

MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

RABBI SHMUEL WASSER

In this weeks פרשה, we are taught that נח spent 120 years building the תיבה, which ultimately allowed him and his family to be saved from the מבול. Rabenu Bachaya discusses a famous question- why is it that ה' chose to save נח through the תיבה? Despite its large size, it still involved a significant נס in order to save נח's family along with the animal world. Once ה' was performing a נס, why would He put נח through the trouble of building the תיבה for 120 years, a task that involved significant effort for so many years on נח's part? ה' could have performed a נס that would have required no effort from נח!

In his second answer, Rabenu Bachaya conveys a powerful message that we can all learn from. Rabenu Bachaya explains, as Rashi famously tells us, that through the building of the תיבה there was hope that the people of the world would see the תיבה, discuss its purpose amongst themselves, and be inspired to change. And if not, concludes Rabenu Bachaya,

indeed they deserve what is in store for them. A careful reading of Rabenu Bachaya's comment indicates that the inspiration for the incredibly corrupt generation of the מבול would have come from simply **witnessing** the actions of נח. He does not mention that נח would be giving any powerful inspiring speeches - quite the contrary. He would simply go about his business building the תיבה as ה' commanded. Apparently, simply witnessing נח's behavior could send messages of truth so strong that it was entirely possible that they would penetrate the hearts of a generation united **against** truth, steeped in immorality and corrupt in every way.

We learn an amazing lesson from this; when we act as servants of ה', leading our lives based on the truth of the תורה, we send off powerful messages to all those around us - without any preaching or speaking. The truth speaks for itself in a way that is undeniable and powerful!

FEATURED TORAH *Message*

JOEY SOSNICK 11TH GRADE

This week, we read about the דור הפלגה, the generation mentioned in נח פרשת נח who tried to build a tower all the way up to Heaven. The פסוק calls them בני האדם - the sons of man. Rashi asks why they're described this way. After all, בן אדם - who else would they have been? He explains that the pasuk means that they were descendants of אדם הראשון, sinning the same way he did.

Just like אדם הראשון blamed חוה for his sin, thus denying the good that ה' did by giving him a wife, this generation, too, denied the good that ה' did by saving them from the מבול which wiped out everyone else in the world.

This is difficult to understand for several reasons. Firstly, the Maskil L'Dovid asks, in what way did ה' save them from the מבול? If you follow the

SPARKS *of* MUSSAR

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Rav Nosson Zvi Finkel

A talmid who was peeling him an apple carelessly touched the peeled part. R' Nosson Zvi pointed out that this was not sanitary.

"But there is no other way," objected the talmid.

"What do the waiters in the king's palace do?" asked R' Nosson Zvi.

"Could it be that they are not meticulous in handling food? Surely they train themselves specially to serve the king. Every Jew is a prince - the son of the King of kings - and everyone is responsible for training himself in how to deal with his fellow Jews."

timeline, you see that these two events were 135 years apart. All of those alive during the דור הפלגה were born after the מבול, so they weren't really saved from anything. Why do they have an obligation of being thankful for something that didn't happen to them?

The Maskil L'Dovid answers that although they weren't directly saved, as they were not on the תיבה, their ancestors were. Had נח and his family not been saved, this next generation would never have been born.

We see from this that just like the דור

cont. on back

The yeshiva would like to acknowledge the recent yahrtzeit of Rabbi Aaron Winter, one of the founders of MTI. A collection of inspiring words taken from Rabbi Winter's talks to MTI talmidim and at MTI events throughout the years is available at missouritorah.org/rabbi-winter.

cont. from front

הפלגה is expected to be grateful for what ה' did for the previous generation of חן and his sons, we have to be grateful for what He has done for our ancestors.

Another question that comes up is why this ingratitude is the main issue. Being ungrateful seems to pale in comparison to the intent they had in building the tower, which was to rebel against ה'. Rebelling against Hashem sounds like it would be one of the most terrible offenses! It must be that the fact that the ingratitude is

considered a sin worth mentioning here - when there is a seemingly much greater sin of rebellion against Hashem - teaches a very a fascinating lesson. Even when the דוד tried to rebel against ה' - which is a major sin, we see that denying the good ה' had done for them - and in this case, not even for them, but for their parents - was even more significant than a rebellion against ה' and was considered to be the cause of their demise. This lesson shows us that we must always make sure to have appropriate הכרת הטוב.



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Chesterfield Kollel & STL Community Kollel joined together with MTI rebbeim & bochurim for divrei chizzuk starting the new zman.

RECENT Happenings

YITZY ZEHNWIRTH 12TH GRADE

The high school and bais medrash bochurim recently went on MTI's annual Achdus Trip. After a great morning of

learning, everyone packed onto the buses and set off. The weather was beautiful, so we pulled up to the Babler Outdoor Education Center, a beautiful recreation area deep in the woods of a large park. We started off at a large shelter, where we put down our stuff, and then split up into groups to go hiking or play football, frisbee, and softball. We played until we were absolutely exhausted! Each talmid spent several hours playing the sport of his choice, and then we gathered again at the shelter for a delicious barbeque dinner, followed by music and dancing. Finally, we piled back on the bus, ready for maariv and good night's sleep. All in all, it was a fantastic trip. Thanks to everyone who helped organize it!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBOS
Women's Iggeres Haramban Zoom Siyum 30	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 31	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim 1	2	3	4:5:39PM 4	COMMUNITY MELAVA MALKA WITH RABBI BEN TZION SHAFIER 5
6	7th & 8th Grade Learning & Gym Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 7	8	9	10	11:4:33PM 11	12
Women's Shaar Bitachon 13	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 14	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim 15	16	17	18:4:27PM 18	19
20	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 21	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim 22	23	24	25:4:24PM 25	26
				ROSH CHODESH	ROSH CHODESH	



5 min
Ahavas Chessed
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

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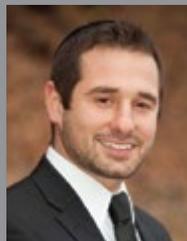
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