

The Sin of Noah

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His sin is easy to look over.

When one considers the story of Noah (Noach in Hebrew) and the ark, the pure amazement the tale produces actually clouds our judgment. We are awed by Noah's ability to build a huge wooden boat at an elderly age. We wonder how the elephants, the tigers, the horses, and even the snails made it to the ark. We smile at the sign of the rainbow, given to symbolize the Creator's promise never to destroy the world again by flood. However, because of our bedtime story view of Noah, we gloss over his sin. Or maybe it is because we are so familiar with this story, that we miss Noah's downfall.

This study isn't going to discuss Noah's drunkenness or even the fact he was found

naked. And his sin wasn't that somehow he forgot to kill those darn misquotes. The sin of Noach was what he didn't do. "When YHWH said to Noach, "The end of all flesh is come before Me," Noach said: "What will You do with me?" But he did not pray for the world, as Abraham would pray for the city of Sodom. This is why the Flood is called "the waters of Noah" (Isaiah 54:9) - he is culpable for them, because he did not appeal for mercy on the world's behalf," says the Zohar. (YHWH is the Hebrew name of the Creator hidden behind the English words LORD and GOD in most Bibles. Exodus 3 teaches that this name was given to man as a memorial for future generations.)

As Noach was confronted with the impending judgment and destruction of the world, he failed to intercede for humanity.

When he was told that the population was going to be destroyed, Noach could have reacted differently. He could have pleaded for the people. He should have pleaded for the people. Yes, yes he did act in total obedience by building the ark. And he did gather all of the animals together. But, he didn't pray for the souls that would perish. YHWH lingered while speaking to Noach about the flood. Nevertheless, Noach didn't beg YHWH for mercy. He was more excited about building a boat, than caring for his neighbors.

The Newer Testament shows that Noach did preach repentance to those around him. 2 Kefa / Peter 2:5, calls him a "preacher of righteousness." As he built the ark, he called people to turn from their sins and turn to YHWH. No one listened. He wasn't convincing. Except for seven family members, Noach's entire generation perished. This is Noach's sin. He preached without praying. He was building when he should have been seeking YHWH. Noach was so busy "doing" that he had little time to think about what he was doing after all. The ark was built to hold animals and to hold people. It is not enough to be spiritual and set apart; a true believer should also be concerned that his neighbor is spiritual and set apart. Perhaps Noach thought he could reach the world by his own efforts, his own kingdom, or his own sermons. He was wrong. Scripture says that Elohim was amazed "and wondered that there was no intercessor," Yesha'yahu / Isaiah 59:16

Torah teaches in Beresheet / Genesis 6:9, that "Noach was a righteous man, perfect in his generation." This isn't a compliment. It is actually a condemnation. Rashi says that Noach lived in Avraham's generation, he wouldn't be regarded as anything special. Indeed, there is a big difference between the righteousness of Noach and the righteousness of Avraham. For when Avraham was warned of the destruction of Sodom and Amorah, he didn't build a car and drive away from town. Instead, he interceded for the wicked. He said to YHWH, "Will you sweep away the innocent along with the guilty," Genesis / Beresheet 18:23. Avraham pleaded for the town, until he finally implored YHWH to forgive them if only ten innocent people could be found.

The Torah shows that Moshe too shielded his entire generation. When Yisra'el sinned, Moshe said "And now if You would only forgive their sin! If not, erase me from the book that You have written," Shemot / Exodus 32:32. YHWH "would have destroyed them had not Moshe, His chosen, confronted Him in the breach," Tehillim / Psalms 106:23. Noach did nothing, Avraham pleaded, and Moshe offered. Yet it was who Y'shua who gave his own life for the wicked and the sinful. And Y'shua prayed. He "began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; and said to his talmidim (disciples), My soul is exceeding sorrowful ... And He went forward a little, and fell on

the ground, and prayed," Mark 14:33-35. Y'shua prayed and acted. He coupled his cries to Abba YHWH with actions of selflessness. On the execution stake, He said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Noach used wood to build an ark; Moshe walked with a cane of wood; Y'shua gave his life upon the wooden tree.

Yahshua's example is to be followed. "Hereby perceive the love of Elohim, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren," 1 Yochannan / John 3:16. This doesn't mean that one must give his own life to save others. Believers are to intercede in prayer. We are to plead for mercy. We are to be concerned about our neighbors and act in love to those who don't walk Torah. "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Moschiach," Galatians 6:2.

It is not enough to try to win the "lost." Nor should we build our own kingdom for the entire world to see. Those being overtaken by the flood of evil need the prayers of Yisra'el. "Let the priests, the ministers of YHWH, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare Thy people, O YHWH, and give not Thine heritage to reproach," Yo'el / Joel 2:17.

The concept is pretty simple. One is to pray to the Master of the Harvest for the harvest. The intercessor should pray continually, "keep not silent, and give Him no rest...day and night," Lamentations 2:18,19. We are to "stand in the gap" for the world around us. This calling to tefillah (prayer) isn't for a select few, but all believers. Will our generation be guilty of the sin of Noach? Yahshua said, "As in the days of Noach, so it will be when the son of Man returns," Mattitياهو / Matthew 24:37. How sad. However, our actions can make a difference. Our prayers and petitions can change the future. Let us pray that the Father would draw our generation unto Himself. Will Yahshua find faith on the earth or will he find us building our boat? "Oh, that one might plead for a man with Elohim, as a man pleads for his neighbor," Iyov / Job 16:21.

It is interesting to note that the Epistle of Clement, written by a disciple of Paul / Shaul says that Noach did preach to the world after the flood. Perhaps Noach learned his lesson. 1 Clement 7:6 says, "Noach preached repentance, and they that obeyed were saved." Selah