

This is the second Torah Portion of the new annual reading cycle and it describes two major global events that continue to impact human history. The first section talks about a global geographic catastrophe which is known as Noah's universal flood, but he did not cause it and with G-d's help he and species of all terrestrial life survived it. The second was a linguistic phenomenon which created racial and cultural distinctions which still exist today. The Lord did an excellent job of dividing us into various nations and family groups and scattering us around the world, when we could no longer understand each other.

The portion begins with a brief description of the global moral depravity, which is given as the trigger which caused the Lord to unleash the worldwide flood. This flood was used by G-d to eradicate the corruption and violence which the daughters of men had filled the earth with. This was the first intense global darkness and it was violently eradicated. There is another intense global darkness growing in our world today. This time it will be stopped by a cosmic meltdown as modern spiritual zombies continue to wallow in their carnal folly.

For 120 years, Noah was to build the ark, both as a warning to the world which was so full of darkness and evil and also to provide a haven for those who wished to flee from the coming wrath which Noah was warning the people about.

The dimensions and proportions of the ark are given and when you translate the dimensions into modern terms, you discover that the ark was about 165 meters or 542 feet long. It was about 27.5 meters or 83 feet wide and 16.5 meters or 49 feet high. It was about six times as long as it was wide and ten times longer than it was high. It was virtually unsinkable in even the worst storms and it was virtually impossible to capsize. There is no mention of a rudder. It was just a waterproof, three story floating sanctuary. The Gospel is the same thing.

Noah took enough food for himself and all the animal species he loaded on board. We are not told how they obtained safe drinking water during the flood, but neither rain nor ground water are saline. G-d provided to ensure their survival and He will do the same for us.

One of the big discussions among biologists and especially among zoologists and botanists is what constitutes a species. I would argue that a species is a group of animals that can successfully reproduce among themselves. There can be any number of subspecies, such as we see in our biologically diverse world, but Noah took two of each species and seven pairs of the clean animals. By this way of seeing the kinds animals he took onto the ark, no species became extinct because of the flood.

It is possible that some of the larger dinosaurs were genetically engineered by the darkness dwellers who wanted to fill the earth with violence, but we do not have enough evidence to say that for sure. There were three categories of air breathing land dwelling animals which were taken on to the ark: beasts, birds and reptiles. Aquatic mammals and aquatic reptiles would not have needed to be on the ark to survive.

Again, we have to be careful not to draw conclusions which are not supported by evidence. It is these kinds of speculation which evolutionary humanism thrives on as their myths get more and more intricate and more and more ridiculous. I have never been a monkey's uncle and never will be.

We are not told how G-d closed the door of the ark and finished putting tar on its exterior. The Bible just said He did it, which means that an angelic construction crew could have performed the task. The ark was sealed and well supplied before the rain began to fall and the ground water began to rise. How well supplied are you in His Word?

There are two ways of measuring how long the flood lasted. We could either go with the start date and the end date, which are both given, or we could use the series of symbolic numbers which the account contains. Seven is the number of G-d. Forty is a painfully long time and one hundred and fifty is an extremely painful length of time.

If you add these numbers up you get:  $40+40+150+150+40+7+7$ , which equals 434 days or well over a year. The flood began on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month in the year when Noah was 600 years old. The flood was over in the 601<sup>st</sup> year of Noah's life on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the second month. This is just 10 days longer than a calendar year, or 375 days. There is at least a 59 day difference between the two counts.

You would have to do some fancy dancing to try and reconcile the two sets of numbers. However, if you take one set of numbers as symbolic and the start date and the end date as literal, there is no problem. In just over a year, all the land dwellers either drowned or starved to death in any boats they may have hurriedly built, without sufficient time to take on enough provisions. Initially, there must have been a considerable number of dead animals floating around until their bodies were either consumed by aquatic scavengers or sank to either be pressed into oil and natural gas or turned into fossils.

