



MORDEKAI'S DRASH — NOACH

Torah: *Noach* (Noah / Rest), *B'resheet* (Genesis) 6.9-11.32
Haftorah: *Yesha'yahu* (Isaiah) 54.1-55.5
Suggested *Messianic Writings* reading: Matt 24.36-46

Shalom,

“Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time (AESV Torah); Noach was a man righteous and wholehearted (CJB); Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation (ESV); Noah was in his generations a man righteous and whole-hearted (JPS); Noah was a good man, a man of integrity in his community (Message). Noah walked with God....” No matter how it is translated, we get the idea that NOAH was, in love and obedience, a seeker, follower, and worshipper of His G-d. And because of that, “ADONAI said to Noah, ‘Come into the ark, you and all your household; for I have seen that you alone in this generation are righteous before me.’” Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Noah walked with Elohim. He conversed with Him; his lifestyle centered on Him. The Hebrew of *walk* is הלך, *hah-lahk*. The Ancient Hebrew lexicon for the root word pictures a shepherd's staff and the palm of a hand, נש. The definition of this pictograph is of a traveler on foot, with his staff in hand, which provided not only support when walking, but also served as a weapon to defend against predators and thieves. Noah walked with Elohim; Elohim was his support in that walk, and was also his protector. Elohim is the plural of El, אל, and in the Ancient Hebrew lexicon we have pictured for El an ox-head and a shepherd's staff, אב. The ox-head means strength, and the shepherd's staff meaning is the same as above – combined, we have the definition, “the strong authority”. The purpose of oxen was to pull heavy loads, generally teamed as a pair, with a yoke on their necks. Oftentimes an experienced ox was teamed with a younger, to train it. When Yeshua said to take His yoke upon us, this is the general picture we are to get, although the meaning of yoke for an itinerant rabbi in those days literally meant his particular passage of Scripture that was his teaching and life. When we walk with Yeshua, when we take His yoke upon ourselves, He is not only our trainer, He is our strong authority, our support in our walk, our protector and defender.

Noah enjoyed a fellowship with his Creator that few, if any, had had since Adam was put out of Eden. As we know from post-flood history, Noah certainly had his human faults. Yet think what would have happened if Noah had decided at some point that the building of the ark was too large a task, or that he was tired of being criticized, of being mocked. That may have been the end of humanity right then. Of course, the Creator could have started fresh, but He didn't need to. Noah walked with Him.

So Noah and family were put into the ark and saved from the destruction of the flood. I believe Noah is to be a picture for us – can it be said of you, or me, that we are “blameless among the people of our time, a man or woman of integrity in our community”? Noah did not bring a single person aboard, except for his own family, so that can be encouragement, not necessarily an excuse however, for those who are not as “evangelistic” as others. But for another point, Noah's ark was protection *during* the devastation. We are coming into very dark and difficult times as the end of days approaches, and we need to seek safety in His “ark”. Noah was kept safe *in the middle of the trouble* – the waters pounded, the floods shook, yet when the destruction was over, Noah emerged from the ark unscathed.

We may look around us and wonder what is holding back the judgment of God. 1 *Kefa* (Peter) 3.20 gives us a clue: “...when God *waited patiently* during the building of the ark....” Of course, He desires none to perish, but perhaps another reason is that He's patiently waiting for His people to get “the ark” ready. We'd better press in and press on, for the rain is beginning to get heavy....

שְׁאַלוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַם – *Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* – Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May Israel turn to recognize their Messiah, so that they may reap the blessings in full again.

B'rakhot v'todah rabbah
(Blessings & thank you very much)

Mordekhi

This Yeshua, who has been taken away from you into heaven, will come back to you in just the same way as you saw him go into heaven.
(Acts 1.11 CJB)