



## Parasha Noach

October 24, 2020

*Torah:* Genesis 6:9-11:32

*Haftarah:* Isaiah 54:1-55:5

*Ketuvim Shlichim Mesichim:* 1Peter 3:18-22; 2Peter 2:1-5

*Shabbat shalom Mishpocha.* Our *parasha* today is *Noach*. As we begin to study it today, one week after studying *Parasha Bereshit*, many times we don't stop to realize that hundreds of years have passed in the five chapters of our first *parasha*. At the end of *Parasha Bereshit*, Noah was already 500 years old and had fathered three sons. What this means is that around one thousand six hundred fifty years had already passed from the time of Adam and Eve before the flood came. As *Parasha Noach* begins, we find that all of their living descendants, with the exception of Noah and his family, have greatly displeased G-d.

As *Parasha Noach* opens, ADONAI sees the wickedness of the people and has decided to destroy everything on the earth. But, Noah found favor in ADONAI's eyes and He instructed him to build an ark in which to save a group of humans and animals. We know that Noah actually worked on the ark for one hundred years before the flood came because we are told that he was 600 years old when the flood came. 9... *Noah was a righteous man. He was blameless among his generation. Noah continually walked with God* (Genesis 6:9b TLV). We aren't told this, but it is reasonable to believe that Noah preached to the people regarding ADONAI. Although we aren't told, he also probably had a lot of harassment and ridicule sent his way during the time that he was building the ark. Old, crazy Noah! The low estimate by theologians of the number of people on the earth at that time is 11 million, 11 million who would die because of their wickedness.

Can we agree that Noah was a preacher? Or, at least a witness for ADONAI. I don't believe that he would have been righteous before G-d if he didn't share about Him with the people. So, Noah was a preacher. He must have preached something like this: "repent, return to ADONAI and be saved from the waters." We also know that *Sha'ul* was a preacher. He said: 23 .. "*but we proclaim Messiah crucified—a stumbling block to Jewish people and foolishness to Gentile people*, (1Corinthians 1:23 TLV). The word "proclaim" here is *kéruśśó* (kay-roos'-so) and means to be a herald or to proclaim. The majority of the Christian Bibles translate this word as "preach." I don't have a problem with that. It explains very well what we think that Noah was doing and what *Sha'ul* said that he was doing.

How many of you have heard it said: "I only preach Christ and Him crucified?" The implication is that that is the gist of their message and they preach it over and over. I have heard it many times. But, is this the only message that ministers of Yeshua's Gospel should be giving? In the early 1980s, not long after ADONAI called me to begin my search for the Hebrew roots of the Christian faith, I got a series of tapes from a friend. They contained talks

by a Christian minister, Dr. Roy Blizzard, who was already deep in the study of Hebrew roots. He was associated with the Jerusalem School of Synoptic Research, about which we have spoken a number of times before. I am quoting him based upon notes which I took listening to his message back then: “In the last days, there will be an increase in knowledge. Not just secular knowledge, but also knowledge of G-d. Knowledge is power and ignorance is powerlessness. When the L-rd comes, He will come for a bride that is beautiful, moving out in power, knowledge, victory, etc. For the want of knowledge, the people perish. We don’t understand the difference between the *kerusso* and the *didasko* of the church- preaching and teaching. The great commission commands us to teach, not preach.” Did you hear what he said? We are commanded to teach, not preach. Let’s verify his words by reading the “great commission.” 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Ruach ha-Kodesh, 20 teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And remember! I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20 TLV). The word translated teaching is *didasko*. Continuing with Dr. Blizzard’s words: “Who is supposed to preach? Every believer is to proclaim the Good News. You have to know more to teach. Study to show yourself approved, a workman worth of his hire. We have been taught in error a number of things. Perhaps the larger part of what we believe today is wrong (he was speaking about the church belief in about 1984, the time of this message). It (the church) was founded on the Protestantism of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and the Catholicism of the middle ages. But, our faith is actively rooted in the Judaism of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. G-d’s people in these days, are beginning to rise up, and more, in a dimension of power.”

Has Paul been misunderstood by the Church? I do believe that regarding the statement about only “preaching Christ crucified,” he has been very misunderstood. Dr. Blizzard’s point was that we have to know the difference. It seems to me that Yeshua’s body receives way too much preaching from the pulpit and are starving from a lack of teaching. And, many have misunderstood Yeshua’s commission to His disciples.

