

Parashat Noach / פרשת נח

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Why does a loving God allow bloodshed and sin?

This Weeks Reading List:

Torah: Genesis 6:9-11:32

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5

B'rit HaChadashah: Matthew 24:36-46 1 Pet 3:18-22

We live in a world of death, suffering, bloodshed, violence, and disease. Have you ever asked how or even why this has happened? Why do we have a world so full of life while at the same time one that ends in death? Why would a loving God allow such atrocity to continue which seemingly goes unchecked. Does God care? In Parashat Bereshit the first man Adam rebelled against God through disobedience. The result, a once perfect world suffered corruption. The apostle Shaul (Paul) says the whole of creation groans because of sin (*Romans 8:22*). In this week's parsha, Parashat Noach, the result of a corrupted world is one in which man grows increasingly wicked in his ways, so much so, that God had to do something about it.

Genesis 6:11-13

6:11 The earth was corrupt before God, the earth was filled with violence. 6:12 God saw the earth, and, yes, it was corrupt; for all living beings had corrupted their ways on the earth. 6:13 God said to Noah, "The end of all living beings has come before me, for because of them the earth is filled with violence. I will destroy them along with the earth.

Today we see things such as students going to high schools and universities committing horrible acts of violence and murder. We see "natural evil" such as earthquakes, tsunamis and hurricanes to name a few. We also find "moral evil" such as humans shooting other human beings, stealing, and immorality. Is it God's fault there is death and violence in this world or is it humanities fault? In Parashat Noach, God destroyed the evil men and women in Noah's generation saving only Noah, and his sons Shem, Ham, and Yefet (*Gen7:13*). Noah and his three sons had the job of repopulating the entire planet. A few hundred years later however, mankind was back to its evil ways. Shortly after the global flood God commanded man to go forth and populate the earth, to be fruitful and multiply. What happened however was mankind decided to stick together and build a city to make a name for themselves in Genesis chapter 11. Again God had to do something about it, this time he caused confusion of language thus forcing mankind to spread out and populate the earth.

Genesis 11:1-9

11:1 The whole earth used the same language, the same words. 11:2 It came about that as they traveled from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shin'ar and lived there. 11:3 They said to one another, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them in the fire." So they had bricks for building-stone and clay for mortar. 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city with a tower that has its top reaching up into heaven, so that we can make a name for ourselves and not be scattered all over the earth." 11:5 ADONAI came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 11:6 ADONAI said, "Look, the people are united, they all have a single language, and see what they're starting to do! At this rate, nothing they set out to accomplish will be impossible for them! 11:7 Come, let's go down and confuse their language, so that they won't understand each other's speech." 11:8 So from there ADONAI scattered them all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. 11:9 For this reason it is called Bavel [confusion] - because there ADONAI confused the language of the whole earth, and from there ADONAI scattered them all over the earth.

To answer why a loving God would allow sin and death on this world? From a biblical perspective, God has a morally good and just reason for why he allows bad things to happen. To understand this let us take an example, the example of the death of our Messiah Yeshua. Yeshua's death on the cross was an evil event, but God allowed this for a wonderful purpose, to redeem sinful human beings. The reason a loving God allows sin and death to continue is because we are working out his plan for redemption demonstrating that God is in control. In the bible, God shows us His control in many instances; for example, the exile of Israel to Bavel (Babylon). The prophet Jeremiah wrote during Israel's exile to Bavel demonstrates God's will and plan.

Jeremiah 29:1-4

29:1 Following is the text of the letter Yirmeyahu the prophet sent from Yerushalayim to the leaders remaining in exile, as well as to the cohanim, the prophets and all the people N'vukhadnetzar had carried off captive from Yerushalayim to Bavel. 29:2 This was after Y'khanyah the king, the queen mother, the officers, the leaders of Y'hudah and Yerushalayim, and the artisans and skilled workers had left Yerushalayim. 29:3 The letter was entrusted to El'asah the son of Shafan and G'maryah the son of Hilkiyah; Tzidkiyah king of Y'hudah sent them to Bavel, to N'vukhadnetzar king of Bavel. The letter said: 29:4 "Here is what ADONAI-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says to all those in exile, whom I have caused to be carried off captive from Yerushalayim to Bavel: (CJB)

Did you notice something in those verses? Verse one says N'vukhadnetzar carried off the people captive from Yerushalayim to Bavel but in verse four, it says the Lord God of Israel caused Israel to be carried off. Clearly God was in control and today, God is still in control.

God is in control of where you are at this moment in life.

I asked earlier “does God care?” God definitely cares, and He is paying attention. God is paying attention so much so that He sent his only Son Yeshua Hamoshiach to pay the penalty for sin and offer forgiveness to all.

In conclusion, the great flood shows that God thinks of sin. We need a shelter, a place of protection just like Noach and his family. The shelter God has made available for us is Yeshua Hamoshiach, who died to take away sin. Noach trusted God, and what God said about the coming flood even when no one had ever seen nor imagined such a thing. By trusting in God Noach and his family were saved. Today, we don't have to worry about dying from a global flood; however, we are in need of rescuing from a world filled with sin. Only the bible explains why there is life and death, beauty and ugliness. Only the bible gives the true and reliable account of God's great love and plan for redemption. No matter what situation you may find yourself in today, know that Yeshua is with you, loves you, and can help you through the difficult times.

Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
“Yeshua” King Messiah for ever and ever