

Parashah #2
(Updated 11.01.08)

Noach ~ נח ~ Noah

Torah: B'resheet/Genesis 6:9~11:32

Haftarah: Yesha'yahu/Isaiah 54:1~55:5

**B'rit Hadashah: Mattityahu/Matthew 24:36-44; Luke 17:26-37
Acts 2:1-16; Kefa Aleph/1st Peter 3:18-22; Kefa Bet/2nd Peter 2:5**

I love Torah Study!!! This is SO much fun . . . there is ALWAYS something new and exciting!!! I learn something new every year!!! Can you tell that I'm wired?!?!?!? I have to repeat myself from last week. There is no way to cover everything that is in all 6 of these chapters!

Noach/Noah means *restful* or *comforter*. **B'resheet/Genesis 5:29**, speaking of Noach, says "This one will comfort us in our labor . . ." The Hebrew word (men-ah-kehm) **menachem מנחם** means *comforter*. In **Yochanan/John 14:16**, Yeshua tells his (tahl-meh-deem) **talmidim/disciples** that the Father will send them another **Comforter/Menachem**, which to me implies that Yeshua was their Comforter at that time. If Yeshua was/is our Comforter, then Noach is a foreshadow of Yeshua! Who says Yeshua can't be found in the original covenant? Even the Sages agree that **Menachem/Comforter** is one of the names of Messiah.

CHAPTER 6

Of course, we all know that up to this point, there had been no rain SO when Noach began building this monstrosity, I'm sure he was ridiculed greatly. Stop and think about the size of this structure. It would be a massive undertaking even today. Let' see, the dimensions, according to **verse 15**, are 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. If there are others like me who need some kind of visual aid to comprehend these figures, think about it this way. The length would be one and one-half times the length of a football field. The width would be approximately one-fourth as long as a football field is long and the height would be fifteen yards from the goal post at the end a football field. That is one massive structure! As a matter of fact, it is 1,518,750 cubic feet. I have been told this structure would be comparable to 522 box cars.

The Complete Jewish Bible translates **verse 16** as "You are to make an opening for daylight in the ark eighteen inches below its roof." Once again, it appears that there are not a lot of porthole windows in the ark as many pictures show but only one window. We are not told the dimensions of this window but I thought it interesting that it was eighteen inches below the roof. In Hebrew, **eighteen** is the numerical equivalent to the word **Chai** (sounds like khigh which means **Life**). To me, this parallels Yeshua who is the "light of the world" which brings us Life!

Just for the record, I personally believe Noah's ark was "shoe-box" shaped, not the "boat" type structure we see in pictures. When you stop to think about it . . . this is a fore-shadow of the Ark of the Covenant which is also shaped like a "shoe-box"!!!

Did anyone take into account the number of people who would be saved during the coming desolation? **Verse 18** tells us there was Noach, his wife, their three sons and the wives of their sons. That would be eight. Isn't it interesting that in scripture **eight** is the number of **new beginnings**?!

I think when each of us were growing up, whether we were involved in church or not, we all heard about Noah and the ark and (**verse 20**) that there were two animals of each kind on the ark, one male and one female, which were to be used to repopulate the world after the flood and that is the reason they, according to scripture, were to be kept alive. However, it's important to hear "the rest of the story", as Paul Harvey would say! The "rest of the story" follows in Chapter 7.

One more thing, all kinds of food to be eaten was to be collected for Noach, his family **AND** the animals. So, not only were there people and animals on board, there was an ample storage of food for each and every person and animal to last for over a year.

Do you remember last week when I mentioned that I believe **B'resheet/Genesis** is a blueprint for the rest of scripture and for our lives? Consider this . . . many of us have been taught about the "rapture" and how the believers are going to be "poofed" outta here when the going gets rough. And I can assure you I was on that band wagon for several years before I got a firm grasp of this blueprint. Reconsider this story about Noach and his family. There were others on the

earth at that time. I choose to believe that Noah was an evangelist, so to speak. I believe he was telling any who would listen that their ways were displeasing to HaShem. None listened, except his family. Noah and his family didn't escape the flood, which killed everything that wasn't on the ark but HaShem was with Noah and his family during it. In these last days, those who endure to the end will be those who keep the commands of G~d (i.e. Torah) and have the testimony of Yeshua/Jesus, according to the latter part of **Revelation 12:17** and **Revelation 14:12**. I am also reminded of scripture . . .

- **Matthew 24:37** "And as were the days of Noah . . ."
- **Luke 17:26** "And as it came to pass in the days of Noah . . ."

