

Parsha Q&A



Parshat Noach

For the week ending 6 Cheshvan 5760
15 & 16 October 1999

Parsha Questions

1. Which particular sin sealed the fate of the flood generation?
2. Why did Hashem tell Noach to build an ark, as opposed to saving him via some other method?
3. The ark had three levels. What function did each level serve?
4. What indication do we have that Noach was familiar with the Torah?
5. Why did Hashem postpone bringing the flood for seven days?
6. Why did the first water of the flood come down as light rain?
7. What did people say that threatened Noach, and what did Hashem do to protect him?
8. What grouping of creatures escaped the punishment of the flood?
9. How deeply was the ark submerged in the water?
10. What did the olive branch symbolize?
11. How long did the punishment of the flood last?
12. A solar year is how many days longer than a lunar year?
13. When did humans receive permission to eat meat?
14. What prohibition was given along with the permission to eat meat?
15. Why does the command to "be fruitful and multiply" directly follow the prohibition of murder?
16. Name two generations in which the rainbow never appeared.
17. Why did Noach curse Canaan specifically? Give two reasons.
18. Why does the Torah call Nimrod a mighty hunter?
19. The sin of the generation of the dispersion was greater than the sin of the generation of the flood. Why was the punishment of the former less severe?
20. Why was Sarah also called Yiscah?

I Did Not Know That!

In Hebrew, "ark" and "word" are synonymous. Furthermore, the ark's dimensions were 30 x 300 x 50. These numbers correspond to the Hebrew letters "lamed shin nun" which spell "lashon" — "tongue." The true "ark" which saved Noach and family were the words of prayer they uttered with their tongues.

Recommended Reading List

Ramban

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|-------|----------------------|
| 6:19 | Miracle of the Ark |
| 7:1 | Preserving the World |
| 8:11 | The Olive Leaf |
| 9:12 | The Rainbow |
| 9:18 | Ham and Canaan |
| 10:9 | Nimrod |
| 10:15 | The Land of Canaan |
| 11:32 | The Death of Terach |

Sforno

- | | |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 8:21 | The New World |
| 8:22 | The Pre-Flood World |
| 9:6 | The Crime of Murder |
| 9:9 | The Conditions of the Covenant |
| 9:13 | Meaning of the Rainbow |

Prepared by Ohr Somayach in Jerusalem, Israel

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Dedication opportunities are available for Parsha Q&A — Please contact us for details.

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Answers to this Week's Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated

1. 6:13 - Robbery.
2. 6:14 - So that people would see Noach building the ark and ask him what he was doing. When Noach would answer, "Hashem is bringing a flood," it might encourage some people to repent.
3. 6:16 - The top level housed the people, the middle level housed the animals, and the bottom level, the refuse.
4. 7:2 - Hashem told him to take into the ark seven of each kosher-type animal, and two of each non-kosher type. "Kosher" and "non-kosher" are Torah concepts.
5. 7:4 - To allow seven days to mourn the death of Mesushelach.
6. 7:12 - To give the generation a chance to repent.
7. 7:13,15 - People said, "If we see him going into the ark, we'll smash it!" Hashem surrounded it with bears and lions to kill any attackers.
8. 7:22 - The fish.
9. 8:4 - Eleven amos.
10. 8:11 - Nothing. It was a leaf, not a branch. (The olive leaf symbolized that it's better to eat food "bitter like an olive" but which comes directly from Hashem, rather than sweet food provided by humans.)
11. 8:14 - A full solar year.
12. 8:14 - Eleven days.
13. 9:3 - After the flood.
14. 9:4 - The prohibition of eating a limb cut from a living animal.
15. 9:7 - To equate one who purposely abstains from having children to one who commits murder.
16. 9:12 - The generation of King Chizkiyahu and the generation of Shimon bar Yochai.
17. 9:22,24 - Because Canaan is the one who revealed Noach's disgrace to Ham. And because Ham stopped Noach from fathering a fourth son. Thus, Noach cursed Ham's fourth son, Canaan.
18. 10:9 - He used words to ensnare the minds of people, persuading them to rebel against Hashem.
19. 11:9 - They lived together peacefully.
20. 11:29 - The word "Yiscah" is related to the Hebrew word "to see." Sarah was called Yiscah because she could "see" the future via prophecy. Also, because of her beauty, everyone would gaze at her.

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