious story of humankind. There is no Flood -God had, in any case, sworn that He would never again punish humanity in such a way ("Never again will I curse the soil because of man, for the inclination of man's heart is evil from his youth. I will never again strike down all life as I have just done" (Gen 8:21)). But it is clear that after Babel, God comes to the conclusion that there must be another and different way for humans to live.

Both the Flood and the Tower of Babel are rooted in actual historical events, even if the narrative is not couched in the language of descriptive history. Mesopotamia had many flood myths, all of which testify to the memory of disastrous inundations, especially on the flat lands of the Tigris-Euphrates valley (See Commentary of R. David Zvi Hoffman to Genesis 6) who suggests that the Flood may have been limited to centres of human habitation, rather than covering the whole earth). Excavations at Shurrupak, Kish, Uruk and Ur – Abraham's birthplace – reveal evidence of clay flood deposits. Likewise the Tower of Babel was a historical reality. Herodotus tells of the sacred enclosure of Babylon, at the centre of which was a ziggurat or tower of seven stories, 300 feet high. The remains of more than thirty such towers have been discovered, mainly in lower Mesopotamia, and many references have been found in the literature of the time that speak of such





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However, the stories of the Flood and Babel are not merely historical, because the Torah is not history but "teaching, instruction." They are there because they represent a profound moral-social-political-spiritual truth about the human situation as the Torah sees it. They represent, respectively, precisely the failures intimated by Paul Johnson. The Flood tells us what happens to civilization when individuals rule and there is no collective. Babel tells us what happens when the collective rules and individuals are sacrificed to it.

It was Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), the thinker who laid the foundations of modern politics in his classic *Leviathan* (1651), who – without referring to the Flood – gave it its best interpretation. Before there were political institutions, said Hobbes, human beings were in a "state of nature". They were

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individuals, packs, bands. Lacking a stable ruler, an effective government and enforceable laws, people would be in a state of permanent and violent chaos – "a war of every man against every man" – as they competed for scarce resources. There would be "continual fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Such situations exist today in a whole series of failed or failing states. That is precisely the Torah's description of life before the Flood. When there is no rule of law to constrain individuals, the world is filled with violence.

Babel is the opposite, and we now have important historical evidence as to exactly what was meant by the sentence, "The entire land had one language and a common speech." This may not refer to primal humanity before the division of languages. In fact, in the previous chapter the Torah has already stated, "From these the maritime peoples spread out into their lands in their clans within their nations, each with its own language" (Gen. 10:5). The Talmud Yerushalmi, Megillah 1:11, 71b, records a dispute between R. Eliezer and R. Johanan, one of whom holds that the division of humanity into seventy languages occurred before the Flood.

The reference seems to be to the imperial practice of the neo-Assyrians, of imposing their own language on the peoples they conquered. One inscription of the time records that Ashurbanipal II "made the totality of all peoples speak one speech." A cylinder inscription of Sargon II says, "Populations of the four quarters of the world with strange tongues and incompatible speech . . . whom I had taken as booty at the command of Ashur my lord by the might of my sceptre, I caused

to accept a single voice." The neo-Assyrians asserted their supremacy by insisting that their language was the only one to be used by the nations and populations they had defeated. On this reading, Babel is a critique of imperialism.

There is even a hint of this in the parallelism of language between the builders of Babel and the Egyptian Pharaoh who enslaved the Israelites. In Babel they said, "Come, [hava] let us build ourselves a city and a tower...lest [pen] we be scattered over the face of the earth" (Gen. 11:4). In Egypt Pharaoh said, "Come, [hava] let us deal wisely with them, lest [pen] they increase so much..." (Ex. 1:10). The repeated "Come, let us... lest" is too pronounced to be accidental. Babel, like Egypt, represents an empire that subjugates entire populations, riding roughshod over their identities and freedoms.

If this is so, we will have to re-read the entire Babel story in a way that makes it much more convincing. The sequence is this: Genesis 10 describes the division of humanity into seventy nations and seventy languages. Genesis 11 tells of how one imperial power conquered smaller nations and imposed its language and culture on them, thus directly contravening God's wish that humans should respect the integrity of each nation and each individual. When at the end of the Babel story God "confuses the language" of the builders, He is not creating a new state of affairs. He is in fact restoring the old.

Interpreted thus, the story of Babel is a critique of the power of the collective when it crushes individuality – the individuality of the seventy cultures described in Genesis 10. (A personal note: I had the privilege of addressing 2,000 leaders from all the world's

faiths at the Millennium Peace Summit in the United Nations in August 2000. It turned out that there were exactly 70 traditions – each with their subdivisions and sects – represented. So it seems there still are seventy basic cultures). When the rule of law is used to suppress individuals and their distinctive languages and traditions, this too is wrong. The miracle of monotheism is that unity in Heaven creates diversity on earth, and God asks us (with obvious conditions) to respect that diversity.

So the Flood and the Tower of Babel, though polar opposites, are linked, and the entire Parsha of Noach is a brilliant study in the human condition. There are individualistic cultures and there are collectivist ones, and both fail, the former because they lead to anarchy and violence, the latter because they lead to oppression and tyranny.

So Paul Johnson's insight turns out to be both deep and true. After the two great failures of the Flood and Babel, Abraham was called on to create a new form of social order that would give equal honour to the individual and the collective, personal responsibility and the common good. That remains the special gift of Jews and Judaism to the world.

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Miriam & Rabbi David Shapiro and family on the birth of a great grandson



PROBING THE PROPHETS

BY RABBI NACHMAN (NEIL) WINKLER FACULTY, OU ISRAEL CENTER

The haftarah that is generally read on Shabbat Rosh Chodesh (there are exceptions), is a selection taken from the last chapter of Sefer Yeshayahu. At first, that would hardly seem to be significant, as rarely is the relative position of a reading in its source book, of any importance. Additionally, familiar closing of this haftarah, where the navi promises how, in the future, mankind will gather to Yerushalayim on each Rosh Chodesh and Shabbat, ("midei Chodesh b'Chod'sho umidei Shabbat b'Shabbato') to worship G-d, is a powerful enough reason as to why this selection was chosen to be read when Rosh Chodesh coincides with Shabbat.

But a more intense study of this perek will reveal to us a less obvious message, one of hope and comfort, which offers an additional reason why our Rabbis chose this prophecy to be read on this Shabbat Rosh Chodesh.

In his book, HaMevaser, HaRav Yigal Ariel reveals how this final chapter of Sefer Yishayahu forms a fascinating review of the many themes found expressed by Yishayahu in the previous chapters. Rav Ariel goes on to specify quite a number of these ideas that are found repeated in verses of this final chapter:

"Shamayim" and "Aretz"



The opening of the last nevu'ah speaks of "shmayim" as being G-d's throne and "aretz" as His footstool while the first nevua'h opens by calling to the "shamayim" and "aretz" to witness the sinfulness of Israel.

• Rejection of Hypocritical Sacrifices

In the final chapter Hashem's decries those who offer sacrifices while mistreating others ["Shochet hashor, Makeh ish"] just as He rejects the such offerings in the first perek ["Lama li roy zivcheichem?"].

A Rebirth of Israel

Once again, the closing perek echoes earlier prophecies of the nation's coming renaissance ["gam yal'da Tziyon et baneha"], much as we read in chapter 49 ["V'amart...mi yalad li et eileh?"]

The Return of the Exiled

In our haftarah, we read the guarantee of the future Ge'ulah – not simply the return itself but the promise that the other nations would be those to **bring back** the dispersed Jews ["V'heivi'u et kol acheichem mikol hagoyim"]. This idea is also expressed in a previous chapter (before this final perek), where we read how the ships of Tarshish would bring the exiles back ["Oniyot Tarshish...l'havi banayich merachok..."].

Rav Ariel includes six other examples of ideas found in preceding chapters that are repeated in the final perek of Sefer Yishayahu.

And now, we can ask....WHY?

What message is subtly included in this closing prophecy that might hold a significant lesson for us – one that would have Chazal require its reading *specifically* on Shabbat Rosh Chodesh?

