



Parasha Noach

October 25, 2025

Torah: Genesis 6:9-11:32
Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5
Ketuvim Shlichim: Matthew 28:16-20

Shabbat shalom, Mishpocha. Our *parasha* today is *Noach*. Last *Shabbat*, we studied *Bereshit*, the beginning. As we begin reading *Noach*, we don't immediately realize that hundreds of years have gone by in the five chapters of our first *parasha*. When *Parasha Bereshit* ended, Noah was already 500 years old and had fathered three sons. That means roughly 1,650 years passed from Adam and Eve's time until the flood, and all their living descendants except Noah and his family have greatly displeased G-d.

As *Parasha Noach* begins, ADONAI observes the wickedness of the people and decides to destroy everything on the earth. However, Noah finds favor in ADONAI's eyes, and He instructs him to build an ark to save humans and animals. After being told to build the ark, Noah worked on it for 100 years before the flood. We know this because we are told he was 600 years old when the flood began. 7 So Adonai said, "I will wipe out humankind, whom I have created, from the face of the ground, from humankind to livestock, crawling things and the flying creatures of the sky, because I regret that I made them." 8 But Noah found favor in Adonai's eyes. 9 These are the genealogies of Noah. Noah was a righteous man. He was blameless among his generation. Noah continually walked with God. (Genesis 6:7-9 TLV). Why was Noah a righteous man? His righteousness was derived in the same way as ours because he regularly repented of his sin. ADONAI told him what to do, and he obeyed, repenting when he failed. As a righteous man, we might also assume that he was a witness to the people around him and was distressed by their sin. While Noah was in contact with only a small group around him, the earth's population had grown significantly. Statisticians have used estimates of the number of offspring per family and the number of generations to estimate the Earth's population, and their lowest estimate is 11 million people, all of whom would die because of their wickedness.

As a witness for ADONAI, Noah might have preached something like this: "Stop sinning, return to ADONAI, and be saved from the flood of waters." They probably mocked Noah and asked, 'What is a flood of waters?' They didn't know because, at that time, ADONAI had not sent rain but was watering the earth with a mist rising from it. While we have not been told so, Noah may have been the first preacher, a proclaimer of G-d's message. *Sha'ul* was also a preacher, who 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 *kérussó* (kay-roos'-so) and means to be a herald or to declare. Most Christian Bibles translate this word as "preach," which also explains what Noah was likely doing and what *Sha'ul* said he was doing. One who is righteous would most certainly proclaim ADONAI's truth to those around them, and we assume Noah did, because ADONAI said he was righteous.

I am certain you have heard some who took their cue from *Sha'ul's* words say, "I only preach Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). The implication is that this is the main point of their message, which they repeatedly emphasize. I have heard many people say it. But is this the only message that ministers of Yeshua's Gospel should be giving? In the early 1980s, shortly after ADONAI called me to start my search for the Hebrew roots of the Christian faith, I was given a series of tapes by a friend. They included talks given by Christian minister Roy Blizzard, who was already deeply involved in studying Hebrew roots. He was affiliated with the Jerusalem School of Synoptic Research,

which we have discussed several times, and along with David Bivin, he coauthored the book, *Understanding the Difficult Words of Jesus.*, and the following quotes are from notes I took while listening to his taped message. “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.**” Dr. Blizzard is correct. We are commanded to teach, not preach, and we can verify this 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 as teaching is *didaskontes* (did-ah-SKON-tes) from *didasko* (did-as'-ko), meaning to teach or instruct. By contrast, *kerusso* means to herald, proclaim, or preach. Dr. Blizzard continued: “Who is supposed to preach? Every believer is to proclaim the Good News. But you need to know more to teach. Study to show yourself approved, a workman worth his hire.” This was in 1984. He continued: “It (the church) was founded on the Protestantism of the 16th and 18th centuries and the Catholicism of the Middle Ages. But our faith is actively rooted in the Judaism of the 1st century.” Has the Church misunderstood Paul? There is nothing wrong with calling him Paul, but when he is called by his Hebrew name, *Sha’ul*, the Jewishness of his writings is emphasized. I believe his statement about only “preaching Christ crucified” has been greatly misunderstood. Dr. Blizzard emphasized that we need to understand the difference between preaching and teaching, as many have misunderstood Yeshua’s commission to His disciples.

I preach to you here at *Beit Shalom*, proclaiming the truth about salvation in almost every message. However, I don’t do it because I don’t think you’re aware of it. I declare for anyone listening that we trust in Yeshua by faith and do not 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 who are a part of our congregation have trusted in Yeshua. Therefore, you need much more *didasko* than *kerusso*; more teaching than preaching. And that is the way it should be in every congregation, regardless of the number of unsaved people found there. Yeshua’s greater body is starved for the teaching of His Word.

