



## Parshah Noach

- Parshah Noach is the second parshah in the Torah. The text of this parshah is Genesis 6:9-11:32.
- We begin reading “These are the generations of Noah. Noah was in his generations a man righteous and whole-hearted; Noah walked with God.” The parshah is named after the righteous Noah. Noach means “rest or comfort” and is the first distinct word of this parshah.
- This parshah can be broken into the following segments: call of Noah; the Flood; offerings of Noah; blessings and mitzvot; covenant; curse of Ham; seventy generations; tower of Babel, and generations of Shem.
- Angered by the wickedness of mankind, God selects Noah, “a righteous man, blameless in his generation,” and commands him to build an ark. He is to use this ark as a warning to the people in hopes that their behavior would change. Ultimately, Noah is told to take his family and representatives of the animals – both clean and unclean – onto the ark.
- Noah was 600 years old when God destroyed the world with a Flood. All living beings outside the ark die. The waters were on the earth 150 days after which God caused a wind to cover the earth and caused the waters to stop. Eventually the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat where Noah sent out a raven and a dove to see if the earth was yet dry. In the six hundred and first year the earth was dry and God commanded Noah and all those aboard the ark to go out and be fruitful and multiply upon the earth.
- After leaving the ark Noah builds an altar and “took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt-offerings on the altar.” God smelled the sweetness of the offerings and thereupon swore that He would never again destroy all of mankind.
- God blesses Noah and his sons telling them to be fruitful and multiply and repopulate the earth. God gives all flesh to mankind for food with the stipulation that the eating of blood is forbidden for life is in the blood. God also warns that anyone who takes the life of another shall have his life also taken from him.
- God then told Noah and his sons that He would establish a covenant with all of mankind and every living creature. God swears that He will never again destroy the earth with floodwaters. As a token of this covenant God places a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of the covenant between God, mankind, and every living creature.
- Noah planted a vineyard, drinks wine and falls into a drunken sleep. Ham “uncovers his father’s nakedness,” and Noah placed a curse on Ham's son Canaan, saying that he and all his descendants shall henceforth be slaves to Ham's brothers Shem and Japheth. After this curse upon Canaan, Noah blessed Shem and Japheth. Noah lived a total of 950 years and died.

- The seventy generations of the descendants of Noah are named, “and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.” Included in this genealogy is Nimrod, the grandson of Ham, who was a mighty hunter and king. The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar and many other great cities came out of these beginnings.
- Men decide to build “a tower with its top in the heavens” in the land of Shinar, “lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” God sees the ambition of mankind and declares that: “This is only the beginning of what they will do; and nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.” And so mankind is scattered over the face of the earth, and the city “was called Babel, because there God confused the language of all the earth.”
- The genealogy of Shem brings the biblical genealogy down to the generation of Abraham. Terah took Abram, Lot and Sarai from Ur of the Chaldees in order to go into the land of Canaan. They came to Haran and dwelt there. Terah live 205 years and he died in Haran.