I would (hesitatingly) suggest that our ancient scholars may have focused upon the respective themes of each of these holy days and have seen in them complementary messages, fitting for the day when they both converge. To clarify: the Torah does not obligate one to rejoice, "v'samachta", on either of these days (although we do ask from G-d to bring us joy through His salvation, ["v'samchenu"]). Likewise, it does not command the fulfillment of a special mitzvah to mark the day, as it does for the observance of the festivals (i.e. Matzah, Bikkurim, Sukkah, etc.)

Perhaps, therefore, Chazal saw a uniqueness in the respective themes of each day - the themes of **creation** and **renewal**. Shabbat calls upon us to recognize the Al-Mighty as He Who **created** the universe; Rosh Chodesh asks us to perceive Hashem's ongoing - never-ending – **renewal** of His creation by sensing His constant involvement in nature.

Our haftarah reaffirms the Yishayahu's earlier promises to underscore the truth that what WAS promised IS happening. We may not sense it, we may not see it or even believe it but this unique confluence of Shabbat with Rosh Chodesh stands as a reminder that, like creation itself, G-d's prophetic promises were...and still are.

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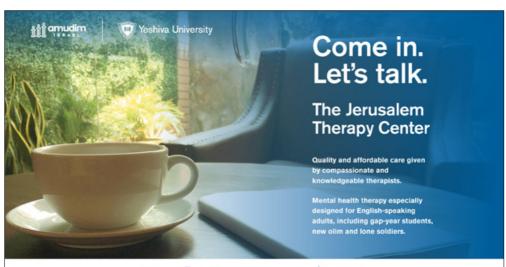
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Achieving One's Potential – מבול and Avoiding בו"ל

וַיַּרְא אֱלֹקִים אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וְהִנֵּה נִשְׁחָתָה כִּי־הִשְׁחִית כָּל־בָּשָׂר אֶת־דַּרְכּוֹ עַל־הָאָרֶץ:(בראשית ו:יב)

And God saw the earth, and behold it had become corrupted, for all flesh had corrupted its way on the earth. (Bereshit 6:12)

The pasuk cited above seems superfluous. It could have ended with the statement that God saw the earth was corrupt. What does the second clause add: כי השחית כל בשר את - that all flesh corrupted its way...?

The Sarei Alafim (Rav Twersky from Chicago) offers a very creative interpretation of this pasuk. In Sefer Malachim the month of Cheshvan is referred to as ירח בול. It is interesting that these letters also represent the first, middle and last letters in the Torah (ב-בראשית, ו-גחון, ל- ישראל). What is this significance?

חנוך לנער על פי דרכו

In Mishle (22:6) - we are taught חנוך לנער one should educate a child in accordance with his unique personality and talents "דרכו". It is incumbent upon parents and teachers to try to bring out the best in each child, in accordance with their unique personalities so that each child can reach his or her full potential. This statement is not only applicable to children, but each of us ought to look inside ourselves to find our talents

and the unique manner in which we can positively impact those around us.

The word דרכו in Mishle refers to the manner in which we utilize these talents. When we do not utilize our talents and maximize our potential we are משחית דרכו - we destroy our potential. This is what the pasuk in our Parsha is referencing. כי השחית כל בשר את People used their talents in a destructive rather than constructive manner. The second phrase is necessary to highlight what was so detrimental, the manner in which they wasted their talents.

בו"ל

Getting back to the letters \vdash - each of these letters is a prefix.

 \square - When we say בב'ת – we are referring to something "**in**" the home. \square – is the first letter in the Torah as it is the starting point. We first need to look **inside** ourselves in order to identify our \square – our talents so that we can use them properly.

ו – The letter ו – adds to what precedes it. When one refers to בית ושדה – it is adding a reference to a field in addition to a house. Once one recognizes their talents, they need to utilize those talents to reach the ultimate goal, by adding their present levels in עבודת. It is the middle letter of the Torah to

symbolize that once identifying one's talents, it is a process to get to the end goal of maximizing and fulfilling one's potential.

ל – The letter ל means heading towards – לבית refers to one heading towards a home. After identifying and working on our talents, our derech, we need to stay focused on the end goal- to achieve our full potential.

During the past year our soldiers were very focused on their goal. They utilized their training and talents to fulfill their mission, their shlichut on behalf of Am Yisrael, always maintaining their goal of freeing the hostages and ensuring a more secure environment for our nation.

The flood is called the מבול. The word includes the three prefixes but adds a fourth, the letter מ. The letter מ- is used to describe a separation, something that pulls an object away. מ – means **from** the

home. We must focus on our goal- that is בול. When one is distracted from their goal, it is destructive, like the מבול.

May we be able to identify our talents and utilize them properly so that we can fulfill our potential. Specifically now, following the Yamim Noraim, as we enter chodesh Cheshvan (ירח בול), we have to avoid being drawn away from our goal as the מבול May we work hard at utilizing our talents so that we maximize our potential and positively impact all those around us. ■

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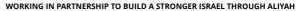


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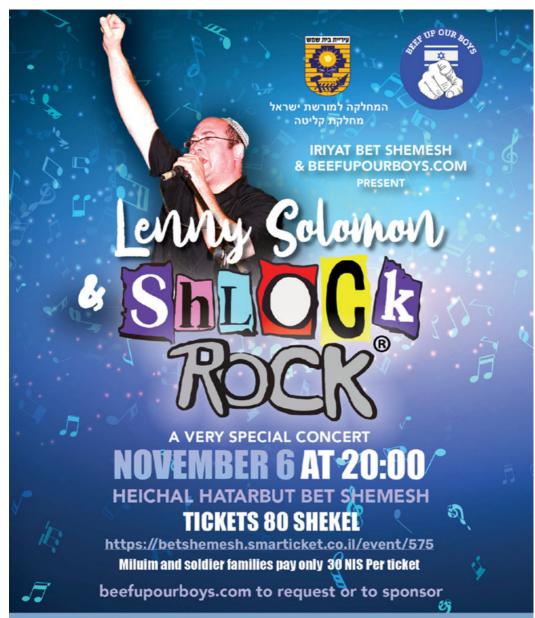














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Remarkable Roots

Our *parashah* opens with a description of Noach's righteousness, specifically mentioning that he was a tzadik "bedorotav -in his generation." In what has become a famous argument, Rashi comments on the Torah's use of this specific characterization. Since Noach obviously lived in his generation, there must be an additional element to be learned here.

Looking at the word "bedorotav" as prompting a comparative, some commentators explain that it highlights Noach's greatness; he was able to live righteously in a morally depraved society, had he lived in a generation of upright, ethical people, he would have been greater still. Other commentators, however, look at Noach through a more critical lens and explain that his righteousness was relative to those in his generation, had he lived in a generation like Avraham Avinu's, he would not have been considered a tzadik at all. Yet the Torah explicitly describes Noach as a tzadik, why the need to minimize his greatness with this interpretation?

Rav Schwab *zt"l* in *Maayan Beit Hasho'eva* offers a powerful insight. He maintains that evil cannot emerge from a source of total goodness. Hence, although we see that great people like the *Avot hakedoshim*, and Moshe *Rabbeinu* came from Noach, we also see that his progeny included terribly wicked people as well, such

as Nevuchadnezzar, Haman, and Titus. This indicates that Noach must have possessed some trait rooted in negativity. As such, Chazal consider Noach with a positive as well as a more critical perspective. Clearly the lesson here is that how we develop our character will impact our future generations.

The Saba of Slabodka zt"l however, explains both views as speaking of Noach's greatness. What is being debated here is what prompted his greatness. The first, more positive view asserts that Noach was motivated by an inner desire for greatness. The second, less complementary view highlights that Noach chose to reject the decadent lifestyle that surrounded him; thus, his righteousness was influenced by external forces.

The Tosher Rebbe *zt"l* finds this alluded to in the beginning of the verse. *"Eleh toldot Noach, Noach ish tzadik* - these are the chronicles (lit. "generations") of Noach, Noach was a righteous man." Noach, he explains, "birthed" himself, he created his own chronicles, i.e., he introduced the concept of being a righteous person in his generation. Noach's greatness was that he was able to develop nobility of character without a teacher, mentor or the influence of greatness.