Let's not be blind sided by the theology of popular books instead of adhering to the Holy Word of HaShem. Consider the word of the L~rd.

CHAPTER 7

In **verses 2 & 3**, we learn that of the "clean" animals and birds, there were to be seven pair and one pair of "unclean" animals. However, in **6:19** it said two animals, one male and one female of each kind of living being. The scripture says in each account that Noah did all that Adonai ordered him to do. But I do wonder about the discrepancy, don't you? Oh my gosh!!! It just dawned on me . . . that makes a total of 8 pair of "clean" animals, another symbol of "new beginnings"! I have another question . . . how did Noah know which animals were "clean" and which were "unclean"? Since we know that "Noah walked with G~d" can't you just envision them walking, Noah reaching out, like a child, to touch something, and Abba Father, saying gently, "don't touch that, it's not clean." That's how I think he knew what was and was not clean.

Adonai tells Noah that in 7 more days, it will rain 40 days and 40 nights (**verse 4**). **Forty** is the number of **testing** or **trial**, which explains the 40 years in the wilderness experienced by **B'nei Isra'el/Children of Israel** and the 40 days Yeshua was in the wilderness as well.

Verse 11 says "on the seventeenth day of the second month . . . the windows of the sky were opened." According to the Hebrew calendar, the second month would be (October/November) Cheshvan. This very time of the year!!! Sometimes, Cheshvan is known as Mar-Cheshvan. In Hebrew, **mar** means **bitter**. Since Cheshvan has no festival days, it is considered "bitter". **Mar** also means **drop of water**. This is the month that the rains begin in **Eretz Yisrael/the Land of Israel**.

So Noah, his family, the animals and food enter the ark (**verses 13-16**) and Noah closed the door. **NOT!!!** Sometimes, we don't pay attention to what we read. ". . . and **Adonai** shut him inside." I find this interesting and for the life of me could find NO commentaries addressing the matter. I believe that Adonai loves His children and desires to commune with them so much that He wanted to be sure they were safely "tucked away" until the chaos was over. So **He** shut the door securely.

As I was reading these verses (**17-23**) about the water covering the earth and everything being wiped out from the earth, I couldn't help but think that the very thing that was bringing about devastation to the world was the very thing that was delivering Noah and his family to a "newness".

Last year someone mentioned (I think it was Brother Lynn) that when the earth was brought forth, it broke water, in essence, there was a **mikveh/water baptism**. Here again, we are going to see another mikveh, which will represent a "new start". Three years ago when Jason (Rapha) and Misti (Segullah) had their new little girl, Micah Gabrielle, I thought about the birth of a child being another mikveh, as there is a breaking of water, when it is born. Traditionally, any time the Jewish people begin a new phase of their life (i.e. a new job, engagement, marriage, birth of child, etc.) they have a mikveh. I'm thinkin' they have learned something important over the years. And, on top of that, it appears to be Biblical!

CHAPTER 8

The latter part of **verse 2** says ". . . It was after 150 days that the water went down." If we estimate approximately 30 days per month, that would be equivalent to five months, **five** being the scriptural number of **grace**. "On the seventeenth of the seventh month (Nisan) the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat." (**Verse 4**) In the future, there is something special that takes place during this time. Do you know/remember what it is? The 17th of Nisan falls during **Pesach/Passover**. It is during this time that the Children of Israel were delivered from Pharaoh and it is during

this time when Yeshua became our Passover Lamb. Actually, it is believed that Yeshua ascended from the grave on the 17th of Nisan. All of these are days of deliverance!!!

Brother Lynn Greuter had this to share as well . . .

“Not only did the ark rest on this date & Yeshua raise up early on this date there are other significant occurrences as well. **2nd Chronicles 29:1-3**, Hezekiah who is a type of Messiah began a task in the 1st month of his reign in his first year. Verses **17-19**, all work was done, all was prepared and ready on the 16th. **Verse 20**, “Then Hezekiah rose early and ascended to the Temple” on the 17th day of Nisan. It was Hezekiah who instituted reform, repair, & restoration to the God of Yisrael & His Temple. Sounds a lot like Yeshua to me, both on a personal level as well as the end of days when Messiah returns & restores true worship after the false messiah has desecrated the Temple. And like Hezekiah in those days it will be as **verse 36** says “in rejoicing by the King and all his people for it will be done suddenly”. Also, in **Esther 3:12**, Esther’s fast begins on 13th day of Nisan. The promotion of Mordecia “early in the morning” of the 17th of Nisan, followed by the death of Haman (boo) on the very same day. Not to mention the Hebrew slaves crossed the Red Sea on this very same date. Hmhmhm!!!! This seems to be a pretty significant date, all of them pointing to the redeeming work of the Holy One of Israel, the One Who was ,Who is and Who is to come & Who changes not. And on this very date (17th Nisan) Yeshua walked down a road called Emmaus beginning at “Moses” and all the prophets expounded the things concerning Him.” (Thanks Brother Lynn)