6 “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*” (Hosea 4:6 TLV). You can’t be a true follower of Yeshua without knowledge. The Hebrew word *Da’at* means “knowledge.” It comes from the verb *yada*, meaning “to know.” We most certainly need to know the Gospel, but once we know it and have responded positively to it, the most important thing for us is to be taught. Shepherds must transmit knowledge —the *didasko*, the teaching —commanded by Yeshua for us to do as we make disciples for Him. Without learning, we wouldn’t know how to walk and could 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 a serious act, not just a minor slap on the wrist. We must know how Yeshua expects us to act so that we won’t be *damah*, destroyed. On a personal level, this suggests that our choices may be wrong, not necessarily to the loss of salvation, but to some spiritual and physical destruction. We can’t just live in an idealized fantasy, believing that if we only trust in Yeshua, regardless of 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. Knowing what Yeshua desires for us as disciples gives us “power” over circumstances that could otherwise overwhelm us.

Hosea wrote his words regarding the northern Kingdom of Israel, which at that time was in complete idolatry and had been since their rebellion and separation from the Kingdom of Judah. Hosea’s words are ADONAI’s words to the people of the Kingdom of Israel. Their leaders had driven all ADONAI’s *kohanim*, His priests, out of the land at the start of their rebellion and separation from Judah, replacing them with their pagan priests. We know what happened to the Kingdom of Israel.

Assyria defeated it, and its people were taken into captivity. That was their *damah*, their physical destruction, brought on by their idolatry instead of following the *Torah*.

What about us? Does our lack of knowledge lead to such serious consequences? We certainly hope not, but we don't know what may happen in our lives. Only ADONAI knows what will happen to each of us or our nation. What we have learned as Messianic Jewish followers of Yeshua is that there are commands to obey. Everything is not just faith. We must have faith and obedience, but once we trust Yeshua, we are to take up our cross daily and follow Him, walking in the ways He has taught us. If we haven't been taught, we can't walk rightly. Each of us must ask ourselves, "Am I walking in Yeshua's ways and faithfully following His commands?" We know the Hebrew word *shema* means hear, but it also implies more than just hearing. It suggests that one must obey! Hearing ADONAI tell us what to do and if we don't obey Him, it means nothing. Reading how to repair your vacuum cleaner won't fix it. You must follow the manufacturer's instructions. You must take action. Several authors have termed the Bible "The Manufacturer's Handbook." We not only need to understand what our Creator has told us, but also to follow through with it. Are we simply listening, or are we truly obeying Yeshua's commands?

I present information, but I am not the one who shows you how to walk. Yeshua is our guide, and we must pattern our lives after His. As we seek to understand Him, we must also remember that He was a Jew and that He perfectly kept the Law, the *Torah*. He kept it perfectly, but not as some say, so that we wouldn't have to keep it. As our Teacher, He perfectly kept the *Torah* to demonstrate that the *Torah* is and has been correct teaching for His followers in every era in which they lived. After stating that not a *yod* or a *kotz*—meaning not even the smallest Hebrew letter *yod* or a decorative mark on the letters—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 at *Beit Shalom* know that the *Ketuvim Shlichim*—the New Testament—does not teach that the Law has been done away with. Since we know 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 are relevant to us today, but some are not active because there is no Temple and Levitical priesthood, and we do not live in Israel.

In the 1st century, some Pharisees glorified themselves and sought praise for their position. Criticizing them, Yeshua said: 8 *"But you are not to be called rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And call no man on earth your father; for One is your Father, who is in heaven. 10 Nor are you to be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Messiah."* (Matthew 23:8-10 TLV). Yeshua warned against some Pharisees' pride by taking titles of honor such as "rabbi," "father," or "teacher." Not that they weren't filling those roles, but they elevated themselves far above what they really were. He condemned the practice of humans elevating themselves to a position of ultimate religious authority, while the true spiritual authority belongs solely to ADONAI. Yeshua is the great Rabbi, and the rabbis of modern Messianic Judaism are His disciples. Rabbi means "teacher," but He is the one who calls leaders to this position. We understand that He is our authority. For us, rabbi is a functional title, not a title of honor. If there had been Pastors in the 1st century, He probably would have said, "Don't call anyone Pastor, because you only have one Pastor." Pastor comes from the Latin meaning "shepherd," and Yeshua is the Great Shepherd. Regardless of our titles as leaders in Yeshua's body today, we are all His disciples, and He has called on some of us to teach and lead. Everyone who trusts in Yeshua is His disciple, whether they realize it or not. In the 1st century, traveling rabbis had disciples who followed them everywhere, hanging on their every word and trying to imitate them. That is what the Body of Messiah should be like today, striving to understand every word Yeshua spoke and following Him daily, spiritually.