What a tremendous lesson for us coming on the heels of the Yom Tov season! As there are no holidays in the month of Marcheshvan, we each have a personal responsibility to commit ourselves to strengthen our *avodat* Hashem. When we take the initiative to grow and develop our spirituality, we will blessed from Above with *siyata dishmaya*, Divine assistance to succeed in our endeavors.



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Yoni thanks Hashem for having the opportunity of having Tziporah in his life, to learn of her caring, patience and happiness, to overcome her challenges. May Tziporah's Neshama be a light onto the world, in a time of darkness, and may her Neshama shine to Gan Eden. Yoni misses Tziporah with tears in his eyes, as Hashem gave him a gift, a crown jewel, now he returns her to Hashem.

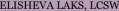
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The centerfold - the yearly zmanim (pages 38-43) can be pulled out and saved

Shabbat Mevarchim (Molad)

English Date	Shabbat Mevarchim	Month	Molad	ימי ראש חדש
Rosh Chodesh Kislev is on Sunday December 1 and Monday December 2	תולדות	coti	מולד חודש כסלו יהיה בליל ראשון בשעה 9,44 דקות 151 חלקים	ראש חדש כסלו יהיה ביום ראשון וביום שני הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה
Rosh Chodesh Tevet is on Tuesday December 31 and Wednesday Jan. 1	מלא	טבע	מולד חודש טבת יהיה ביום שני בשעה 71,55 דקות 161 חלקים	ראש חדש טבת יהיה ביום שלישי וביום רביעי הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה
Rosh Chodesh Shevat is on Thursday January 30	וארא	שבט	מולד חודש שבט יהיה ביום רביעי בשעה 6, 17 דקות ו 17 חלקים	ראש חדש שבט יהיה ביום חמישי הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה
Rosh Chodesh Adar is on Friday February 28 and Shabbat March 1	ตบอบก	אדר	מולד חודש אדר יהיה בליל שישי בשעה 19, 2 דקות 01 חלקים	ראש חדש אדר יהיה ביום הששי וביום שבת קדש הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה
Rosh Chodesh Nisan is on Sunday March 30	едіт	ניסן	מולד חודש ניסן יהיה ביום שבת בשעה 7, 44 דקות ו 1 חלקים	ראש חדש ניסן יהיה ביום ראשון הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה
Rosh Chodesh Iyar is on Monday April 28 and Tuesday April 29	שמיני	אייר	מולד חודש אייר יהיה בליל שני בשעה 30,20 דקות 21 חלקים	ראש חדש אייר יהיה ביום שני וביום שלישי הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה
Rosh Chodesh Sivan is on Wednesday May 28	בתקותי	Oil	מולד חודש סיוון יהיה ביום שלישי בשעה 9, 1 דקות ו 3 חלקים	ראש חדש סיון יהיה ביום רביעי הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה
Rosh Chodesh Tammuz is on Thursday June 26 and Friday June 27	שלח	תמוז	מולד חודש תמוז יהיה בליל חמישי בשעה 51,58 דקות ו 4 חלקים	ראש חדש תמוז יהיה ביום חמישי וביום ששי הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה
Rosh Chodesh Menachem Av is on Shabbat July 26	GUO	מנהם אנ	מולד חודש מנחם אב יהיה ביום שישי בשעה 42,10 דקות 51 חלקים	ראש חדש מנחם אב יהיה ביום שבת קדש הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה
Rosh Chodesh Elul is on Sunday August 24 and Monday August 25	ראפ	אלול	מולד חודש אלול יהיה בליל ראשון בשעה 24,23 דקות ו 6 חלקים	ראש חדש אלול יהיה ביום ראשון וביום שני הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה

Shabbat Candle Lighting & Havdala

Parsha	English	Hebrew	Jerusalem (Candles 40mins before sunset)	erusalem (Candles 40mins before sunset)	Tel/	Tel Aviv	Beer Sheva	Sheva	Haifa (Candles 30mins before sunset)	ifa 30mins sunset)
	Date	Date	Candles	Havdala	Candles	Havdala	Candles	Havdala	Candles	Havdala
Bereishit	Oct. 25-26	23 Tishrei	5:20	6:32	5:37	6:34	5:38	6:34	5:25	6:32
Noach	Nov. 1-2	1 Marcheshvan	4:13	5:26	4:30	5:28	4:31	5:29	4:18	5:26
Lech Lecha	Nov. 8-9	8 Marcheshvan	4:08	5:21	4:25	5:23	4:26	5:24	4:13	5:21
Vayera	Nov. 15-16	15 Marcheshvan	4:04	5:18	4:20	5:19	4:22	5:20	4:08	5:17
Chayei Sara	Nov. 22-23	22 Marcheshvan	4:00	5:16	4:17	5:17	4:19	5:18	4:05	5:15
Toldot	Nov. 29-30	29 Marcheshvan	3:59	5:15	4:16	5:16	4:17	5:17	4:03	5:14
Vayeitze	Dec. 6-7	6 Kislev	3:59	5:15	4:16	5:16	4:17	5:18	4:03	5:14
Vayishlach	Dec.13-14	13 Kislev	4:00	5:17	4:17	5:18	4:19	2:20	4:04	5:16
Vayeishev	Dec. 20-21	20 Kislev	4:03	5:20	4:20	5:21	4:22	5:23	4:07	5:19
Miketz	Dec. 27-28	27 Kislev	4:07	5:24	4:24	5:25	4:25	2:57	4:11	5:23
Vayigash	Jan. 3-4	4 Tevet	4:12	5:29	4:29	5:30	4:30	5:31	4:16	5:28
Vayechi	Jan. 10-11	11 Tevet	4:17	5:34	4:34	5:35	4:36	5:37	4:22	5:33
Sh'mot	Jan. 17-18	18 Tevet	4:23	5:40	4:40	5:41	4:42	5:42	4:28	5:39
Va'era	Jan. 24-25	25 Tevet	4:30	5:46	4:47	5:47	4:48	5:48	4:35	5:45
Bo	Jan. 31-Feb. 1	3 Sh'vat	4:36	5:52	4:53	5:53	4:55	5:54	4:41	5:51

5:57	6:03	60:9	6:15	6:20	6:25	6:30	7:35	7:41	7:46	7:47	7:52	7:58	8:03	8:09	8:15	8:21	8:26	8:27
4:48	4:54	2:00	90:5	5:12	5:17	5:22	6:27	6:32	6:37	After 7:46	6:42	6:47	6:52	6:57	7:02	7:07	7:12	7:13
9:00	6:05	6:11	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:30	7:35	7:40	7:45	7:46	7:50	7:55	8:01	8:06	8:12	8:17	8:21	8:22
5:01	5:07	5:12	5:18	5:23	5:28	5:32	6:37	6:42	6:46	After 7:45	6:51	9:99	7:00	7:05	7:10	7:14	7:19	7:20
5:59	6:05	6:10	6:16	6:21	6:26	6:31	7:36	7:41	7:46	7:47	7:51	7:57	8:03	8:08	8:14	8:19	8:24	8:25
5:00	90:5	5:12	5:17	5:23	5:28	5:33	6:37	6:42	6:47	After 7:46	6:52	6:57	7:02	7:07	7:12	7:16	7:21	7:22
5:58	6:03	60:9	6:14	6:19	6:24	6:59	7:34	7:39	7:44	7:45	7:49	7:55	8:00	8:06	8:11	8:17	8:21	8:23
4:43	4:49	4:55	2:00	5:05	5:10	5:15	6:20	6:24	6:59	After 7:44	6:34	6:39	6:44	6:49	6:54	6:58	7:03	7:04
10 Sh'vat	17 Sh'vat	24 Sh'vat	1 Adar	8 Adar	15 Adar	22 Adar	29 Adar	7 Nisan	14 Nisan	15 Nisan	21 Nisan	28 Nisan	5 lyar	12 lyar	19 Iyar	26 Iyar	4 Sivan	6 Sivan
Feb. 7-8	Feb. 14-15	Feb. 21-22	Feb. 28-Mar.1	Mar. 7-8	Mar. 14-15	Mar. 21-22	Mar. 28-29	Apr. 4-5	Apr. 11-12	April 12-13	Apr. 18-19	Apr. 25-26	May 2-3	May 9-10	May 16-17	May 23-24	May 30-31	June 1-2
Beshalach	Yitro	Mishpatim	Terumah	Tetzave	Ki Tisa	Vayakhel	Pikudei	Vayikra	Tzav	Leil HaSeder	Shvii Shel Pesach	Shmini	Tazria-Metzora	Acharei Mot-Kedoshim	Emor	Behar-Bechukotai	Bemidbar	Shavuot