The water continued to go down until the tenth month, Tammuz. The number **ten** represents **trial** and **testing** but it also represents **law, order** and **government**. Furthermore, that was an eight month time span, again, the number **eight**, for **new beginnings**. Let’s see, **eight** people, **eight** pair of clean animals, **eight** months; surely it was a time of new beginnings!!!

Verses 6-9, after 40 days Noach opened the window, sent out a raven that flew back and forth until the water dried up. This part, for whatever reason, reminded me of how the enemy roams to and fro over the earth, seeking whom he may devour. Maybe it’s because the raven is an unclean bird; maybe it’s because it is black and I associate it with “darkness”. Then I read an article that indicated that the raven is often a symbol of unclean spirits.

After that, Noach sent out a dove but she returned because there was no dry land. (Yes, I do believe this can be paralleled with the dove of the **Ruach HaKodesh/Holy Spirit** but that’s another teaching!!!) Then **verse 10** says “He waited **another** seven days, which would indicate an initial seven days, making a total of fourteen days. **Fourteen** is the number of **Passover, salvation** and **deliverance**. Isn’t that interesting? **Verses 11-12**, the dove returns with an olive leaf in her mouth; Noach waits another seven days, sent out the dove and she didn’t return. Now I have the number **21!** **Twenty** is the number of **maturity, completion** and **attainment** and **one** (**echad** in Hebrew; pronounced eh-kahd) is the number of **G~d** and, is the number of **unity** as well.

By my calculations, approximately one year after they entered the ark . . . ; actually, according to a chart in the Artscroll Tanakh, prepared by Rabbi Eliezer, after one year and ten days, Noach and his family leave the ark and according to **verse 20**, build an altar to HaShem and offer burnt offerings to Him. Now we know why they needed so many “clean” animals on the ark . . . ‘cause there wouldn’t be any available when they got off the ark!!! HaShem smelled the sweet aroma and said He would never destroy ALL living things again.

CHAPTER 9

In Adam’s day, we were given every seed bearing and fruit bearing plant from which we could eat. (**B’resheet/Genesis 1:29**) Now, in **verses 3 & 4**, HaShem gives us “every moving thing that lives will be food for you . . .” “. . . only flesh with its life, which is blood, you are not to eat.”

Then in **verse 6**, I believe, we have “first mention” of capital punishment “whoever sheds human blood, by a human being will his own blood be shed . . .”

In **verses 8-17** HaShem establishes His rainbow as an everlasting covenant between Himself and every living creature on the earth. The Hebrew used here, **B’rit Olam** (b’reet oh-lahm), is literally translated as “**world covenant**”, however, it can also mean “**eternal covenant**”.

In Rose Crownover’s booklet, “Symbolic Meanings of Colors”, I found the following information. The Hebrew word used to describe the **rainbow** is **qeshet** (sounds like keh-sheht) which literally means “in the original sense of **bending**: a

bow.” This rainbow is created as light from the sun passes through raindrops. There are seven colors; red, orange, yellow, green blue, indigo, and violet. Seven is the number of completeness or perfection.

- Red is symbolic of: life, sacrifice, salvation, fire, courage & warfare
- Orange is symbolic of: strength, endurance & warning
- Yellow is symbolic of: Glory of G~d, refining process, kingship & ruling, wisdom, knowledge & truth
- Green is symbolic of: new life, fresh, flourishing & vigorous, healing, hope, peace & victory
- Blue is symbolic of: heaven, water, priesthood, integrity, fidelity & loyalty
- Purple (indigo & violet are variations of) is symbolic of: kingship & royalty

The Sages teach us that when one sees a **qeshet/rainbow** the following blessing is to be spoken. “Blessed are you, HaShem, our G~d, King of the universe, Who remembers His covenant, is trustworthy in His covenant, and fulfills His word.”