Here in *Beit Shalom*, I do preach. I proclaim the truth about salvation in almost every message. But, I don’t do it because I don’t believe you know it. I proclaim it to verify to anyone listening that we trust in Yeshua by faith and don’t believe in a works salvation. Because I know that all of you are saved, I don’t give altar calls. On rare occasions, I have, and will again, based upon the need. But, all of you have trusted in Yeshua. Therefore, you need much more *didasko* than *kerusso*; more teaching than preaching. And, that is the way that it should be in every congregational body where most all are saved. Yeshua’s greater body is starved for teaching.

. נִדְמוּ אַמִּי מִבְּלִי הַדָּעוּתָהּ . *Nid-mu ammi mibali ha-da’at*. 6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6 TLV). You can’t be a follower of Yeshua without knowledge. The Hebrew word *Da’at* means “knowledge.” It comes from the verb, *yada*, meaning “to know.” We certainly need to know the Gospel, but once we do, the most important thing for us is to be taught knowledge, the *didasko*, the teaching which Yeshua commanded us to do as we make disciples for Him. Without the teaching, we don’t know how to walk and can easily be destroyed. Hosea said: “My people are *damah*, destroyed, for lack of knowledge. This word means: to cease, cause to cease, to cut off, destroy. This is an emphatic action and not just a little slap on the wrist. We must have teaching, knowledge or what Yeshua expects of us, so that we won’t be *damah*, destroyed. We can’t just live in a rosy make-believe world, believing that if we have only have faith in Yeshua, no matter what we know or do, everything

will work out. Dr Blizzard said: “Knowledge is power and ignorance is powerlessness.” He was talking about Scriptural knowledge.

Hosea wrote these words regarding the northern Kingdom of Israel, which at that time was in complete idolatry and had been since their rebellion against the Kingdom of Judah. They had run all of ADONAI’s *kohanim*, His priests, out of the land at the beginning of their rebellion and their separation from Judah. We know what happened to Israel. It was defeated by Assyria and its people taken into captivity. That was their *damah*, their destruction.

What about us? Does our lack of knowledge carry such severe consequences? We certainly hope not. But, we don’t know. Only ADONAI knows what His judgment of each of us rests upon. What we have learned as Messianic Jewish followers of Yeshua is that there are commands to be obeyed. Everything is not just faith. Once we have trusted Yeshua, we are to take up our stake daily and follow after Him, walking in the ways that He has taught us. If we haven’t been taught, can we walk rightly? Each of us must ask ourselves, “am I walking in Yeshua’s ways, faithfully following His commands?” You all know very well the meaning of the Hebrew word *shema*? It means hear! But, it also means obey! Just hearing without obeying means nothing. Reading the directions for repairing our vacuum cleaner doesn’t fix it. We have to obey. We have to do what the directions tell us. Are we just hearing or are we really obeying Yeshua’s commands?

In *Sha’ul*’s letter to the congregation in Rome, he listed seven types of gifts which ADONAI has given to Yeshua’s body. Many times, these seven gifts are spoken of as motivational gifts, as a primary motivation given by the *Ruach* to a follower of Yeshua to be used for the betterment of the body. *4 For just as we have many parts in one body—and all the parts do not have the same function— 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Messiah and everyone parts of one another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace that was given to us—if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; or the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who gives, in generosity; the one who leads, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:4-8 TLV). The seven gifts are prophecy, serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading and mercy. We will only speak about one today; exhortation. It is not really my gift. If I had to choose, I would say that a combination of teaching and leading would be what I have been given. I am not a natural exhorter.*

But, the exhorter is very necessary for the congregation. The person with this gift could also be called, an “encourager.” The Greek word, *paraklesis* from which exhorter is translated also means “to encourage.” The motivation of an exhorter is to see Yeshua’s followers grow in faith and an in maturity. Exhorters bring a word of encouragement and motivation to the people around them because they always see the optimistic side of the coin. Exhorters are nurturers. They have the gift of knowing who needs a little more encouragement. Some of you are exhorters. But, I am not a natural exhorter. You could say that I am a functional exhorter through teaching. If we are a follower of Yeshua, each of us needs exhortation. And many times exhortation takes takes the form of teaching.