Parsha	English Date	Hebrew	Jerusalem (Candles 40mins before sunset)	alem 40mins sunset)	Tel Aviv	lviv	Beer Sheva	sheva	Haifa (Candles 30mins before sunset)	ifa 30mins unset)
			Candles	Havdala	Candles	Havdala	Candles	Havdala	Candles	Havdala
Naso	June 6-7	11 Sivan	7:07	8:25	7:24	8:28	7:22	8:25	7:16	8:30
Beha'alotcha	June 13-14	18 Sivan	7:10	8:29	7:27	8:31	7:25	8:29	7:19	8:33
Sh'lach	June 20-21	25 Sivan	7:12	8:31	7:30	8:33	7:27	8:31	7:21	8:35
Korach	June 27-28	2 Tammuz	7:13	8:31	7:31	8:34	7:28	8:31	7:22	8:36
Chukat	July 4-5	9 Tammuz	7:13	8:31	7:30	8:33	7:28	8:31	7:22	8:35
Balak	July 11-12	16 Tammuz	7:11	8:29	7:29	8:31	7:27	8:29	7:20	8:33
Pinchas	July 18-19	23 Tammuz	7:08	8:25	7:26	8:28	7:24	8:26	7:17	8:29
Matot-Masei	July 25-26	1 Av	7:05	8:21	7:22	8:23	7:21	8:21	7:13	8:24
Devarim	Aug. 1-2	8 Av	7:00	8:15	7:17	8:17	7:16	8:15	7:08	8:18
Va'etchanan	Aug. 8-9	15 Av	£ 5 :9	8:08	7:11	8:10	7:10	8:09	7:02	8:11
Eikev	Aug. 15-16	22 Av	6:46	8:00	7:04	8:03	7:03	8:01	6:55	8:03
Re'eh	Aug. 22-23	29 Av	6:35	7:52	6:55	7:54	6:56	7:52	6:47	7:55
Shoftim	Aug. 29-30	6 Elul	6:27	7:43	6:47	7:45	6:48	7:44	6:39	7:45
Ki Teitze	Sept. 5-6	13 Elul	6:18	7:33	6:38	7:35	6:39	7:34	6:30	7:35
Ki Tavo	Sept. 12-13	20 Elul	60:9	7:24	6:59	7:26	6:30	7:25	6:20	7:26
Nitzavim	Sept. 19-20	27 Elul	00:9	7:15	6:19	7:16	6:21	7:16	6:11	7:16

Kiddush Levana

Month	Earliest Kiddush Levana 3 Days After Molad	7 Days After Molad	Last Opportunity to Say Kiddush Levana until
Marcheshvan	3 Marcheshvan/Sun. night Nov. 3	9 Marcheshvan/ Motzei Shabbat Nov. 9	14 Marcheshvan/ Thurs. night Nov. 14
Kislev	4 Kislev/Wed.night Dec. 4	9 Kislev/ Mon. night Dec. 9	15 Kislev/Sun. night Dec. 15
Tevet	3 Tevet/ Thurs. night Jan. 2	8 Tevet/ Tues. night Jan. 7	14 Tevet/ Mon. night Jan. 13
Shevat	4 Shvat/Sat. night Feb.1	8 Sh'vat/ Wed. night Feb. 5	15 Shvat/Wed. night Feb. 12
Adar	3 Adar/ Mon. night March 2	7 Adar/ Thurs. night March 6	14 Adar/ Thurs. night March 13
Nisan	4 Nisan/ Tues. night April 1	8 Nisan/ Motzei Shabbat April 5	13 Nisan/ Thurs. night April 10
lyar	3 Iyar/ Wed. night April 30	6 Iyar/ Sun. night May 4	14 Iyar/ Sun. night May 11
Sivan	5 Sivan/Motzei Shabbat May 31	8 Sivan/ Tues. night June 3	15 Sivan/ Wed night June 10
Tammuz	4 Tammuz/ Sun. night June 29	7 Tammuz/Wed. night July 2	14 Tammuz/Wed. night July 9
Av (Many wait until after 9 Av)	4 Av/ Mon. night July 28	10 Av/ Sun. night Aug. 3	14 Av /Thurs. night Aug. 7
Elul	4 Elul/Wed. night Aug. 27	8 Elul/ Sun. night Aug. 31	14 Elul/ Motzei Shabbat Sept. 6

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SUNDAY NOV 3

2:00PM

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MONDAY NOV 4

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TUESDAY NOV 5

COMMUNITY BEIT MIDRASH IN BAKAA

Classes @ Bet Knesset Nitzanim, 3 Asher Street, Bakaa

9:15 AM

Understanding Tefila Ch

Rabbi Yossi Goldin

11:15 AM

Chumash B'lyun

Rabbi Shmuel Goldin

12:20 PM

Unpacking the Messages

of Chazal

Rabbi Shai Finkelstein

10:15 AM

Meaning in Mitzvot

Rabbi Yitzchak Breitowitz



MODIIN-THE BAIS

Men's Programs in Modiin Yeshivat Hesder Meir Harel, Emek Beit Shean 53, Modiin

10:00AM -2:00PM

Weekly Kollel Boker

Rabbi Avi Herzog,

Rabbi David Fine,

Rabbi lan Shaffer,

Rabbi Dovid Wolpe

7:30 PM

Safrut Chabura

Rabbi Tzvi Mauner

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WEDNESDAY NOV 6

COMMUNITY BEIT MIDRASH IN RECHAVIA

@ Bet Knesset HaNassi,24 Ussishkin Street, Rechavia

9:15AM

Holy Poetry Rabbi Dr. Aaron Adler

10:15AM

Contemporary Issues in Halacha and Hashkafa **Rabbi Anthony Manning**

11:25AM

Wisdom of Rav Kook **Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider**

12:30PM

Pirkei Avot Rabbi James Kennard

SPECIAL EVENT:

9:15AM-1:00PM
Women's Rosh Chodesh
Cheshvan Seminar
@OU ISRAEL CENTER

WED. EVENING

8:30 PM

The Bais-Halachic Controversies

Rabbi Aschi Dick @ Ohel Yitzchak

Synagogue, Keren HaYesod Street

THURSDAY NOV 7

COMMUNITY BEIT MIDRASH IN ARNONA

Classes @ Bet Knesset Shai Agnon, 11 Rechov Leib Yaffe, Arnona

9:15 AM

Parshat HaShavua **Rabbi Ari Kahn** (Resumes Nov. 14)

10:30AM

Parashat HaShavua Rabbi Baruch Taub

11:15AM

Trailblazing the Text of TaNaCh **Rabbi Neil Winkler**

12:20PM

Modern Masters **Rabbi Sam Shor** (New Series)

2:00 PM

@ OU Israel Center

Men's Gemara Chabura Rabbi Jeff Bienenfeld

8:00 PM The Bais in Partnership with Kehilat Hashiveinu, Men's Chabura Launch with Rabbi Sam Shor & Rav Noam Koenigsberg. 23 Mishol Hakoranit, Abel Residence, Ramot

SPECIAL EVENT: 7:000PM

ATID (Young Single Olot) Trip to Kever Rachel @OU ISRAEL CENTER



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9:15AM Introduction

Mrs. Zemira Ozarowski

9:20AM The Torah Reading Cycle: Back to the Beginning Rabbi Anthong Manning

10:05AM And so we Begin Again - Taking the New Year into our Everyday Lives Mrs. Sylvie Schatz

11:00AM Refreshments

11:10AM Endings & Beginnings throughout Tanach Mrs. Leah Feinberg

12:00PM

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Noach: Build!