Verses 20-23 tell us that Noach was the first to plant a vineyard. The first harvest must have been quite potent because he drank the wine and got drunk and “lay uncovered in his tent.” There is SO much information in these four verses, both spoken and unspoken. Supposedly, his youngest son, (Kahm) **Cham/Ham** saw his father’s exposure. I’m not so sure that Ham was the youngest son; in fact, I think he was the middle child. According to the genealogy to this point, Ham has always been listed as the second son. One commentary indicated that Ham was small in stature, therefore a small son rather than youngest son. Another thought . . . in that time and culture, those living in the same household were considered sons so perhaps it was really **Kena’an/Canaan**, the “youngest son” who saw Noach uncovered. Some of the Sages indicate that either Canaan or his father, Ham, had a homosexual experience with Noach, while others believe that one or the other castrated Noach. Regardless of who did what, why didn’t Ham just do the right thing, cover up his dad, and go about his own business? Instead, he leaves his dad layin’ there and trots off to tell his brothers. Don’t tell me it was because he didn’t know what to do. He was old enough to already have a son, **Kena’an/Canaan!!!** So **Shem** (Hebrew for **name**) and **Yefet/Japheth** take a cloak, put it over their shoulders, walk into the tent backwards, so as not to see Noach’s nakedness and cover him.

Noach awakes (**verses 24-27**) and scripture says he “**knew**” what his youngest son had done to him so he places a curse on Ham’s son, Canaan, causing him to be a servant of servants. Nevertheless, from each of the three sons, the entire world was populated, because they were the sons of Noach. It is reported that . . . Asia was taken by Shem; Africa by **Cham/Ham**; and Europe by **Yefet/Japheth**.

CHAPTER 10

This entire chapter gives the genealogy of Noach; sons, grandsons, and great grandsons.

I haven’t studied this out yet but right away, in **verse 3**, I noticed that one of **Yefet/Japheth’s** sons, Gomer, has a son named Ashkenaz (ahsh-ken-ahz). Apparently, this would be the line of descendants from which we have the Ashkenazic Jews. We know that they are primarily the European Jewish people which falls in line with the information we learned above!

In **verses 6-10**, we learn that one of Ham’s sons was Kush, who fathered Nimrod. It was said that Nimrod was the first on earth to be a mighty man. Even **verse 9** says “He was a mighty hunter before Adonai . . .” However, according to the Stone Edition of the Artscroll Chumash commentary, Nimrod was **NOT** a righteous man and ensnared men with his words and incited them to rebel against Adonai. As Rabbi Hirsh explains, “Nimrod was a forerunner of the hypocrite who drapes himself in robes of piety in order to deceive the masses.” (Is this not an appropriate description of the soon coming anti-christ? AND does this not remind us of one of the Presidential candidates?!)

Before Nimrod there were neither wars nor reigning monarchs. Nimrod subjugated the Babylonians until they crowned him (**verse 10**), after which he went to Assyria and built great cities (Ramban). His first conquest, which laid the basis for his subsequent empire-building, was **Migdal Bavel/Tower of Babel**, which became the center of Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian Empire. It was one of the greatest cities of the ancient world.

As some of us are aware, Babylon was the source of . . .

- Humanism
- Self-exaltation and
- Lewd sexual religious practices.

Additionally, he founded the city of Nineveh. It is reported that he conceived **Migdal Bavel/Tower of Babel** as an effort to out-smart G~d by building a tower too high for rising waters, should G~d change His mind to drown the world again. Apparently, Nimrod was not aware that our G~d cannot and does not lie!!!!

CHAPTER 11

Up to this point (**verse 1**) the entire earth used the same language, the same words. I really believe that HaShem didn't mind their progressive thinking concerning the building of the tower. I believe His reason for confusing their language lies in **verse 4** which says in part ". . . so that we can **'make a name for ourselves'** and not be scattered all over the earth." Self-elevation is a stench in the nostrils of HaShem. In addition, He told Noach and his family to "be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth." One cannot fill the earth by staying in one place. Consequently, (**verse 9**) HaShem confused their language and scattered them all over the earth.

The genealogy of **Shem**, which means **name** in Hebrew, is quite lengthy. There were eight (new beginnings) generations from Shem to Terach, who was the father of Avram. Avram took a wife, Sarai, who was barren, and along with other members of their family, they left Ur of the (Kahs-deem) **Kasdim/Chaldees** to go to **Kena'an/Canaan** but they stopped short and stayed in (Hah-rah) Haran, a city named after Terach's deceased son. (**verses 10-32**)

The purpose of history is to teach us so we do not repeat the mistakes of those who have gone before us. The truth is we have not learned from the mistakes of those who preceded us and are doomed to repeat their mistakes. The Bible is not only the Word of God but it is a history book of what came before and what will come later. As many strive to create a one world government we are returning from whence we came. Hebrew or Jewish thought is not linear or a thought process that runs from point A to point Z. Hebrew/Jewish thought is circular and runs from point A to point A. My purpose in bringing this to your attention is to show you that we are not going forward but back to where we came from. The Bible says, "In the beginning . . ." We are going back to the beginning whether we like it or not.

