

# DAF TSAFON

2 November 2024  
1 Cheshvan 5785

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan  
Parashat Noach  
ArtScroll 30 Hertz 26



This week's parasha opens with the famous flood story of Noah. We tend to focus on the events that led up to the flood and its aftermath, but have you ever imagined what life was like inside the ark? The Torah describes that there were three floors; the middle floor was filled with a collection of the world's animals, wild, domestic and otherwise. Birds and critters of all shapes and sizes, vermin and an endless potpourri of creepy crawlies.

Then there was a floor of refuse. There was no recycling centre, and no sewage system that I am aware of.

The humans had the top floor. Cramped in an inescapable living space was Noah, his three sons, their wives and one mother-in-law. I think the rest of the scenario can play clearly in our minds. Surely, it was far from easy.

As we read the text we see that Hashem issues specific and detailed architectural commands regarding the measurements and design for an ark that took 120 years to build! Why? Are there lessons to be learned from the design of the Ark? After all, Hashem promised that there will be no more floods. If there are no more floods, then there need not be any more arks. So what difference does it make as to how it was built? Obviously, there are inherent lessons we can learn from the design of the Ark.

One of the commands was that Noah insert a window. That seems practical enough; after all, sitting for an entire year can get awfully stuffy. So, Noah is commanded to build a window for breathing room. However, why would Hashem need to command Noah to insert a window? Does it make a difference whether or not he had a window? Did that command have to be incorporated into the heavenly plans for an ark that would endure the ravaging flood?

Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetsky answers our question based on a powerful story from the life of Rabbi Yisrael Spira, the Bluzhever Rebbe, a renowned Rosh Yeshiva, tragically lost his son to a debilitating disease

at the prime of his life. Not long married, the son left a widow and young child. The Rosh Yeshiva and his Rebbetzin were devastated at the loss and the shiva period was a most difficult time.

One of the many visitors was the Bluzhever Rebbe, Rabbi Yisrael Spira, whose entire family was wiped out during the Holocaust. He sat quietly, taking in the pain of the bereaved family. Finally, when it was time to say something, Rabbi Spira turned to the Rosh Yeshiva and spoke, "your loss is terrible, but at least your son will have a living remnant, his child. He will also have a resting place and stone where the family can visit. I do not even know where any of my children killed by the Nazis are buried", then he added, "yet somehow, Hashem has given me the strength to rebuild my family and life". Those words truly helped console the Rosh Yeshiva.

Sometimes when we are locked in our little arks and feel crushed by the burdens and stresses of our lives, we can become depressed, despondent and crushed. Hashem is telling Noah and each and every one of us, when things are tough, look outside and see what is happening around you. When we think our world is crumbling and that we are doomed to a fate that is too difficult to bear, Hashem tells us to make a window. Sometimes, in our frustrations we have to look across the globe, or even across the river to know, that despite our difficulties, there are others who are enduring a more difficult fate. When we realize that they can endure, we can remember that life inside our ark is not so bad after all.

Shabbat Shalom

**Haftarah:**

**ArtScroll 1208 Hertz 944**

**ISRAEL'S GLORIOUS FUTURE**

**Isaiah 66**

*Isaiah foresees the time when the exiles will return from captivity and the cities of the Holy Land will be repopulated more abundantly than ever before, for God's anger was momentary and a thing of the past. Just as He had sworn that the waters of Noah should no more, go over the earth, So His new covenant of peace with Israel would be everlasting – 'And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord and great shall be the peace of thy children', The prophet calls on rich and poor alike to participate in a spiritual revival by returning to God and to His teaching.*

## מזל טוב

### Wedding anniversaries

Joe and Miriam Gelbart  
Robert and Susan Lipman

## מזל טוב

### Bar Mitzvah anniversaries

Alan Aarons  
Gidon Budai  
Benjamin Hudson  
Stan Jodeikin  
Jared Port  
Zvi Teichtahl  
Mark Velik

**Our congregation acknowledges the following  
yahrzeit anniversaries and wishes long life to  
those commemorating a yahrzeit  
during the coming week.**

## חיים ארוכים

Edwin Richard Dyne	brother of Stanley Dyne, uncle of Callum Warren
Howard Franklin	father of Alan Franklin
Iris Mabel Gentin	mother of Daphne Flax
Bloom Goodman	mother-in-law of Jacob (John) Levy
Riva Goodman	mother of Sydney Goodman and Adrian Goodman
Samuel Gottlieb	father of Leah Somlai and Anne Sheinbar
Eleanora Katz	mother of Robert Katz
Robert Henry Koenig	father of Ruth Browne
Ingeborg Nachemstein	mother of Peter Nash
Simon Wertheim	father of Etty Green
Dora Wise	mother of Ilse Katz