Reb Avraham Mordechai Alter, the 'Imrei Emes' of Gur, zy'a, transplanted seeds of the nearly decimated Chasidic community of his father (the Sefas Emes), and his grandfather (the Chidushei haRim), in Eretz Yisrael. Having survived the war, the Imrei Emes escaped Poland and arrived in Yerushalayim in 1940. Three of his sons survived and ultimately succeeded the Imrei Emes as Gerrer Rebbes, while most of the rest of his family was murdered in the Shoah.

Reb Noach Yoskovitz, a grandson of the Imrei Emes, himself suffered and survived five years of the terrors of Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz. However, he found himself ensconced in the Santa Maria al Bagno 'displaced persons' camp in Southern Italy, where cruel and immoral British policies effectively barred Jewish immigration to Eretz Yisrael. Israel's national Holocaust archives include an emotional letter from Noach and a group of friends, pleading with authorities for permission to make aliyah—so that they could "serve Hashem with peace of mind and taste the holy air of the Land of Israel." Following a massive hunger strike, coupled by diplomatic interventions and daring

Mazal Tov to
Harriet Leibowitz and family on
the birth of a great grandson

'illegal' operations with *siyata d'shmaya*, Reb Noach and many other Jews were eventually successful in ascending to the Holy Land.

Arriving in Yerushalayim in 1946, Reb Noach had an emotional reunion with his grandfather. As for many survivors, the burden of heavy emotions, survivors guilt and trauma, made it difficult for Reb Noach to contemplate how to move forward. Seeing this, his *zeideh* asked him softly, 'Why do you think the *Ribbono shel Olam* spared Noach? Why did he survive the destruction?"

Locking eyes with his beloved grandson he then cried out, "Va-yisha'er ach Noach! Only Noach was left!, Va-yisha'er ach Noach! Only Noach was left!" With a tear in his eye, he continued: "Consider, meyn kynd, how much has been washed away, how much we have lost! ...How much you have lost! Years of your life, opportunities, time... You must now run to the beis medrash and begin again! Rebuild yourself, rebuild Torah, rebuild Yiddishkeit.... Vayisha'er ach Noach! Only Noach, only Noach, only Noach was left! You survived to build, meyn kynd, build, you are to rebuild the world!"

וַיִּמַח אֶת־כּל־הַיְקוּם אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה מֵאָדָם עַד־בְּהֵמָה עַד־רֶמֶשׁ וְעַד־עוֹף הַשָּׁמִים וַיִּמְחוּ מִן־הָאֶרֶץ וַיִּשָּׁאֵר אַרְּנֹחַ וַאֲשֵׁר אָתּוֹ בַּתֵּבָה:

"All existence on earth was blotted out humans, cattle, creeping things, and birds of the sky; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noach was left, and those with him in the ark." (7:23)

מַיִם רַבִּים לֹא יוּכָלוּ לְכַבּוֹת אֶת־הָאַהֵבָה וּנְהָרוֹת לֹא

יִשְׁטְפוּהָ

"Many waters are unable to extinguish the love, and rivers cannot drown it."

(Shir haShirim, 8:7)

Rashi brings a precious *pshat* from the Medrash Rabbah. The "many waters" are the nations of the world, while "rivers" refers to their ministers and kings. But these can never extinguish the love between the *Ribbono Shel Olam* and His nation, nor drown it, "not through force nor *eimah*, "terror", nor through enticement and seduction." The love between Hashem and the Jewish People is absolute and eternal.

לַכל וְמֵן וְעֵת לְכַל־חֶפֵץ תַּחֶת הַשַּׁמֵים, "Everything

has an appointed season, and there is a time for every matter under the Heaven" (Koheles, 3:1). This Shabbos marks Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan, and in many communities and yeshivos, it is the beginning of choref zeman, the 'winter' or primary session. However, for countless soldiers who are bnei Torah, hesder and mechinah students and kollel avreichim— along with their valiant wives, families and relatives— there is no beginning or end of a 'zman', but rather a continuous עת מלחמה, "time of war". How many chayalim are already in their second or third sevev milluim or round of reserve duty;

I recently spoke with the young wife of a soldier returning to the front for another tour of reserve duty, while she cared for their infant alone. "Of course it is hard," she admitted, "but what choice do we have? This is our *mitzvah* and our *zechut....*"

how many have been away from home for

months on end, answering the call to protect

and serve, and rebuild our world.

How many similar young families are crying out, 'If not us, then who?' Their selfless



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dedication to others, their *achrayus*, responsibility for Am Yisrael, is the highest expression of Torah ideals. For, facing the darkest of voids, they teach us the meaning of *Va-yisha'er ach Noach*, "Only Noach was left!" They demonstrate to each and every one of us that we, too, are charged with the obligation and *achrayus* to protect and rebuild.

Through this path of sacrifice we are building an everlasting structure, a vessel to contain Hashem's promise of Redemption and a time of peace. Yet, as the *eis milchamah* continues to unfold and battles rage in our North and South, the most selfless of our community and nation are literally building our future, the future of the existence of the Jewish People in our Holy Land. May Hashem protect them, and may they, and all of us, see the fruits of these holy labors, the ultimate and complete *binyan* of *Artzeinu haKodesha*.



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR, OU ISRAEL CENTER

There is a fascinating teaching in the Zohar HaChadash that offers an interesting take on the narrative of Noach. Upon emerging from the teiva and witnessing the destruction in the world following the flood, Noach began to weep, and then called out to Hashem- questioning how could it be that the world was decimated. Hashem, according to this teaching, answers *Noach*, calling him a foolish servant- I told you that you were righteous before me, and that the world was destined for destruction, and you did nothing! You had the capacity to daven and intercede, and you did nothing to convince me that the world was worth protecting!

The Beit Yaakov of Ishbitz zy'a, similarly points out that there is a familiar pasuk in Yeshaya which refers to the flood as the Mei Noach- the waters of Noach. The Rebbe explains, since Noach did not advocate for the salvation of others before the flood, the flood's destruction is subsequently referred to as the waters of Noach.

The great Chasidic Master **Reb Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev**, **zy'a** points out something interesting in this teaching. In not advocating at all, by not making any effort whatsoever to show concern for others, *Noach* was not simply selling others short, but rather was selling **himself** short! *Noach* simply did not understand or believe that he, as a righteous person, had the ability to both advocate for or influence others! He simply didn't understand that he, like each

of us, can indeed make a difference-that we are all given the gift of *koach hatefila*, the power of *tefila* to transform ourselves, and transform the world!

Reb Levi Yitzchak teaches us so powerfully that each of us should reflect on this important lesson, that we should appreciate the capacity each of us has been endowed with, that our actions and tefilot do have the ability to impact others, and to lift up the entire world.

This idea is reflected in a powerful short teaching from *RebTzadok HaKohen MiLublin zy'a*, in his work *Tzidkat HaTzadik*, *Reb Tzadok taught*:

K'sheim She'Adam Tzarich L'Haamin B'Hashem Yitbarach, kach tzarich achar kach l'haamin b'atzmo-Just as a person must believe and be faithful to Hashem, so too one must believe and have faith in oneself!

Hashem bestows each of us with incredible capabilities- each of us must look inward with confidence and ask ourselves- how can I contribute to making the world a better place?

May each of us take to heart these three meaningful insights, and *B'Ezrat Hashem*, may we merit both to channel those inner strengths, and collectively bring about a transformation of the entire world.





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Noach: Post October 7th Improvements

The Torah vividly details the receding waters of the flood, capturing the intense drama and anticipation experienced by Noach and the others aboard the *teivah*. Trapped in the dark and mildewy confines of the ark for a full year, they endured a stifling and claustrophobic existence. Each drop in the water level, every glimpse of a mountain peak emerging from beneath the waters, fueled their longing and dreams of eventual freedom and release.

As the time for disembarkation approached, Noach dispatched two birds, presumably to search for dry land. The Torah devotes considerable attention to the details of these missions, suggesting that they were not merely practical efforts to locate land.

Discovery of dry land at a distance of the birds' flight range would have offered little practical benefit. Only land close enough to the *teivah* would facilitate their exit, and any nearby dry land could likely have been spotted from the ark itself. Thus, these avian missions of the dove and the raven were more symbolic than logistical, representing deeper themes beyond any apparent practicality.