I present the material, but, I am not the one who shows you how to walk. Yeshua is our guide and we must seek to pattern our lives after His life. As we seek to understand Him, we must also remember that He was a Jew and that He perfectly kept the Law, *Torah*. He did not keep it perfectly so that we would not have to keep it, as some say. No, as our

Teacher, He perfectly kept *Torah* to show us that *Torah* is and has been for His followers in every different age in which they lived. After saying that not one *yod* or one *kotz*, one jot or one tittle, would pass from the Law before heaven and earth pass away, He said this: 19 *“Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps and teaches them, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 5:19 TLV). We here in *Beit Shalom*, understand this. We know that the *Ketuvim Sh’lichim*, the New Testament, does not teach that the Law has been done away with. Since we know that; since we understand that, it is our responsibility to follow what our Messiah and His disciples have taught us. We cannot ignore any of His commands if they can be kept today. This includes our personal lives. Are we devoting our lives to His service or are we devoting proportionately too much time and money for our own pleasure. You’ve heard this line before. In the vernacular, it goes like this: “Preacher, now you done stopped preaching and gone to meddling.” But, exhortation is not always warm and fuzzy. My point is that each of us will stand before Yeshua and give an account of our faithfulness.

19 *“Now the deeds of the flesh are clear: sexual immorality, impurity, indecency, 20 idolatry, witchcraft, hostility, strife, jealousy, rage, selfish ambition, dissension, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these”* (Galatians 5:19-21 TLV). I don’t have to exhort any of you regarding sexual immorality, impurity, indecency, idolatry, witchcraft, hostility, strife, jealousy, rage, selfish ambition, dissension, factions, envy, drunkenness, or carousing because I know you. The Holy Spirit within you leads you away from this kind of behavior. But, you and I still need exhortation. It’s just that our need for exhortation lies in other areas.

Someone has counted and found that Yeshua is called “teacher” 67 times in the Book of John. It seems perfectly natural that He commanded His disciples to teach us what He taught them. He was referring to *didasko*, teaching. Some have counted and shown that He addressed more than fifty different subjects in His teachings. Depending on whom you ask, you will get different answers as to which is His top teaching. But, I agree with those who say that it is “The Kingdom of G-d.” His teaching about the Kingdom of G-d, the Kingdom of Heaven, shows us how we are to live and the characteristics that we, His followers, are to have. What are the characteristics of those who have trusted in Him and who are now a part of The Kingdom of G-d? There are probably more good and bad characteristics than the fifty or more subjects on which Yeshua taught. Yeshua’s followers can have a bad characteristic. But, we shouldn’t keep it.

We can’t address all of the subjects on which Yeshua taught, but I believe that you will agree with me regarding His number one teaching; loving G-d. A *Torah* scholar asked Him this question: 28 ..... *“Which commandment is first of all?”* 29 *Yeshua answered, “The first is, ‘Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad. Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. 30 And you shall love Adonai your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. 31 “The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these”* (Mark 12: 28a-31 TLV). I know that we all agree. Loving ADONAI is number one and loving our neighbor is number two. But, what we all may not agree on is how we are to love ADONAI with all our heart. It’s easy for us to say we love Him. We affirm it every week as we chant the *Shema*. But, have we really examined our lives to see how we’re loving Him? We must realize that loving ADONAI is not just an emotion. It’s not just a warm fuzzy feeling of well-being after we’ve attended a service, prayed for someone, put tithes and *tzedakah* in the box or took food

to a shut-in. Although a feeling of emotional love is a part of our relationship to ADONAI and Yeshua, the most important part of our love is not the emotion. Our love is shown by our actions. It is our attending the service, our praying for the sick, our giving tithes and *tzedakah* and our taking food to a shut-in. And, many more things which we have been taught to do; even not eating non-kosher food.

How do we know that our love of ADONAI is primarily shown by serving Him; by doing? We know it because after He answered the question about the greatest commandment, Yeshua said: 40 *“The entire Torah and the Prophets hang on these two commandments”* (Matthew 22:40 TLV). The entire *Torah* and Prophets teach us how to live a holy life, a set apart life, before our Messiah and our G-d. To be able to live a holy life, we must have knowledge, the knowledge of what is important to our Creator. We get it not only by listening to teaching at synagogue, but also by our own individual study. 15..*Study to show yourself approved unto G-d, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth* (2Timothy 2:15). I personally like the way that the King James puts it. This is my modernization. Said this way, we are clearly told what we as individual followers of Yeshua are to do. Working and being a workman requires the expenditure of labor and time. We cannot honestly show to ADONAI that we have been laboring to understand His Word of truth if we haven't. This is a command. Even though it was given by *Sha'ul*, in my opinion, it carries the same weight as any *Torah* command and by obeying it, we understand *Torah* better. That's the whole reason that he gave it, so that we would focus our study on the *didasko*, the teaching aspect of *Torah*.

