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Shabbat - Noah,

שבת פ' נח

Sat. 12 - 13 Oct. 2018 - 4th of Cheshvan, 5779 - ד' בחשוון תשע"ט

Issue Number 866

Baal Koreh	Rabbi Asher Sebbag	(Page - 30).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Mr Yossi Tamman	(Page -1131).

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit. 17:45

Shabbat Candles. 17:58

Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 9:27). 08:30

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. (Sunset - 18:11). 16:30

Mincha Shabbat - Followed by Seuda Shlishit at 17:45. 17:20

Arbit Motzei Shabbat. 19:02

Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday - 07:30). (Mon. & Thu. – 6.40) 06:45

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. 17:00

Mincha & Arbit 17:45

Next Friday: Mincha, Shir Hashirim, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit. 17:30

Next Friday: Candles. **Shabbat. Lech Lecha** 17:43

Noach 5779 (Genesis 6:9-11:32)

Oct 7, 2018 | by [Rabbi Kalman Packouz](#)

GOOD MORNING! Perseverance. One of the important rules for success in life. For 120 years Noach built the Ark. Every day he went out, selected the trees, sawed the boards, sanded, connected them, sealed and waterproofed them. He didn't give up! The progress must have been painfully slow, perhaps tedious. Yet, Noach prevailed! He built the Ark, gathered the animals and preserved life on this planet.

It is hard to think in this day of A.D.D. and instant gratification when our society wants everything NOW, when people hardly have the patience to read a weekly email ;) that we could

find an example of the patience, perseverance and determination that Noach displayed. Until perhaps now, with the completion of writing a *Sefer Torah* -- the handwritten scroll of the Five Books of Moses.

While finishing the writing of a Torah is not an infrequent occurrence, it usually happens by commissioning a *sofer* (scribe) to write the Torah. For approximately one year the *sofer* dedicates himself full-time to writing the Torah. Then the Torah is presented to the owners or synagogue for a gala celebration.

Recently, however, I had the pleasure of attending the *siyum*, the completion of a *Sefer Torah* in Jerusalem by my 89 year old father-in-

law, Rabbi Yosef Kramer. For 22 1/2 years, virtually every morning Rabbi Kramer would rise at 3 am, go to the *Mikvah* (a special ritual bath) to purify himself before writing. He would then write one or two lines over a period of 1-2 hours.

Why only 1 or 2 lines? That is all that he felt he could write with proper intention and beautiful script.

Why did he write a *Sefer Torah*? At age 13 Rabbi Kramer undertook to be a *Ba'al HaKriah*, to read the *Sefer Torah* each Shabbat in the synagogue for the community. Each year as he would read "And now, write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the Children of Israel, and place it in their mouths ..." (Deut. 31:19) -- the Biblical source commanding to write a *Sefer Torah* -- he would affirm to himself that one day he would fulfill this very difficult and time-consuming *mitzvah*.

At age 66 he saw a sign offering a class to teach the special "calligraphy" for writing a *Sefer Torah*. Each letter has to be written in an exact manner -- perfectly. To write a *Sefer Torah* not only involves mastering the writing, one must learn the *halachot* (laws) on how the Torah is to be written -- when an error can be erased and written over -- or when one must discard the sheet of parchment (made from the hide of a kosher animal). There are thoughts/intentions that one must have in mind each time he writes the name of God. The *Sefer Torah* is written with a quill made from a turkey feather which entails learning how to make a quill.

Not one letter can be missing, cracked or misformed. Following the completion of writing, the *Sefer Torah* is given to a specialist for examination. First, a computer is used to scan for possible problems. Then at least two experts consecutively examine the Torah letter by letter, word by word.

Every Jew is obligated to write a *Sefer Torah*! A King is obligated to write a second one to have with him at all times to learn, to know what is right and wrong, to remind him to love and fear God and to do what is morally correct. The outward act brings an inner appreciation. Writing a Torah impacts your whole being.

The Sefer Ha-Chinuch writes that the purpose of writing a *Sefer Torah* is for the sake of Torah study: "The Holy One, blessed be He, commanded that each and every man of Israel have a *Sefer Torah* at hand, from which he can always study, so that he should not need to seek one at his friend's house. In this way, he will learn to fear the Almighty, and he will know and understand His *mitzvos*, which 'are more precious than gold, and even much fine gold (Tehillim 19:11).'"

Until May 6, 1954 it was thought that no human being could run a mile in under 4 minutes. On that date Roger Banister broke the 4 minute mile. Within 46 days it was broken again. To date, over 1,400 people have run a sub-4 minute mile. What changed? Roger Banister showed that it could be done.