Chazal elaborate the symbolic significance of these bird missions, especially the flight of the raven: the raven was not sent to search

for dry land, as the dove was. Instead, Noach expelled the raven from the ark's sanctuary, casting it out from the circle of creatures destined to rebuild a shattered world. Unlike the dove, which was dispatched on a hopeful mission to seek signs of renewal, the raven was merely "sent out," wandering aimlessly with no clear purpose or destination:

וישלח את העורב

Noach didn't assign the raven with locating dry land but ejected it from the *teivah*. Further evidence that the raven had become an "animal non grata" lies in the Torah's description of its sad and pitiable circling around the *teivah*:

וישלח את העורב ויצא יצוא ושוב עד יבשת המים מעל הארץ

Tragically, the raven ceaselessly sought to return to the *teivah*, its desperate attempts to reenter met with rejection. It circled and hovered, longing for the refuge it had lost, yet found no welcome, only the relentless void of the open skies. Its struggle continued in vain, until the day when dry land finally emerged.

Although Noach initially expelled the raven, he was instructed by Hashem to reintroduce it into his new society. The raven would, one day play a pivotal role in Jewish history. When Eliyahu Hanavi was on the run for his life from Achav, he sequestered himself in a desert cave. In this moment of need, he was sustained by a group of ravens that brought him food and water, illustrating the complex and unexpected role the raven would play in Jewish history.

What flaws did Noach perceive in the raven, leading him to disqualify it from the ark's community and deem it unfit for shaping a renewed world?

There were three moral defects about the raven which troubled Noach. These traits are not merely instinctual animal responses or behaviors; they reflect deeper characteristics that posed a threat to the new world that Noach sought to establish. Ravens are among the most intelligent creatures in the animal kingdom, and the qualities Noach observed were toxic to a society in need of renewal.

Firstly, as the midrash asserts, Noach was troubled by the raven's lack of care for its offspring (Midrash Ha'Ne'elam). Although modern science indicates that ravens do, in fact, nurture their young, cuckoos, a related species notoriously neglects its chicks, and it was probably this species which Chazal were critiquing. Presumably the Hebrew term עורב" refers to both ravens and the similar looking cuckoos.

Furthermore, as a scavenger that feeds on carcasses, the *oreiv* or raven is associated with lack of compassion and mercy, qualities which threaten a new society which should be founded upon kindness and empathy. Finally, the raven's black plumage, shared by the cuckoo, further symbolizes harshness and violence, in contrast to the compassion and gentleness that Noach envisioned as the foundation for a renewed and radiant new world

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Secondly, (as the Radak and others allude to) Noach feared that the raven, as a scavenger, might consume the flesh of those who perished in the flood. Evidently, the bodies were not entirely dissolved by the waters, and the scavenging ravens could have fed on the remains. Noach did not want the new world to be polluted by the presence of human flesh. The previous society had descended into moral chaos, and the new world was meant to embody dignity and human nobility. The sight of scattered human remains would have compromised the sanctity and purity of the society Noach sought to create. Ironically, Noach himself fell short of these aspirations when he became drunk and exposed himself, thereby undermining the dignity he intended to safeguard and the noble world he envisioned.

INSENSITIVITY TO SUFFERING

The third issue was the raven's behavior during the year-long stay in the *teivah*. While the world outside was engulfed in suffering and death of the entire human race, Noach and his family took a solemn oath of celibacy, refraining from marital relations out of respect for the tragic circumstances. This code of abstinence was also observed by the animals in the ark. However, the ravens violated this moral restraint and continued to mate, displaying a troubling insensitivity to the surrounding devastation. Disturbed by this lack of empathy, Noach sought to expel the raven from the *teivah*, deeming it unfit for the new world he hoped to build.

Noach understood that he and his family had endured an apocalypse that irrevocably transformed their reality. As his exit from the *teivah* nears, Noach ponders the failures of the past and commits to building a better society founded on noble principles, aligning with divine expectations of humanity. He could not permit the raven to join this community, as its characteristics—lack of compassion, disregard for human remains, and insensitivity to the suffering of others—rendered it, in his eyes, unfit for the task of rebuilding a new world. Noach's vision required a society imbued with dignity and empathy, values he believed the raven fundamentally lacked.

OUR NEW WORLD

This past year, we have also endured a life-changing event. Nothing feels the same after October 7th. We will inevitably partition our lives and Jewish experiences into pre-October 7th and post-October 7th. As we slowly attempt to rise from this tragedy and achieve victory in the ongoing conflict, we find ourselves asking what changes to

our lifestyles and behavior does this event demand of us. It should be obvious that we cannot go on as if nothing happened.

Too many lives were lost, and while we may not have answers to the larger questions, such as why God allowed this to occur, we must respond in part by improving our personal behavior and building a better nation. This commitment to positive change is essential as we honor the memories of those we've lost and work towards a future rooted in compassion and understanding.

As we work to build a post-October 7th society and community, it is essential to reflect on these potential transformations. Noach's list—specifically, the traits of the raven that he found antithetical to his new society—provides a valuable starting point. By emulating the qualities Noach prioritized, namely compassion, respect for human dignity, and public sensitivity in the wake of collective trauma, we may also forge a better society. This past year we have encountered too many "ravens" and must work toward a society without its defects.

We have witnessed—and continue to witness—violent brutality and cruelty. Our enemies are homicidal maniacs with complete disregard for life, valuing neither our existence nor their own people's welfare. To overcome their violence, we should look inward to enhance our own compassion and selflessness and embody values which counter their darkness. By fostering empathy and kindness within our community, we can build resilience against the hatred and violence that threaten us.

Secondly, this past year, and especially on October 7th, we suffered the horrific defilement of human dignity through the crimes committed against both the living and the dead. By desecrating human remains and

preventing their burial, our enemies violated the sanctity of life, which is expressed in both our souls and our physical bodies.

Thank God, as a people, we conveyed a different message in how we handled the remains of the victims of that terrible pogrom. However, in a broader sense, we must work harder to protect the dignity of all human life and uphold the inherent worth of every individual created in the image of God. By honoring the nobility of others, we can begin to offset the terrible defilement of October 7th and reaffirm the sanctity of life amidst the darkness.

And finally, we must continue to be sensitive to the suffering around us. The period of the chagim challenged us to generate happiness and joy while remaining acutely aware of the suffering of so many Jews. Our debt to Jewish history and to those directly affected by this tragedy is to keep their suffering in our minds and hearts, even as we strive to conduct our normal routines. By bearing their pain within us, we honor their struggle and preserve their memory amidst our shared suffering. In carrying their anguish, we weave it into the fabric of our collective experience, ensuring that their voice is not lost and that their hearts do not weep alone.



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The World of Rav Kook: Loving More

Shamai's dictum, "Greet everyone cheerfully" (Avot 1:15) suggests more than merely putting on a mandatory smile when greeting others. The Rambam (*Peirush HaMishna L'HaRambam*) comments on Shamai's statement that one should interact with others *b'razton u'veneimut* (kindness and gentleness). We must extend an authentic warmth to others.

On the one hand, it does not sound terribly difficult to show honor to those around us. However, the mishna's statement emphasizes that *everyone* (*et kol haadam*) is deserving of this sentiment. We must always interact with others with gentleness and compassion.

There are various reasons why we may find it difficult to "greet everyone cheerfully." When we encounter people who are different from us we may instinctively distance ourselves from such individuals. Even worse, we may begrudge them and show them disdain.

How do we rectify being unduly condemnatory of others? This was a topic which was of major concern for Rav Kook. Throughout his writings he addresses the dangers of divisiveness and on occasion offered concrete suggestions on how to be more tolerant and loving.

Here are some of Ray Kook's recommendations:

A) Every Person Their Own Path: We often mistakenly assume that everyone should follow the identical path. Rav Kook reminds us of the notion that people are different from one another. Every person finds fulfillment and closeness to the Creator in their own way. Therefore we must value and honor our fellow Jew, even if he/she has adopted a different pathway in life. (Pinkasei HaRa'ya Vol. 1, pinkus 4, 49, quoted in Nelcha HaRo'eh on Pirkei Avot p. 37)

B) A Path That Would Be Harmful: An individual chooses a track in life. That life choice often comes with deep deliberation. A person is convinced that this religious path is true and noble. One may therefore feel a sense of frustration when seeing a friend or colleague who does not adopt an identical lifestyle. Rav Kook reminds us that what may be a healthy and useful pathway for one person could be detrimental to another. (Ibid.)