Noach ~ נֹחַ ~ Noah

Haftarah: Yesha'yahu/Isaiah 54:1~55:5

In this week's Parashah Adonai promises to never again destroy the world with another flood. According to our Haftarah, HaShem promises to never exile the **B'nei Yishra'el/Children of Israel** after the redemption from the current exile.

Yeshayahu/Isaiah tells that the exile, in reality, is its preservation and like a mother left lonely and grieving, Israel will be comforted when the exile has achieved its task of purification and her children return to her. Living in these last days, we see this prophecy coming to pass before our very eyes as more and more Jewish people are making (ah-lee-yah) **aliyah/returning** to **HaAretz/The Land**.

Noach ~ נֹחַ ~ Noah

B'rit Hadashah: Mattityahu/Matthew 24:36-44; Luke 17:26-37
Acts 2:1-16; Kefa Aleph/1st Peter 3:18-22; Kefa Bet/2nd Peter 2:5

Baruch HaShem!!! (Bless the L~rd!!!!) I have often been uncomfortable with the "rapture" teaching that I have heard and been taught before I began my Messianic walk and I have finally found that I might not be so totally off base.

Mattityahu/Matthew 24:36-44 Just as HaShem didn't "rapture" Noah from the flood, He did provide a way of escape and He was with Noah during his trial. (And I can think of other instances as well . . . Daniel in the lion's den; three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, etc, etc.) Just as in Noah's days, the generation of Yeshua's return will ignore the warnings leading up to the big event. Life will continue as normal; then catastrophe will strike! Yeshua goes on to speak about those who will be taken away and those who will be left behind:

"Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left." **Mattityahu/Matthew 24:40-41**

According to First Fruits of Zion, “these verses are often interpreted to mean that when Yeshua comes, the one taken will be whisked away to meet Him in the sky. Since the one left working in the field is not a believer, he will be left behind. The one left grinding at the mill also not a believer will also left behind. However, the one “taken away” in the Matthew 24 passage is not ‘raptured up’, as is popularly taught. Just as the flood came and took people away in judgment, the ‘taking away’ in **Matthew 24:40-41** refers to people being taken in judgment.

Luke 17:26-37 Yeshua makes this explicitly clear in a parallel passage in Luke 17 when His disciples ask about the ones taken away. “Where [will they be taken], L~rd?” they asked and He answered, “Where the body is, there also the vultures will be gathered.” (**Luke 17:37**)

Acts 2:1-16 According to David Stern’s Jewish New Testament Commentary, “The miraculous event (**verses 4-13**) accomplished through the Holy Spirit amounts to a reversal of Babel (**B’resheet/Genesis 11:1-9**.” Back then HaShem confounded the language of the people misusing their unity for sinful purposes (the English word “babble” comes directly from the Hebrew). In these verses, HaShem enabled people separated by their different languages to understand each other praising G~d, which is the proper use of unity.

Kefa Aleph/1st Peter 3:18-22 As mentioned in our Torah portion, these verses confirm that “in the days of Noach”, the water which drowned most of humanity was the same water by which a few (eight to be exact) were delivered. According to **Rav Sha’ul/Rabbi Paul**, the water of the Red Sea prefigured immersion also. Not for the purpose of physical removal of dirt from the body but the spiritual transaction which accompanies the physical event.

Consequently, **Kefa/Peter** compares the believers with Noach and his family:

- both being righteous minorities persecuted by wicked neighbors and
- both being delivered from the forces of darkness through trusting in HaShem and obeying Him.

Kefa Bet/2nd Peter 2:5 “In Yeshua’s teaching, those ‘taken away’ correspond to those who perished in the flood. The corpses of those who perished in the flood became food for the scavenging birds, such as the raven, which was released from the ark. So, too, when Messiah comes, the wicked will be slain and left as food for birds. Thus we should understand those who will be ‘left behind’ in the **Matthew 24** passage are the righteous. They can be compared to Noah and his seven family members who survived the flood, as Peter says, “The Lord knows how to rescue the godly.” (**2 Peter 2:9**) The thrust of the passage is that we must stay vigilant in our wait for Messiah. We must not be like the complacent generation of Noah that was caught unawares, for Messiah will come suddenly, like a thief in the night. “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.” **Matthew 24:42**”

Our corresponding Psalm for this Torah portion is: Psalm 29