



A WEEKLY FAX KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR JEWISH ROOTS.

Based On Teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe

A CHOICE SITUATION

Skeptics and scoffers love the story of Noah. It proves, in their minds, that G-d is not perfect, that He makes mistakes. That the whole Genesis thing turned out to be a mistake, and the only way to fix it was to wipe out the remains of the experiment, clean the laboratory, and start over again.

The evidence, your honor, will prove otherwise.

Let's start at the end. G-d did not erase all remnants of the former incarnation. In fact, the whole idea of the Noah tale is that every form of life on earth had to be preserved in order that it carry on as originally intended after the flood. (And, by the way, that "two and two" legend you've heard is oversimplified: read Torah this week and you'll find out that many of the creatures were to be corralled in sets of seven and seven.) So the blueprints were fine; it was the way they were used that was lacking.

And whose fault is that? We take you back to the very beginning, in which good and evil are laid before us. At first, actually, there is a choice to just be natural, which is to say that to be natural is to be good. However, by giving us free will, G-d also gave us the opportunity to learn about the nature of evil. He told us "Don't even go there" (we would have been smart to listen) but He didn't prevent us from going there - which, of course, He could have.

So we, in our assumption of wisdom, decided to go there, with predictable results. We learned that there was something other than the good we had inherited, and in doing so we took it into ourselves. Now we had to wrestle with the good and evil inclinations. "Choose good," He told us. But did we listen?

Which takes us back to Noah. The portion starts out "These are the generations of Noah." Meaning both the evil generations in which he grew up (those who, through their free will, decided to be depraved) and the generations he fathered (those who might learn from the lesson and choose more good than evil).

Starting to make sense? It wasn't G-d's mistake that He was doing away with. It was ours. Do you want free will or don't you? He could have made us perfect, of course, but where's the adventure in that? He already had the angels. Unlike the angels, we can choose...and then we get to live with the consequences of those choices. It's your mistake to make. Or not.

Shabbat Shalom!



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POINTS TO PONDER

THE REBBE'S PERSPECTIVE...

For mankind to exist in harmony, we must listen to the voice that Noah heard after the flood.

We must accept that there is a set of absolute values set by the Creator of the world, values that we cannot play with to suit our convenience.

Values from beyond the subjective minds of men.

THE LIGHTER SIDE . . .

The London branch of Bank Leumi decides to carry out an audit of passwords used by their customers. To their surprise, they find that Harry Levy, one of their elderly customers, has regularly been using a very lengthy password. The password being used was: -

AdamEveNoahMosesAbrahamIsaacJacobJoseph Jerusalem

So the office manager phones Harry. "Mr Levy," says the manager, "we've just discovered that you're using an unnecessarily long password to get into your online account with us. Why did you choose such a long password?"

"I only did what I was instructed to do by your office," replies Harry.

"So what did they tell you to do?" asks the manager. Harry replies, "They told me that the password had to be 8 characters long and had to include at least one capital."

TORAH STUDIES

Tuesday, Oct. 19th, @ 7:30pm

Finding Purpose: Bereishit

Journey into the Soul of the Weekly Torah Portion

The Book of Genesis: A 12 Part Journey

Friday, Oct. 8, Evening Services - 6:15pm.

Shabbat, Oct. 9, Weekly Torah Class - 8:30am

Morning Services - 9:30am. Followed by Kiddush after services.

Candle Lighting times are for Suffolk County area only.

Torah Reading of the Week: NOACH (GENESIS 6:9 - 11:32)

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan

Candle Lighting Time: Friday, Oct. 8, 6:02pm

Shabbat ends: Saturday, Oct. 9, 7:02pm