A simple example may help clarify this point: A particular person is committed to waking up early and learning Torah each morning prior to his prayers. Each night he also dedicates another hour to Torah study. This individual finds it frustrating when he takes note of his friend who is less devoted to Torah study. However, it may be that the intensity of this kind of schedule for his friend would have an adverse effect on him. This regiment may not be suited to the psychological makeup or personality of his friend.

C) God's Master Plan: Rav Kook suggested

that we learn to appreciate that God has created a world in such a way so that each individual performs a needed task in fulfilling a grand vision for mankind. Multiple personalities, talents, skills sets are required in order for the people of Israel, and mankind as a whole, to achieve its intended design. It would be untenable for the world to be filled with people all possessing the same talents and traits. (*Ain Aya, Berachot* Chapter 9, 276, cited in *Nelcha Ad HaRoeh* on *Pirkei Avot*, p. 38).

When we keep in mind that God has structured the word in such a way, we are instantly less judgmental of others.

D) Noting Our Own Imperfections: A person who is exceedingly certain that his track in life is perfect will be quick to find fault with others who have chosen a different one. Rav Kook submits that we humbly take note of our own imperfections and deficiencies. Thus we will be less likely to judge others harshly. A person who places the bulk of their effort towards self improvement will be left with little time or energy to be critical of others. (Ain Aya Berachot, chapter 9, 63, cited in Nelcha Ad HaRoeh on Pirkei Avot, p. 42)

E) Hidden Potential: Rav Kook was a mystic. The Kabbalah is also known by the phrase: penimiut HaTorah (the inner dimension of Torah). This expression actually articulates one of the Kabbalah's foundational teachings. Namely, that there exists a deeper level which often goes unnoticed.

Although it is natural to see things as they appear, often there is more than meets the eye. This is true regarding people as well. When interacting with people we often make quick assessments by judging their words and visible actions. But is this truthfully the whole picture?

The Kabbalah teaches that there are hidden

dimensions of the human personality. These inner dimensions may be even more dynamic than the parts that are more evident. In this respect Rav Kook maintained that when we evaluate others we must look to the hidden core of our fellow Jew. Invariably, there is to be found noble qualities.

In a touching passage we find Rav Kook exhorting himself be more mindful of this perspective:

"How much I need to toil, to work on clarifying my inner perspective regarding the essential content of the Israelites personality, which truly is not to be evaluated by its deeds, the revealed aspect if its lifeways - but by the firm inwardness which is the inheritance of Jacob - the holy and exalted..." (Hadaray, Naor, Koren, p. 181)

Rav Kook reminds himself to judge his fellow Jew based on the holy soul and noble spiritual essence found in every member of Klal Yisrael.

F) Endless Love: Rav Kook suggested that there is an underlying theme which is most vital in our quest to love others. A Jew must develop a personality which is brimming with warmth and tenderness. It should be a natural outgrowth of our humanity and our distinctive Jewish sensibilities. Rav Kook expresses his profound love for the people of Israel with the following delightful description: "My beloved brothers, if only I had arms the size of the world, so that I could hug all of you with love" (Igrot HaRe'iyah 2, p. 229, cited in Spiritual Revolution of Rav Kook, p. 201).



Rabbi Goldscheider's most recent OU Press Publication, "Torah United" on the weekly Parsha, can be ordered directly from Rabbi Goldscheider at Aarong@ouisrael.org at a special price for Torah Tidbits readers.



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Kiddush and Havdala in Shul

לעילוי נשמת יואל אפרים בן אברהם עוזיאל זלצמן ז"ל

Question: In America, I remember that the *shuls* made *Kiddush* on Friday night and *Havdala*. In Israel, this is not standard. What is behind the different *minhagim*? Are *Kiddush* and *Havdala* dependent on each other in this matter?

Answer: Kiddush and Havdala have similarities in this regard, but also differences.

Kiddush in shul is presented as a given in the gemara (Pesachim 101a), the purpose being to facilitate the mitzvah of Kiddush for visitors who eat in shul. Havdala in shul is not mentioned in the gemara, but the Tur (Orach Chayim 295) and Shulchan Aruch (ibid. 1) mandate it to be motzi those who do not have wine at home. Havdala in shul has precedent centuries earlier, as we see in the Mi Sheberach after Yekum Purkan, where we bless those who "give [the congregation] wine for Kiddush and Havdala."

Kiddush and Havdala in shul share the general question of whether to suspend ritual practices whose original justification

Mazel Tov to
Paul & Hayley Weinberg and
family on the Bar Mitzvah of
their son, Daniel

are barely relevant in our days. After all, it is rare to have a visitor eat in *shul*, and it is rare for people to not have wine at home.

The main attack on the old minhag on those grounds is found only regarding Kiddush (see Tur and Shulchan Aruch, OC 269:1). The Tur attacks, on fundamental grounds, the continued practice of Kiddush when there are no guests, but seems resigned to it in practice. He mentions (and rejects) Rav Natrunai's explanation that we continue the practice because the wine of this Kiddush is therapeutic for an eye malady and not everyone has wine at home. The Shulchan Aruch brings two opinions as to whether to continue the minhag without good reason. He prefers discontinuing it and says that the minhag in Eretz Yisrael is not to do it. (Nusach) Ashkenazi minhag has been to do Kiddush in shul (Mishna Berura 269:4), perhaps powered by the Magen Avraham's (69:3) approval. Regarding minhag Eretz Yisrael, Rav Frank (Har Tzvi, OC I, 153) said that in Yerushalayim, Kiddush should not be made in shul, but elsewhere in Israel both minhagim are acceptable (see also Dirshu 269:11)

In contrast, regarding *Havdala*, the Tur and Shulchan Aruch (OC 295:1) take it as a given. While one can argue that it is more common for people to lack wine than for *shuls* to have eating guests, the main difference is something else. Friday night *Kiddush* contains

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berachot which if no one is having a meal at the place will be *l'vatala* (see Tur, OC 269). In contrast, because *Havdala* can be made anywhere, there is no fundamental reason for there to be a beracha *l'vatala*.

The one thing that can go wrong with Havdala in shul is that sometimes no one wants to be *votzei* with it. Whoever needs to make Havdala at home should not be votzei at that time because it is very questionable whether he would then be permitted to make it for his wife and daughters (Mishna Berura 296:36; for explanation, see Living the Halachic Process, II, C-8). Even sons of the family who are in shul usually **do not** have in mind to be *yotzei* with the shul Havdala, although they could if they wanted to (see Mishna Berura 596:33). If no one including the one making Havdala is yotzei with it, it too can be a beracha l'vatala. A proper thing, which many shuls do, is to have a single man, e.g., including an over bar mitzvah son of one of the families. make *Haydala* and have in mind to be *motzi* himself and anyone else who wants to be yotzei. However, the K'tzot Hashulchan (96:(9), accepted by the Shemirat Shabbat K'hilchata 60:13) says that if no one specifically wants to be yotzei in shul, we should not do it, because it was not formally

instituted the way *Kiddush* was. Those *shuls* who regularly do *Havdala* even when there is no need either do not want to figure out each time if someone needs/desires it and therefore assume there is such a person, or they hold that the *minhag* for *Havdala*, even if not mentioned in *Chazal*. is a real *takana*.

An informal survey I did among American community rabbis finds that all the permutations of practice to do or not do *Kiddush* and/ or *Havdala* exist, and we have explained how they all can be readily justified.

