

NOVEMBER 1, 2019

Parashat Noah

Genesis 6:9-11:32

Taught By:

Calvino & Corey

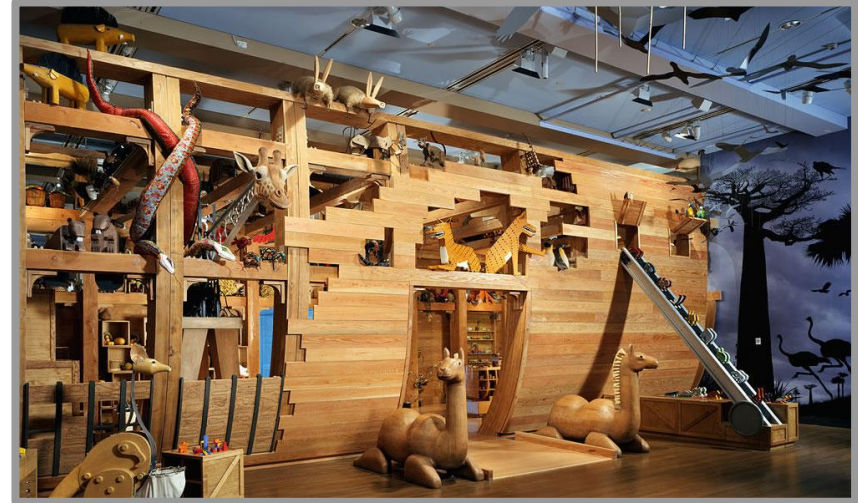


### SUMMARY

In this week's Torah *parasha* G'd notices that the world has become filled with violence. G'd tells Noah to build an ark to save every species of animal on earth as well as Noah's own family from a worldwide flood. It rains for forty days and forty nights. Noah sends a raven and then a dove to find signs that dry land has reappeared.

When the ark rests on dry land, G'd sends a rainbow as a sign of a promise to all human beings not to destroy the world again by flood. G'd reveals seven basic rules for all people to follow. Noah plants a vineyard when he comes off the ark.

Later in the *parasha* we read that many years later a group of people, who spoke one language, worked together to build a city and a very tall tower--the Tower of Bavel. G'd foiled their attempt by causing everyone to speak different languages, making it difficult for them to communicate with one another and to work together.



**Noah's Ark Exhibit At Los Angeles's Skirball Museum**

1) When G!d sees that the land is filled with violence, G!d tells *Noah* to build an ark and gather animals because G!d will make it rain, and flood the Earth, and destroy everything on it. Why do you think G!d would choose to use water to destroy the Earth in response to violence?

**CALVINO:** Maybe it was the easiest solution, or maybe G!d is responding out of anger to the violence in the world and is sending water to show that there is a need “to cool things down.”

2) When he gets off the ark *Noah* plants grape vines, but grape vines take a long time to grow fruit. Why do you think *Noah* might have planted grape vines as one of the first things he did?

**COREY:** Grape vines don’t give grapes right away when you plant them. In fact they can take up to 3 years to give good grapes, so I think this tells us that when *Noah* gets off the ark he is planning on settling down and not going anywhere anytime soon.



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3) This week's *parasha* contrasts with the first *parasha* of *Torah* which we read last week. Last week we read about the creation of the world. This week we read two different stories about destruction. What might be the significance of these stories appearing here in our *Torah*? When do you think destruction can be useful?

**COREY:** When we took down our *sukkah* it was a way of saving it for next year. Destruction can give you a chance to rethink your design and to rebuild--using your materials in a new way. I do this all the time when I destroy my Lego creations.

**CALVINO:**  
G!d's flood preserved the Earth while also destroying it. G!d saw that the first try wasn't going well, so G!d preserved the goals for the world, but tried again. This time G!d did things a little differently to try to create a world with less violence.