The WWJD movement of several years ago had good intentions. By saying "What would Jesus do?" they implied that they should emulate Jesus. That's true. As Yeshua's disciples, we are supposed to be figuratively molded into "little Yeshuas," being like Him. The goal of His followers,

according to the doctrine of sanctification, is to become increasingly like Yeshua. As members of the Messianic Jewish Movement, our mantra must be WWYD, “What would Yeshua do,” because we understand that He kept the *Torah*, and we should too. That understanding means that being a disciple of Yeshua also directly affects our personal lives. Are we dedicating our lives to His service, striving to become like Him, or are we spending too much time and money on our own pleasures? You’ve heard this line before. The exact words are: “Preacher, now you done stopped preaching and gone to meddling.” What that really means is that the preacher shifted from preaching to teaching and was now pointing out their failures as Jesus’s disciples. On some future *Yom Kippur*, each of us will stand before Yeshua and give an account of our faithfulness. Are we His disciples or not? Don’t say you are His disciple if you’re not.

Someone has counted and found that Yeshua is called “teacher” 67 times in the Book of John. It seems perfectly natural that in His Great Commission, He commanded His disciples to teach us what He taught them. The word He spoke in the Aramaic of that time was translated as *didasko*, the Greek word meaning “to teach, instruct, or impart knowledge.” Today, we can’t cover all the topics Yeshua taught, but I believe you’ll agree that His primary teaching is to love ADONAI. 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 with that assessment. Loving ADONAI is number one, and loving our neighbor is number two. But what we may disagree on is how we are to love ADONAI with all our hearts. It’s easy for us to say we love Him. We affirm it every week as we chant the *Shema*. Have we truly reflected on our lives to evaluate how we are expressing our love for Him? We must realize that loving ADONAI is not just an emotion. It’s not just a warm, fuzzy feeling. Although emotional love is a part of our relationship with ADONAI and Yeshua, the most important part of our love is not the emotion, but our actions. Our actions show our love. It is the act of attending the service, praying for the sick, giving tithes and *tzedakah*, taking food to a shut-in, and many other things He teaches us to do. As Messianic followers of Yeshua, abstaining from non-kosher food is just one way we demonstrate our discipleship to Him, but doing so won’t save us. “Works righteousness” is a belief held by some that right standing before G-d can be achieved through good deeds and obeying religious law. But we understand that salvation is accessible only through faith in Yeshua, by ADONAI’s grace. After that, as Yeshua’s disciples, more is required of us. And that means being servants. Yeshua said: 26 *It shall not be this way among you. But whoever wants to be great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first among you shall be your slave—*” (Matthew 20:26-27 TLV). He also said: 35 ..., “*If any man wants to be first, he shall be least of all and the servant of everyone.*” (Mark 9:35b TLV). I believe that when we stand before Him, He will ask us how we served. Each of us must ask ourselves, “Am I really serving in the way Yeshua has directed His disciples to serve?”

Our love for ADONAI is primarily demonstrated through serving Him. How do we know that? We know it because after Yeshua answered the question about the greatest commandment, He added: 40 “*The entire Torah and the Prophets hang on these two commandments*” (Matthew 22:40 TLV). You can’t just say “I love G-d,” without knowing how. The entire *Torah* and Prophets teach us how to live a holy, set-apart life before our Messiah and our G-d. To live a holy life, we need knowledge of what is essential to our Creator. Moses taught Israel with these words: 12 “*So now, O Israel, what does Adonai your God require of you, but to fear Adonai your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve Adonai your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 to keep the mitzvot of Adonai and His statutes that I am commanding you today, for your own good?*” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13 TLV). We learn by being taught at synagogue, but also through 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). This is a modernization of the King James statement, and as presented this way, it clearly shows what we, as individual followers of Yeshua, are

supposed 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 if we haven't. This is a command, and even though *Sha'ul* gave it as Yeshua's emissary, he had the authority to issue it. It holds the same significance as any *Torah* command, and by following it, we gain insight into what Yeshua has instructed His disciples. That's the whole reason that he gave it, so that we would focus our study on the *didasko*, the teaching aspect of *Torah*. Ask yourself, "Am I doing this?"