Today, we live in uncertain times. *Parasha Noach* gives us an ancient glimpse into what is happening today. 4 *Then they said, “Come! Let's build ourselves a city, with a tower whose top reaches into heaven. So let's make a name for ourselves, or else we will be scattered over the face of the whole land”* (Genesis 11:4 TLV). Those people had a common language in which they could communicate and they chose to make a name for themselves by rivaling G-d. But, ADONAI confused their language so that what they heard afterward was babble, a word which comes from *Bavel*, the name of the city which they were building. This ancient desire to compete with ADONAI is the origin of mystery Babylon, the network of humans energized by *HaSatan* throughout the centuries to follow his instructions and not ADONAI's. 4 *The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She was holding a golden cup in her hand full of detestable things and the filth of her immorality, 5 and on her forehead was written a name, a mystery: “Babylon the Great, the mother of prostitutes and the detestable things of the earth”* (Revelation 17:4-5 TLV). It's no accident that today we have returned to the time of Genesis 11 with regard to language. Everyone speaks the same language today and can communicate throughout the earth. The goal of those who do not follow ADONAI is to once again make a name for themselves just as it was following Noah's day. We see it in our nation and we see it around the world. The majority press refuses to present the truth and only presents their agenda. The governments of the world are filled with ungodly agendas. Even a leading church official has called for communistic governments and to allow same sex unions. 3 *“And even if our Good News is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case, the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, so they might not see the light of the Good News of the glory of Messiah, who is the image of God”* (2Corinthians 4:3-4 TLV). ADONAI had nothing to do with this, but He knows who is eternally lost, those whose names have not been written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Pray that not all have been permanently lost and that many will be able to repent and turn to ADONAI.

Recently, there have been a number of prophecies regarding coming events. Several have been regarding civil unrest here in our nation. We must be prepared that things here may not return to the peace and safety which we have had for so many years, at least, not until Yeshua returns. We are in the “last days.” I have no doubt of it. Our understanding of Daniel 12 clearly shows it. 4 *“But you, Daniel, close up the words and seal the book until the time of the end”* (Daniel 12:4a TLV). The Book of Daniel was sealed up until the beginning of the time of the end was revealed. It was revealed that the beginning of the time of the end was July 7, 1967, the time of the recapture of Jerusalem by Israel. In His words on the Mount of Olives, Yeshua also referred to that time. He said: 24... *Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are 5 fulfilled”* (Luke 21:24b TLV). The times of the Gentiles have been fulfilled, the Book of Daniel is unsealed and the time of the end has been identified. Referring to this period, the time of the end, Yeshua said: 29 *“But immediately after the trouble of those days, ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light and the stars will fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens will be shaken”* (Matthew 24:29 TLV). How long the trouble of these days will last, no one knows. What Yeshua said next is great news for us: 30 *“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the land will mourn, and they will see ‘the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven’ with power and great glory. 31 He will send out His angels with a great shofar, and they will gather together His chosen from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other”* (Matthew 24:30-31 TLV). This is a description of His coming for us in the clouds as shown by *Sha’ul* in 1Thessalonians 4 and 1Corinthians 15. We don’t know when it will be and we may have to go through some rocky times before Yeshua comes.

That is why we must study to show ourselves approved. Not only study, but resolve to serve Yeshua more fully. We already have the *kerusso*, the preaching of the Gospel in our hearts and salvation in our spirits. Now we must prepare to go more into the *didasko*, Yeshua’s teaching throughout the whole of Scripture, which we need to not only withstand what is coming, but also to go forth as fully trained disciples of Yeshua, ready to serve Him in these last days. *Shimon Kefa* wrote to us: 13 *“Therefore, having girded up the loins of your mind and being sober-minded, fully set your hope on the grace of the revelation of Yeshua HaMashiach”* (1Peter 1:13). This is my modernization of the direct translation from Greek. Girding up our loins means that we symbolically pull up our lower clothing and fasten it securely around our waist so that we can go to work or go to battle without tripping on it. Here, *Kefa* referred to the loins of our mind, that we would be mentally prepared. I would add that this means study. We must also fully set our hope on the grace, ADONAI’s grace for us, in His revealing of Yeshua at the end of days. *Kefa* continued: 14 *“Like obedient children, do not be shaped by the cravings you had formerly in your ignorance. 15 Instead, just like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in everything you do. 16 For it is written, “Kedoshim you shall be, for I am kadosh”* (1Peter 1:14-16 TLV). Holiness is intimately tied to obedience. May we both study and act to show ourselves approved before ADONAI. *Shabbat shalom!*