



Message 10-13-07
Noach-Noah (Rest)
Genesis 6:9-11:32
Isaiah 55:1-5
1 Peter 3:18-21

Introduction

The portion called Noach is named for Noah, who – in the face of the flood – becomes the bearer of the hopes of human and animal life.

Genesis 7:2-9

2 "You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that *are* unclean, a male and his female; **3** "also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. **4** "For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." **5** And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. **6** Noah *was* six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. **7** So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. **8** Of clean animals, of animals that *are* unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, **9** two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

What is the significance of this passage from our Torah portion for this week? What we see is that Noah knew what clean and unclean animals were according to God. There is no real mention of Noah ever receiving a revelation from God about this though it does become significant when Moses receives the Torah from God at Mount Sinai and afterwards. Prior to Mount Sinai God was dealing only with individuals and as God moved on to another generation we see the person pass from the story line found in the Torah. The importance to us is that we see Scriptural evidence that the Torah existed in some form prior to Mount Sinai and that the Torah has been the guidelines for mankind long before Sinai. If this is true then there is no way that the Lord did away with the Torah after Yeshua's death and resurrection as many in the Church believe.

They believe this not based on the words of Yeshua but on the words of the Apostle Paul. It has always caused me to have to ask someone, when they say this, who has authority – Yeshua or Paul. Many times I have been told that what Paul said is what we should follow because his words were inspired by God. I agree that Paul was inspired by God but not in the way they are interpreting his words. If the interpretation of what Paul wrote goes against the Torah and the Prophets **the problem is not with the Torah and the Prophets** or for that matter with Paul. The problem is with how his writings are being interpreted.

Paul commends the Bereans for being true students of the word because they tested the teachings of other teachers as well as Paul's teachings. To do that today and you run the risk of being branded a heretic.

Acts 17:10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. **11** These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to *find out* whether these things were so. **12** Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. **13** But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds. **14** Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there.

In verse 11 we see that they searched the Scriptures daily to find the truth. What Scriptures do you think they were talking about? Since there was no New Testament in their day the only Scriptures they could be talking about was the Tanach. How's that for a validation of the Tanach and its place in our walk? Don't you find it curious that the Church includes the Tanach in their Bible but disregards most of it? They quote what they like and what they need to back up their position. Either you take the whole counsel of the word of God or you don't. You cannot play the cut and paste game.

Thomas Jefferson did exactly that. He cut and pasted what he wanted from the Bible into his own book. Either God is who He says He is and we take His word at face value or we claim that we are taking His word at face value **but** as we interpret it. I submit to you that there is no one exact method for interpreting the word of God but there is a continuity found in the Bible that we tend to disregard. To disregard this continuity is lose sight of the wholeness of God's word and His instructions and plan for His people.

There is nothing wrong in asking question when you are being taught by someone and if they become angry or agitated over it then it may be time for you to consider the possibility that it is time to move on. I have seen this happen throughout my ministry my friends. I have seen people who have done this but they make one fatal mistake. They look for the truth and in their quest for the truth they become entangled in other beliefs and turn away from Messiah. The purpose of the Bible is to lead us to Messiah not away from Him. If you are even considering doing this you must remain focused on whom your Master is and what He has done for you. The Bible confirms this over and over.

Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Notice that God says His word will not return to Him void. It must be accomplished no matter what it is. To learn this we must study the Torah and the Prophets and focus on the words of our Master Yeshua. It is only through Him that you will find redemption not conversion. One needs to make **teshuvah** or turn back to God. This does not involve conversion. Conversion is man-made by both sides of the aisle. What I mean is both Christians and Jews have conversion in place. It is not a requirement for belief in Yeshua. This was settled by the Acts 15 Council. If you need to refresh your memory just go and read Acts 15, all of Acts 15 particularly verse 21.

The story of Noah is impressed upon our minds and we all know it is a nice story to share with children but there is a deeper meaning to be seen here in how God redeemed 7 people on the basis of the faith of one man. Sin did not die in the flood but survived but God knew that would happen. The important point is to focus on fact that Torah has existed forever and was before we were. The Torah contains the promises of God and His covenants with mankind. These promises and covenants are spoken about by the Prophets and then taken on by the Apostles and refined to reveal Yeshua.

Isaiah 54:9-10

9 "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. **10** For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

God promised that the waters of Noah would never again come upon the earth but He never promised that He would not use fire to refine us. Consider the first time a cleansing or a form of immersion to cleanse the earth of the sin of mankind so it could be ready for the ones He chose to save. God knew that the people He chose were not without sin but He was teaching us about His mercy. All you have to do is read the prophets to see what God is going to do in the last days. The refiner's fire will be brought to bear upon all of us, Believers and non—Believers - though I would not want to mislead you so I would share this from Revelation as was pointed out to me by a friend and brother in Messiah.