Today, we live in uncertain times. Parasha *Noach* gives us a glimpse into ancient history and foreshadows current events. *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). The people of that time shared a common language that allowed them to communicate, and they decided to make a name for themselves by competing with ADONAI. But He 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* over the centuries to follow his instructions instead of 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). This woman is not Rome or some modern conspiracy movement of world leaders, but a symbol of all false religious and political systems throughout history. It seems no coincidence that today we have returned to the era of the Tower of Babel regarding language. Everyone can speak or understand a language in some way, enabling communication across the earth. If you don't speak a particular language, you can buy a translator for \$79.00 that allows you to speak into it and instantly translate more than 68 languages. It seems that those who do not follow ADONAI aim to once again make a name for themselves, just like it was after Noah's time. We see this not only in our country but also across the globe. Most of today's news media refuse to tell the truth and only push their agenda, and the governments of the world are filled with ungodly agendas. *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 the Messiah, who is the image of God"* (2Corinthians 4:3-4 TLV). The god of this world, *HaSatan*, has again become exceedingly successful. He was at the Tower of Babel, and he has gained many disciples today. While ADONAI had nothing to do with their blinding, He knows who is perishing—that is, eternally lost—those whose names have not been written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

We are very clearly in the "last days." Our current understanding of Daniel 12 reveals it. *4 "But you, Daniel, close up the words and seal the book until the time of the end"* (Daniel 12:4a TLV). While the Book of Daniel was sealed until the "beginning of the time of the end" was revealed, it has now been disclosed. Daniel Bruce, in his book *Daniel Unsealed*, demonstrates the unsealing process. As he shows, the beginning of the time of the end was July 7, 1967, the day Jerusalem was recaptured by Israel. Please read this book yourself to discover Bruce's reasoning, a conclusion I agree entirely with. Yeshua also prophesied about that very same day, saying: *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 because the Jews now control Jerusalem, 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). This is symbolic language which we can't yet understand, but the trouble of those days is the trouble of our days. How long this trouble will last, no one knows. But the trouble of these days is not the Great Tribulation, because that happened in Jerusalem in the year 70 CE, and Yeshua said it would never happen again. That's great news for the people currently living in Jerusalem. What Yeshua said next is wonderful news for all of His followers: *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 describes His return for us in the clouds, as shown by *Sha'ul* in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15. Then He said: 37 *"For just as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. 39 And they did not understand until the flood came and swept them all away. So shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man.* (Matthew 24:37-39 TLV). We don't know when Yeshua's coming will be, and we may face some tough times before He comes, the "trouble of these times," as He said. But the wickedness of today is approaching the wickedness of Noah's day, and at His coming, those who don't know Yeshua will be swept away.

In His "Great Commission," Yeshua's words were: 20 ... teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:20a TLV). We were not privy to all His conversations with them, but we know that, according to Matthew 5:17-18, Yeshua upheld the *Torah* and the Prophets as words active and alive for teaching —essentially the whole of the *Tanakh*, the Hebrew Bible. Every teacher of ADONAI's Word risks their relationship with Him when they take a stand on an interpretation. His brother *Ya'acov* said: 1 *Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, since you know that we will receive a stricter judgment.* (James 3:1 TLV). The word "teachers" is derived from *didaskaloi* (dih-DAS-kah-loy), a form of the word *didaskalos* (did-as'-kal-os), meaning teacher or master. *Ya'acov* probably wasn't referring to Yeshua's words in the Great Commission, but his meaning is clear. We should approach our teaching with fear and trembling. Similarly, those who have received teaching should be cautious of being deceived and ensure that what they have heard is accurate. Test the teachings. Do what the Berean Jews did: 11 *Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, because they received the message with goodwill, searching the Scriptures each day to see whether these things were true.* (Acts 17:11 TLV). A definition of "noble-minded" is, "Having high moral principles, integrity, and elevated thoughts, often putting the needs of others before one's own." *Sha'ul's* words about the Bereans should apply to each of us. Followers of Yeshua are expected to be noble-minded, a character trait that should lead us to take more than a passing interest in what we hear our teachers say. If I am not teaching the truth, you should question me. But if I am teaching the truth, it should not be dismissed as just another sermon, but reflected on and stored in your belief system, ready to be acted upon when needed.

As disciples of Yeshua, we must study to show ourselves approved —not only study, but also resolve to serve Him more fully, becoming active servants of our Messiah. Every follower of Yeshua is called to be a preacher, a proclaimer, as the Greek word *kerusso* describes. Each of us understands the Gospel and can share it if we choose to. And we must make that choice. But as Yeshua's disciples, we must also prioritize the *didasko*, His teaching throughout the entire Scripture. *Shimon Kefa* warns us: 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). You shall be holy ones for I am holy. ADONAI has called us to be holy people. Holiness, being set apart for ADONAI only, is intimately tied to obedience. May we both study and act to prove ourselves approved before ADONAI. *Shabbat shalom!*