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From Devastation to Restoration

During the month of Tishrei the OU Nach Yomi program transitioned from the study of Sefer Yirmiyahu to Sefer Yechezkel. This affords us the opportunity to study the same cataclysmic event as experienced, for the first time in Jewish history, by two divergent communities. The community in Eretz Yisrael experienced the Churban directly, while those who had already been exiled to Bavel experienced it vicariously, first through the prophecies of Yechezkel and later through the stories of their family members and friends who survived the inferno. The common denominator between the two groups was the difficulty they had in apprehending that an event so calamitous could actually occur. Throughout his sefer, Yirmiyahu repeatedly battled the false prophets who had captured the hearts of the people with their fraudulent but so much more palatable promises that God would never destroy His own house and Yirmiyahu was deceiving them with his prophecies of doom. Even as the Babylonians were besieging Jerusalem and the people were dying of starvation, the false prophets continued to offer perfidious assurances that this too shall pass. In Bavel, Yechezkel was faced with similar disbelief. It was his mission to concretize the reality of the impending disaster in the minds of his community, and prepare them to build institutions that would ultimately welcome the survivors of the devastation and ensure the continuity of Judaism without the Temple service at its epicenter. In the words of Rav Dr. Joseph Breuer, "He is our guide through the galut but also our guide out of the galut... Yechezkel, [Yirmiyahu's] great contemporary in the Babylonian exile, alerts his people to the dangerous influence emanating from the holy land. He describes the frightening extent of its social and political demoralization which threatens to spread to the land of the exiled. Only total spiritual isolation from these influences could save the golah from a similar fate. To this task Yechezkel devotes his unflagging energy as he proclaims the ultimate return of all Israel to its God and the simultaneous gradual elevation of all mankind to its God-willed destiny."1

To help us understand the poignancy of Yechezkel's mission, I often compare it to the experience of my mother, שתחיה, and her family during the Shoah. When the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact was still in effect, my mother left Poland, with her family and crossed into Russia, whence they were deported to a labor camp in Siberia. They thought then that they were facing oblivion, while those who remained in Poland would

^{1.} Rav Dr. Joseph Breuer, Commentary to the Book of Yechezkel, pp. ix-x

somehow survive. Little did they know that they were the "lucky ones", who would survive the war with their family almost intact, while those who remained in Rymanov were subsequently murdered. It would be the mission of these survivors to carry the vitality of Torah Judaism into the post-war reality, and to resettle the Land of Israel according to Torah values. Such was the situation in the time of Yirmiyahu and Yechezkel.

Today, when images of cataclysmic events in Jewish history are presented to us through the media rather than through prophecy, we turn to the words of the prophets for inspiration and guidance. We are inspired by the example of Yechezkel, whom Hashem addressed as "Ben Adam". Son of Man. The midrash explains, Adam is a term that unifies - if we look at another person and see his humanity, the Tzelem Elokim with which he was created. that binds us together, highlighting our similarity rather than the differences between us.2 May the demonstration of this teaching as we have seen it manifested over this past year in response to tragedy serve to bring the ultimate geulah to its full realization.

2. VaYikra Rabbah 2

Mrs. Leah Feinberg is a master educator who taught at the SKA High School for Girls in Hewlett for twenty-one years, also serving as Tanach Department chairperson and New Teacher Mentor. Leah is currently on the faculty of the OU Israel Center and has taught in all three cycles of the OU Women's Initiative Nach Yomi program

In the OU Women's Initiative Nach Yomi series. currently in its third cycle, women scholars deliver a daily shiur on the books of Prophets (Neviim) and Writings (Ketuvim) at the pace of a chapter a day. Shiurim are geared toward learners of all levels who would like to participate in the twoyear Nach Yomi study cycle. Visit the OU Women's Initiative to register for additional content.





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When someone you're speaking with starts sharing their dating struggles, concerns, or frustrations, that's a perfect opening to gently suggest some professional support. It's all about coming from a place of compassion. You might say something like, "Wow, that sounds really challenging," or "That seems like a tough spot to be in," or even, "I can

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Here's where it's important to make it relatable. Share a personal story, either from your own experience or one from someone you know. For instance, I once worked with someone who had a pattern of never getting past the first date. It was always 'one and done,' and he couldn't figure out why. After a few coaching sessions, we uncovered some patterns and worked on shifting his approach. The next thing he knew, he was on a third date! By getting the right help, he learned to make deeper connections, and the whole dating process became more fruitful for him.

I also had a client who was in a relationship and felt like she and her partner were constantly miscommunicating. After working with a coach, they learned about their different communication styles, and suddenly, everything clicked. Not long after, they got engaged!

After you share a story, pause and give them space to respond. If they seem open to the idea of working with a professional, you can recommend someone you trust. If they're hesitant or not ready, that's okay, too, and I wouldn't push it. You can always add, "If you ever feel like you need a dating coach, I know someone great I can refer you to."

When all is said and done, you can't want help for someone more than they want it themselves. If they're ready, fantastic! If not,

you can still be a supportive friend and guide, and if you're ever unsure about something, don't hesitate to seek advice from a professional to pass on to them. ■

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DEENA KALKER MADRICHA

BEYACHAD NENATZEACH

Parshat Noach opens by telling us that the earth was filled with corruption and anarchy and therefore Hashem ought to destroy the earth and all things on it. The exception was Noach, his family and a male and female of every animal species.

After 150 days in the ark, Noach and his family were finally able to exit the ark onto dry land. Upon exiting the ark Noach builds an altar and makes a sacrifice to Hashem.

Hashem in return made a covenant that never again will he destroy the earth due to mankind's behavior. Immediately following the covenant, Noach (along with us) received a set of rules, including one that states: "whoever sheds human blood, by human [hands] shall that one's blood be shed; for in the image of God was humankind made."

The urgency to implement these two things may shed a light on the reason the earth had to be destroyed in the first place.

In the beginning of Genesis, we learn that God created man in his image. Although all humans were created in the image of God, the stories in the previous chapters show us that people believed that only they themselves were created in the image of God and the rest of mankind was at a lower status. After the flood God makes it very clear that **everyone** is equal and important. Just as Noach made

a covenant with God that no matter how bad it gets the earth will remain, so too, we need to recognize the covenant we have with our nation.

Each and every one of us were created in the image of God and therefore deserve respect. Even if we look different, act different, believe in different things, we must treat every person with respect. A covenant is upheld no matter what, even if it's not always easy. Over the past year we have seen just how important it is to uphold the covenant, that together and united we are strong, but alone we are weak.

May we all be zoche to learn from this story and together bring ahava and achdut to all am Visrael

Shabbat shalom!



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NOACH, ISH TZADDIK

In this week's parsha, Parshat Noach, Noach is described as a tzadik: "אלה תולדות נח, Rashi brings . Rashi brings down a question about the word בדורותיו (in his generation). This word has caused debate for generations (pun intended). Some rabbis have argued that including the words "in his generation" implies that in any other generation he would not be considered a tzadik. On the other hand, other rabbis argue that if he lived in the generation of Avraham Avinu

he would have been even more perfect and righteous.

While the debate over Noach is compelling, we should focus on the way that one word can change our perception about a person. Even though the torah says "נח איש there has still been many arguments that have been going on for generations because of the word בדורותיו. If we know that the Torah has zero extra words and it still sparks such a big מחלוקת over Noach, we should think about how a word we say about others could cause lasting damage to their reputation.

We can also learn from this מחלוקת that we can't exactly judge everyone based on their cover. Even if Noach might not necessarily be on the same level as Avraham, doesn't mean that he's still not very pure. As we all know, it's harder to be good in an environment where everyone is really bad and bad mouthing everyone. Not everyone is from somewhere where everyone is outstanding and great and brought up very well.

We shouldn't be judging people based on where they are now because we don't know where they came from originally. We should all try to be pure, like Noach, and build a community based on positive speech. ■





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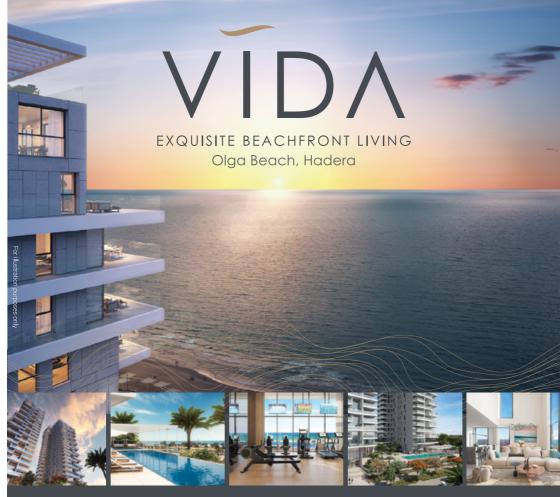


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