Revelation 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens': **8** 'I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. **9** 'Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie -- indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. **10** 'Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. **11** 'Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. **12** 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name. **13** 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' "

God is very clear that He is going to keep those who are like Philadelphia from the hour of testing. Now He is not saying He is going to **“rapture”** anyone out of here. **Rapture** is a Latin word coined by the early Church father Jerome. It is based primarily on the verses in Daniel that talk about the

catching away and then elaborated on by the Apostle Paul. This could be talking about God taking His select group of people to a safe harbor in the storm He is going to unleash upon the world. It does not say this group will be whisked away to heaven it says they will be caught up in the clouds to meet Him as He returns the same way He ascended.

Revelation 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ' These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: **9** "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan. **10** "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. **11** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." '

Notice here that Yeshua says the congregation in Smyrna is a righteous group but that they will go through the tribulation of the saints by Satan. What defines the differences between the two groups? The rest of the congregations will suffer period! So 2 out of 7 congregations are found to be righteous much in the same way as Noah was found to be righteous, went through the flood, was kept safe by God, did what he was instructed to but had to begin over again for mankind to survive.

The congregation in Philadelphia will be kept from the tribulation of the saints. How do we know what group we will be in? The speculation is rampant over this. We know that the Church, at large, believes they will be safe from the time of the tribulation. Many Messianic's believe they will be going through the tribulation based on the 40 years of wandering in the Wilderness that Israel had to endure and the winnowing out process. It is my contention that both groups have some of the truth but are missing some other parts of it. For me, I do not believe we are going to heaven to party hardy while the rest of mankind and Believers will be suffering on the earth. Believe what you want to believe but know that only God knows the whole truth and for me the concept of the *rapture* is not a salvational issue worth breaking fellowship over.

Noah had a heavy burden placed upon him by God. He and his seed were to father a new people and to populate the earth and 400 years later at the Tower of Babel we wind up right back where we started from. Remember that Noah cursed Canaan the seed of Ham for the sin of Ham. Sin did not perish in the flood only most of Creation except for the hand-fill God chose to keep alive. Don't you think this is very similar to the congregation of Philadelphia? They were kept from the worst of the tribulation because God chose them for whatever reason. The moral of this story is you need to be ready for what is to come in case it does not turn out the way you believe it should. God confounds us my friends by taking what we think is the truth and turning it upside down.

1 Peter 3:18-21

18 For Messiah also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, **19** by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, **20** who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. **21** There is also an antitype which now saves us -- immersion (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah.

We see that water immersion is not a Christian development but one that has its roots in the Jewish faith as well as going all the way back to Noah to which Peter is referring in this letter. He compares the waiting for the ark to be completed as being the same thing that we went through as well as God in the resurrection of Yeshua from the dead to become our sacrifice once for sins for the just and not the unjust unless they choose to turn from a life of sin to life rooted in Messiah.

This is where the Torah comes in because it points us in the direction of Messiah. All of the requirements in the Torah for the remission of sins were temporary whereas the sacrifice of Messiah was one time and one time only. The remainder of the Torah provides us with instructions on how to live lives according to God's ways and to put away the things we have learned through the world. While the world says that the ways of God are to be separate from the ways of the world the true government of the world is one that is lead by God where there is no religion or worldly ways but only God's ways. It will be in that day when we finally have the covenant of God written on hearts of flesh because the hearts of stone will be broken just as Moses broke the first set of tablets at Mount Sinai and had to return to the mountain a second time to receive the ten words from God.

The difference was that this time out Moses had to carve out the two stone tablets and then brought them to God who once again engraved the ten words. Even though the second set of tablets were also stone could it be a picture for us that we need to break our hearts of stone so that God can put His words upon our hearts and we will follow in His ways and not in our own?

Psalm 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail; *but* God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Ezekiel 11:19 "Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

2 Corinthians 3:3 clearly *you are* an epistle of Messiah, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart.

Every one of these Scriptures talk about having hearts of stone, and surrendering ourselves to God, so that we can receive hearts of flesh which God can then work with. We are in a battle my friends. Here we are in the world subjected to the ways of the world and the ruler of this world who is Satan. God arranged for this and this is the way He wanted it to be. The important point to keep in mind is that it will not always be this way and the day is coming when God will use fire, not water, to refine the world and its people. Water cleanses but it does not last. Fire refines and burns off what the water leaves and prepares us for what God has in store for us once the Day of Judgment is over.

I don't know about you but I look forward to that day when everything is once again set right just like it was in the beginning when man could walk with God and talk with Him face to face without a cloud to hide the face of God from us. Though Moses spoke to God face to face, there was a cloud between them, but even with that cloud Moses received the glory of God within him so that it shone out to the people and they were afraid. The people were afraid of the power of God and I understand that because we are told we should have a healthy fear of God but not one to cower and hide from. Give Him the respect that is due the Creator of all things and worship Him,

reverence Him, and love Him. The days of Noah are behind us but we still face the days of the tribulation and the Day of Judgment. We have been immersed in the waters of our Lord and have been redeemed by His Son Yeshua. We will walk through the fire as Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego did and we will come through it pure and ready to face our Redeemer.

There are only two kinds of folk: the righteous who believe themselves sinners; the rest, sinners, who believe themselves righteous...Blaise Pascal

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May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver*

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