Scientists understand that petroleum was formed by compressing organic material into a dense liquid, so in a way, we are heating our homes with the blood of the rebels who perished in the flood, along with any genetically engineered monsters which they created.

There was also something which began during the flood and which is continuing today. You see, not all areas of modern science are hostile to our biblical accounts and one phenomenon in geology is continental drift. There is evidence to suggest that the earth was once a single giant continent called Pangaea. During the time the waters covered the earth, this continent began to break up into the six continents we have today. And the drift is still occurring.

And even though mountains are mentioned as having existed prior to the flood, many mountain ranges were formed when they were pushed up out of the sea. We know this also because marine fossils have been found at the summit of Mount Everest. The excessive weight of the temporary worldwide ocean may have largely triggered this process.

It must have been a terrifying year for those on the ark as they were tossed around, both when the waters rose and also when they receded. Some time ago a scientist won a Nobel prize by calculating that there is three times as much water in the earth's crust than there is on the surface. Much of it gushed to the surface and then returned into the earth's crust as the flood waters receded.

No loss of life was reported among the animals on the ark and we are not told that they ran out of food for either themselves or for the animals. Fishing would have been a possibility if their food supply ran out, but there was enough stored on board to last the entire time they were afloat. Have you got enough spiritual food to last until the end of this temporary age?

Once the earth dried, Noah opened the door in the side of the ark and the animals scattered. We are not told if any animal young were born on the ark, but promised that there would never be another universal flood, no matter what the global warming folk are saying.

G-d made the four main categories of animals afraid of man: beasts, reptiles, birds and fish. This last category would include sea dwelling marine animals. One horrible practice that was performed before the flood is now forbidden, though it has resurfaced from time to time. Although animals from all four categories of animals were to serve as food, no animals was to be eaten alive. Life is in the blood and the animal had to be killed before it was eaten.

This does not mean that both people and animals were all vegetarian before the flood. In the beginning, Abel offered animal sacrifices, which is an indication that animals were also consumed as food. Vegetables are good for our health, but so is meat of many kinds.

When G-d promised that there would never be another lethal universal flood, He made this into a covenant with all the creatures of the newly cleansed earth. The rainbow is a sign of this covenant. We are not told that there were no rainbows before the flood. However, most rainbows appear at the end of a rain storm. When people saw a rainbow, they knew the rain was stopping and that any subsequent rain was not the start of another worldwide flood.

There is a time lapse between when the people came out of the ark and one of the most heinous crimes ever committed in the Bible.

Though Noah's wife is never named, the children of Noah were commanded to be fruitful and multiply and the process began almost immediately after the flood. It is possible children were conceived during their time in the ark, but there is no mention of this possibility.

Just a note that sometimes the term:"father" can be used to indicate a grandfather and the term:"son" can sometimes be used to indicate a grandson. After Noah had harvested some grapes and made some wine, in the process, he fell down drunk in his tent. Canaan was called Noah's youngest son, but here the term means grandson. This indicates that a considerable time had passed since they came out of the ark and also that Noah likely had other grandchildren older than Canaan. When he committed his crime he was at least an adolescent, though he could have been older.

The nature of his heinous crime is described using a biblical euphemism. Uncovering Noah's nudity indicates that Canaan had sexual relations with his grandmother. She may also have been as drunk as her husband, but two of Noah's sons covered her up. It is likely Canaan was caught in the act and fled, leaving his grandmother naked. Because of this horrible crime, Canaan was cursed to become a slave of his uncles slaves. Two things. According to the Bible slavery is a curse, but the curse of Canaan was not generational. Later on the Canaanites would commit their own crimes for which they would eventually be driven out of the Holy Land and largely exterminated. Curses are never really generational.

Noah lived for another 350 years after the flood, but his wife did not conceive any subsequent children. Either Noah was too horrified to have relations with his violated wife or she passed through menopause and was unable to conceive any more children. The answer to this mystery is found in Deuteronomy 29:29.

