



## *Parshas Noach 2021, passion and joy!*

*The Parsha Perspective is in loving memory of Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia. May their souls be uplifted and their memories a blessing.*

*The Parsha Perspective in honor of the Refuah Shlema of HaRav Amitai Ben Shoshanna, Shaul Ben Berta & Sasson Bezalel Ben Batia.*

Our Parsha begins by introducing Noach, a man who remained faithful to G-d while the rest of society descended into chaos. Noach was told by G-d that a Mabul (flood) would soon destroy all of civilization, and only he and his family would survive in an ark that he was to build. He was given the ark's dimensions and commanded to bring 7 of every kosher animal and a pair of every non-kosher animal.

Noach slowly built the ark to give people a chance to repent and stop the flood, but he was unsuccessful. The rain began on the 11th of Cheshvan as Noach entered the Teivah with his entire family and every animal.

The downpour lasted 40 days and nights, killing all humans and animals not in the Teivah. The waters continued to stir and boil for 150 days until G-d commanded it to subside.

Noach sent out a raven to determine the extent of the water's retreat; however, the raven did not fly far before returning to the Teivah. Noach waited and then sent out a dove three separate times.

The first time the dove left, it returned empty-handed. It returned with an olive leaf in its beak the second time, indicating that new growth had begun to sprout.

The final time, the dove did not return, signaling to Noach that the land had become dried. On the 27th of Cheshvan, Noach and his family exited the Teivah to reinhabit the world exactly one year after entering.

However, a question comes to mind: The Torah tells us that Noach did all that G-d commanded him to do. As the Pasuk writes (6:22) “*Noach did all that G-d commanded him, so he did.*” Why does the Torah, which is very particular and precise with its wording, reiterate that Noach did as G-d told him?

Furthermore, five Pasukim later, it repeats (7:5) “*And Noah did just as the G-d commanded him.*” Why does the Torah repeatedly emphasize that Noach did what he was told?!

Rashi (*Rav Shlomo Yitzchaki, the leading commentary on the Torah*) answers this question by looking at the context of each Pasuk. He explains that the first Pasuk refers to Noach building the Teivah itself and stocking it with food. The second Pasuk alludes to Noach going into the Teivah when G-d told him to do so.

Rashi continues, Noach himself did not believe that G-d would destroy the world just after He created it. Nevertheless, Noach followed G-d commandments to the smallest detail, doing precisely what told to do. Therefore, the Torah praises Noach by emphasizing that he fulfilled what G-d commandments.

However, the Netziv (*Rav Naftali Tzvi Yeudah Berlin, a polish Rabbi from the mid-1800s*) gives a deeper and more profound explanation. He writes that the Torah underlines and stresses that Noach did what he was told because **he did it himself**. He did not ask his wife, children, or workers to build the Teivah and bring the animals. Rather, he did each of G-d’s directives himself, no matter how tedious and challenging they were.

Furthermore, as you can imagine, building a massive ark by yourself is no simple task. Yet, Noach did so with passion and enthusiasm because G-d commanded him to do so.

Although many challenged him during the ark’s construction, they did not diminish his energy and spirit.

As the Pasuk writes (7:1) “וַיֹּאמֶר ה' לְנֹחַ בְּאֶרְצָהּ וְלִבְיִתָּהּ אֶל־הַתְּבֵלָה כִּי־אַתָּה רָאִיתָ צְדִיק לְפָנַי בְּדוֹר תְּהֵאֵלֹהִים:”  
- G-d said to Noach, “Go into the ark, with all your household, for **you alone** have I found righteous before Me in this generation.”

This incredibly profound lesson is ever more prevalent as we begin the month of Cheshvan. For Cheshvan is a month with no holidays to uplift and inspire us to connect with G-d.

But Cheshvan is the perfect time to put all that we have gained during Tishrei into action. To practicalize all the spirituality and holiness we just received into our daily life with joy and happiness.

In our daily life, it is imperative that we do even the most mundane tasks with energy and spirit. Even though our responsibilities may feel repetitive and boring, we should strive to do them with enthusiasm.

This outlook and mentality make even the most challenging obligations seem effortless because of our spirit. But most importantly, it gives us a level of purpose and meaning in the simple things of life that no money can buy.

***“The secret to finding your passion is that you bring passion into everything that you do.”***

*Have a meaningful Shabbos,  
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*