

Proper Speech

2015

Shalom K.

The power of speech is very evident in this week's parsha. First when Noach was instructed to build the tevah (ark) Hashem made it take 120 years to construct so that Noach would be able to tell the people that teshuvah (repentance) would prevent the world from being destroyed. At the end of the parsha, Noach's son, Cham, told his brothers that their father was sleeping in an embarrassing manner. Cham was punished for making fun of him. The third instance of speech taking center stage has to do with the words in the Chumash itself. Hashem was very concerned that as many of his creations would be saved from the mabul (flood) so Noach was commanded to build an entire level of the tevah dedicated to the animals. For the kosher animals, seven pairs were brought on board and two of each non-kosher animal were saved as well. The pasuk (verse) uses the word "Asher Einenu Tehirah- "that which were not pure" to describe the non-kosher animals. The Torah does not waste any words so let the pasuk just say "temieya-impure" straight out? The Torah is teaching us the important lesson of using proper speech. It is important that we talk in a proper manner to everyone. The extra words teach us to think before we just blurt out the first thing that comes to our mind.

Parsha Questions

1) How many floors to the tevah were there and what were they used for? (3; top floor-people; middle floor- animals; bottom floor-garbage)

2) How many days and night did the mabul take place? (40)

5) Which mountain did they land on? (Arrarat mountains)

6) What did the dove bring back? (An olive branch)

7) What were Noach's sons names? (Shem, Cham and Yafet)

8) What did Nimrod convince the people to do and what did they build? (to rebel against Hashem by building a tower)

Extra Credit (Feel free to discuss with your children and email back your answers)

1) Why did Hashem create rainbows?

2) What is the Bracha we say when we see a rainbow and does it refer to our Parsha?