Next the portion mentions seventy distinct people groups which would have become the races and cultures of mankind after the scattering after the tower of Babel was built. These people groups likely spoke a single language, but they were commanded to disperse across the globe and replenish its population. They disobeyed. We need to make G-d's plans our plans.

They stuck together as a group and migrated to a plain in the region of Shinar, likely a region between the two great rivers, the Euphrates and the Tigris. There, they collected bricks and built a city with a tower. When the account says that it touched the sky, it means that it was a giant horoscope and also that the people were sliding into the same kind of criminal darkness which brought on the first darkness. We are not told how the people began to slip into idolatry, but they were evidently forsaking G-d or seeking for a way to control Him.

They did not want to disperse across the face of the earth and may have wanted to stay close to where they came out of the ark for safety reasons. The L-rd came down to see the city and the tower which they had built. It is likely that He came down in the guise of an angel, though we are not told if any of the expanding population recognized Him. It was an tour of investigation, not more than a few generations after the people came out of the ark. Representatives of the seventy family groups were all dwelling in the city, alongside Noah and his sons. We are not told why this old man did not stand up and rebuke the rebellious people.

YHVH saw the speed with which sin was regaining a foothold in the families of mankind and He had to do something to stop its spread. He had promised not to unleash another global flood, but there was still the option of a fiery end to the universe. His plans for the salvation of mankind were nowhere near ready, so He had to engage another strategy to prevent a second darkness from taking over so soon after the flood.

He intervened by confusing the single language they used and turning it into the many language groups we have today. They could no longer understand each other and so they scattered away from their former neighbours. Some were likely highly skilled, others possessed few skills. The movement of people groups has continued over the centuries and the last great migration is happening as we speak. Immigrants are streaming into Europe and the Americas and are filling in the gaps left by the murder of innocent children in the womb, also known as abortion.

Linguists say that most languages have an Indo-European origin, but it is likely that each family unit spoke different languages within the larger groups and there may have been several thousand languages formed when the scattering occurred. Different people groups fled and adapted to the various environmental conditions they encountered. Life on our planet did not evolve over billions of years, the increase of our supposed age of our planet is nothing but an imaginative response to how long people felt it would take for their various theories to make sense. There is no evidence to support their strange ideas.

Psalm 19 tells us that G-d built redemptive analogies into each language group YHVH divided us into, even as the scattered peoples developed strange religious beliefs to explain the memory of Babel that they gradually forgot. The progress of Idolatry was slowed down even as G-d chose one family group to begin the process of gathering the scattered family groups back to the truth of His Word. His Word is still being heard among all the strange stories people keep telling themselves. There is nowhere people fled that His Word did not find them.

In the lineage of Shem, we first notice a drop in the life span of the generations after the flood.

It was reduced from around eight hundred years to around five hundred years until the time of Peleg, when it dropped to around two hundred years. His name in Hebrew means division and it was in the fifth generation from the exit of the ark that the world was divided into the races and languages that now characterize our world.

The Bible does not give extensive details about the early history of our planet and its people, but none of what it says is contradicted by any evidence we have at our disposal. The extravagant claims of evolutionary humanism are a calculated attempt to undermine what the Bible clearly teaches and have no basis in fact. There is a big difference between observing something happening and being able to explain why it is happening.

The drop in age, reduced our life span until it came to stand at around 70 years. There is no clear scientific explanation as to why the drop happened and it may be that even with advances in medical technology, it is continuing to shrink, but we can know for certain that it is not going the other way. Ancient people may have lived a long time, but our modern lifespan is very much lower.

As the second major genealogy leads down to Abraham, we need to understand that this was a way of introducing major characters in a story, but did not always go from one generation to another and sometimes a generation or two was skipped. Ancient people in the Bible did not use last names and their identity was confirmed by the ancestors that were described when their story was introduced.

