



## **Parashat Noah**

### **6 Cheshvan 5784 – October 21, 2023**

The story of the generation of the flood should awaken us to the fact that materialism is bound to generate corruption. The caveat is, that a higher spiritual goal harnesses materialism. In the world we live in today, wealth abounds. Material wealth does not make society peaceful, friendly, or helpful. A society that lives within the guidelines of HaShem is harmonious.

Although humanity no longer lived in the Garden of Eden, the lives they led before the flood were quite comfortable. Life was “too good.” It was filled with enjoyment and contentment. We learn in midrash that children were conceived and born on the same day, with standing, walking, and talking to follow shortly thereafter. No child ever died before a parent, and all parents would live to see grandchildren.

The generation of people before the flood were very strong. The Torah tells us “There were giants on earth in those days.” They considered lions, and the like, as harmless as butterflies. They got stronger as they got older. All this ended with the flood. What else ended was HaShem’s benefits.

The people of the flood cast off HaShem’s authority. They decided they didn’t need HaShem for anything anymore. That behavior in addition to the sins of idolatry, murder, and immorality brought about a world reboot.

The straw that broke the camel’s back was robbery. Why was robbery the sin that caused the final flood verdict? The answer is that robbery undermines the basis of civilization. Common sense dictates that another person’s property may not be stolen (Ramban Nachmanides). Whenever HaShem sits in judgment over a person who is guilty of other crimes, one crime above others accuses him. It is the crime of robbery.

The people of “the flood generation” were clever in their schemes to undermine society. A person would bring a basket full of peas. People would steal an amount that was unchargeable as an offense until this person’s basket was empty.

When a society becomes devoid of morality it does not perpetuate itself to grow spiritually in their service of G-d. It destroys itself from within and thus G-d determines that a “do over” is necessary.

The promise from G-d of never flooding the world again is a good thing. What could happen if that promise was not made? Just a thought!

Good Shabbos!

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