Until now, in this generation, it is virtually unheard of that someone has written his own *Sefer Torah*. What has changed? Rabbi Yosef Kramer has shown that it can be done!



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Noach, Genesis 6:9 - 11:32

The story of one righteous man in an evil generation. The Almighty commands Noach to build the ark on a hill far from the water. He built it over a period of 120 years. People deride Noach and ask him, "Why are you building a boat on a hill?" Noach explains that there will be a flood if people do not correct their ways. We see from this the patience of the Almighty for people to correct their ways and the genius of arousing people's curiosity so that they will ask a question and, hopefully, hear the answer.

The generation does not do *Teshuva*, returning from their evil ways to the righteous path, and God brings a flood for 40 days. They leave the ark 365 days later when the earth has once again become habitable. The Almighty makes a covenant and makes the rainbow the sign of the covenant that He will never destroy all of life again by water (hence, James Baldwin's book, The Fire Next Time). When one sees a rainbow it is an omen to do *Teshuva* -- to recognize the mistakes you are making in life, regret them, correct them/make restitution, and ask for forgiveness from anyone you have

wronged and then to ask forgiveness from the Almighty.

Noach plants a vineyard, gets drunk and then occurs the mysterious incident in the tent after which Noach curses his grandson Canaan. The Torah portion concludes with the story of the Tower of Babel and then a genealogy from Noach's son, Shem, to Abram (Abraham).

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Dvar Torah

based on Growth Through Torah by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

The Torah states:

"Noach was a completely righteous man in his generation" (Gen. 6:9).

The Talmud, Tractate Sanhedrin 108a, is bothered by the seemingly superfluous words "in his generation." What are these extra words coming to teach us?

There are two opinions: 1) Praise of Noach. Even in an evil generation he was righteous. However, if he were in a righteous generation, he would have been even more righteous. 2) Denigration of Noach. In his own generation he was considered righteous, but had he lived in Avraham's generation he would not have been considered righteous in comparison to Avraham.

The Chasam Sofer, a great rabbi, explained that there really is no argument between the two opinions. If Noach would have stayed the way he was in his own generation, then in Avraham's generation he would not

have been considered that righteous. However, the reality is that Noach would have been influenced by Avraham and have reached even greater heights of righteousness.

What do we learn from this? We are all affected by our environment. When we are close to people of good character, we are automatically

influenced in positive directions. Choose well your friends and your community -- they strongly impact your life!



Shabbat Shalom,
Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

Mazal tov Ubsiman tov: to Lara and Alex Shamash on the birth of their baby son. to Grandparents, Tikva and Sabah Shamash and Odile and Douglas Benjamin. to Great-Grandparents Mavis and Frank Benjamin, Vicky Mizrahi, Ester Attar and Claire Shamash and to Great-Great Grandmother Laura Abadi. We wish all the families many happy and healthy years.

Kolel every Sunday: We are still having a Kolel every Sunday at the Synagogue hall from 09.30am - 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Security Alert: Please be very vigilant when you leave the Synagogue. Do not stand in groups and chat, go home without gathering on the main road. Be safe and alert.

A message to those saying Kaddish: please gather behind the TEBBA and recite the Kaddish together. As it will be a good help to the new Kaddish readers.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE" TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

03 Heshvan - Mr Yakdhan Cohen	20 Heshvan - Mr Ezra H. Eddie Cohen
03 Heshvan - Mr Ghassan Cohen	20 Heshvan - Mr Abraham S. Cohen
03 Heshvan - Mr Dhia Cohen	21 Heshvan - Mr Adil S. Darwish
03 Heshvan - Mr Asad Cohen	22 Heshvan - Mr Nadir Baher
05 Heshvan - Mr Nadir Baher	23 Heshvan - Mr Joseph Laniado
07 Heshvan - Mr Y. Kelly Saltoun	26 Heshvan - Mr Yakdhan Cohen
09 Heshvan - Mr Eliot M. Cohen	26 Heshvan - Mr Ghassan Cohen
12 Heshvan - Dr Maurice Gubbay	26 Heshvan - Mr Dhia Cohen
13 Heshvan - Mr Harry Fattal	26 Heshvan - Mr Asad Cohen
13 Heshvan - Mr Jack Fattal	28 Heshvan - Mr Joseph Laniado
13 Heshvan - Mr Meir Fattal	28 Heshvan - Mrs Helen Georgy
15 Heshvan - Mr Ernest Elias	

“ Quote of the Week ”

**The Three P's of success:
passion, planning, and perseverance.**