From the genealogy of Abraham, it is possible that Shem was still alive when Abraham was born, but given the linguistic confusion that occurred at Babel, he would not have been able to communicate with his descendants. The strangest myth about him is that he was Melchizedek, the priest of the high G-d that Abraham encountered and tithed to. There is no biblical evidence that this unknown priest was in fact Shem, but throughout history there have been righteous people who have abandoned their paganism and sought out the true G-d who alone is the Creator who brought all things into being.

Legends derived from the Bible, but not supported by its content have cropped up many times in history and many of them are alive and well even in our modern age. Details not given in the biblical account can sometimes be retrieved by examining history, but adding to the biblical account with details it does not support, is what elements of both Jewish and Gentile traditions do. This practice may be imaginative, but it does not help us get a better grip on what the Bible actually teaches.

When we encounter silence on behalf of what the Bible says, we need to respect this lack of detail and concentrate instead on what the Bible actually teaches. Speculation creates myths and adds confusion and has no actual credibility when it comes to what the Bible really teaches. The truth which is actually taught in the Bible needs to be the foundation of our faith. Sometimes, history may help us better understand the Word of G-d, but the Bible stands alone as the oldest historical document which humanity possesses. What it teaches, we need to believe and what it ignores is really none of our business.

It remains a selective, true account of some of the major events that have impacted human history and demonstrates that G-d has always had His hand on how history unfolds. As we reach the end of the first eleven chapters of Genesis, we see that our Creator has always

intervened to make sure that His salvation purposes have never been derailed. Even in our confusing modern world, His Spirit and His Word are still active and the righteous core of light and truth seekers are still coming to faith.

Abraham is a descendant of Shem who finished what his father failed to do. After scattering us for our own protection, in the Gospel, YHVH is calling us back to Him through His Word, both as Jews and Gentiles. We live on the verge of global dominance by the forces which have always stood against the truth of G-d. In the coming year, may we recognize the Messiah's hand on our lives and make His Word the foundation of what we believe and how we live.

Our world may be darkening and our faith may be increasingly challenged, but the realities of G-d's Word stand firm. We just have to decide whether we stand firmly with them or are washed away by the growing foolishness of the make believe world of evolutionary humanism which has no real basis in fact. Dinosaurs were real and they drowned in the flood. Some of their smaller cousins have survived because Noah took at least two of them onto the ark.

This huge sea going vessel is the reason we are all alive on the continents which began drifting apart when the waters of the flood covered the earth. No one knows what colour Noah and his sons were and though Hebrew is probably the most important language in our world, it is one of the languages which were created when G-d dispersed all the people of the world. He did stop the progress of criminal paganism and as soon as this packet of lies dominates the world again, His final intervention will bring human history to a close. He will melt the entire universe with fire and great noise. How much of how you have lived your live will melt along with it?

Live for eternal things and you will suffer no great loss when Judgment Day suddenly bursts forth on our sorry, sinking and darkening world. Noah escaped in the safety of the ark. His Holy Word in the Messiah is the only ark which will escape the final judgment. Are you on board? Faith in the Messiah by His Word and obedience to what it teaches are the only two keys to survival in this life, as we await the arrival of the next life.

It is coming as surely as the waters of the flood covered our entire planet. Studying His Word undoes the confusion He unleashed at Babel and one day we will all speak a new universal language once the kingdom comes and all the carnal darkness of this age is finally removed forever.

All of our ancestors were on the ark. All of our ancestors fled from the confusion of Babel. Now it is our turn to embrace the truth of the Gospel in the Torah in our beloved Messiah and leave the lies of this present age behind as we boldly march forward towards His coming Kingdom. Abraham was on track with the purposes of G-d. How about you?

His hand has always been on human history. Is His hand on the history you are living? Living in the light according to His Word in our blessed Messiah is the only lifestyle which makes sense in our lost and darkening world. His kingdom is coming. I want to make sure I am ready for it and am not living in the carnal delusions of this fading age.

Shabbat shalom and Shavua Tov Mishpocah.