

# Parshat Noach

## Righteous in Every Area

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In this week's Parsha, we learn the story of Noach and the Mabul, flood. The Parsha opens up describing Noach as a "Tzadik Tamim," a complete righteous individual. However, later in the Parsha, the Torah refers to Noach as a "Tzadik" without the word Tamim, complete. Why does the Torah subtract the word "Tamim" from Noach's title? Rashi explains that the first verse is talking about Noach in the third person, while the later verse is where Hashem is speaking directly to Noach in second person. When praising a person, one must not be excessive in praise as it can lead to arrogance. There is a story with the great Rabbi, leader of the past generation, Rav Moshe Feinstein Zatzal. When Rav Moshe's father, Rav Dovid Feinstein, was studying with students, Rav Moshe walked in the room and the students stood up for him. At this point in time, Rav Moshe was still young, but he had started to become recognized as a great Torah scholar. His father told his students to sit down in order to prevent excessive praise which may lead to arrogance. The Ramban takes a different approach and explains that at first, Noach was complete Tzadik and later since he showed lack of faith when entering the Teivah, he became just an ordinary Tzadik. The Meor Vashemesh takes the opposite approach of the Ramban in Noach's favor. At first, Noach was a complete Tzadik but only in one area. Later, he became a generic Tzadik in all areas. The lesson is that we must strive for greatness in all areas in our service of Hashem.

