

# GROWTH

At The

## SHABBAT TABLE

7<sup>th</sup> Edition  
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BS"D

### PARSHAT

### NOACH

#### ***Am Yisrael Chai***

It will never matter if they shoot at us. It will never matter if they come at us. It will never matter if they try to exterminate us, gas us, kill us, hang us, or burn us. *We will overcome; that is who we are.* From Avraham himself, who was thrown into a furnace of fire and survived, to a group of people who were then made slaves, who wandered through the desert until they got home. We are finally here, at the time of Mashiach. He's knocking on our door. And whether or not they shoot, we are no longer afraid. We might die – we may have died – but we are not afraid, and we will not be cowed. We will still go to *shul*, and call people to learn with us. We'll even get on planes to go to Israel. We will learn more, and spread more. They can *try* to stop us – they can try as hard as they want – but they will fail, like everyone before them.

(R' Shlomo Farhi)

#### **The Zookeeper**

As the world was being destroyed by the *mabul*, and Noach's ark was fighting off the waters of the deadly flood, Noach was kept busy. As Chazal teach us, Noach didn't have a spare moment to himself, as he was always on his toes ensuring the survival of each species in his care, making sure every single animal was fed.

Recently, I thought of the following question: Hashem clearly surrounded Noach with open miracles, as the only way his man-made ark which he constructed single-handedly was able to withstand a flood that literally wiped out the entire world was through miracles. Why, then, didn't He allow Noach to just rest in the *tevah* while providing another miracle that the animals would just survive on their own, without the need for Noach to feed and take care of them? Why did Hashem have Noach busy with such trivial matters?

Perhaps, one can suggest that really Hashem had Noach busy with the animals' survival and wellbeing for the sake of Noach's *personal* survival and wellbeing. Noach was witnessing the annihilation of the entire planet, and perhaps, while experiencing such a moment of darkness and destruction, Noach would have fallen into his own darkness and depression; thus, to save Noach, He specifically had him busy with *chesed*, feeding animals. Perhaps, the Torah here is teaching us a crucial lesson for life. Whenever you are experiencing darkness, in whatever way, whether it be physical, emotional, psychological, financial, interpersonal, spiritual, or other – it is imperative to tap into a reservoir of light. As many can attest, helping others and doing *chesed* brings happiness and light into one's life like no physical pleasure can match. Noach and his family weren't running around the ark with animal feed for nothing; they were given the opportunity to be involved with *chesed* to imbue the ark with light in a world of darkness.

*Each of us has countless opportunities to help, lift, and empower those around us. Grab each of those opportunities like gold; there's nothing better than **giving** to Hashem's children – our fellow brothers and sisters.*

Dedicated for the safety and success of our beloved Israeli Soldiers, our brothers and sisters in Eretz Yisrael, and all *Am Yisrael*.

**"Before Mashiach comes, Hashem will stretch a rope from one end of the world to the other and shake it vigorously. Those who hold on tight will survive. Those who let go, won't. These turbulent times are testing us in our faith in Hashem. We must hold on tightly until the end."** (The Chafetz Chaim)

#### **Refuah Sheleimah, b'toch she'ar cholei Yisrael:**

Ariel Ben Frida	Frida Bat Yaffa	Miriam Bat Bakol	Esther Bat Frida
R' Aharon Moshe Ben Fruma Rachel		Yitzchak Elimelech Ben Chana Sara	
Chaim Yosef ben Sima Perel	Chaya Dina Bat Chana Mindy	Yitzchak Ben Sara	
Noach Yisrael Ben Yaffah	Rachamim Ben Shifra	Yitzchak Ben Naama	
Menachem Mendel Chaim ben Merel	Chana Perel Bat Rachel	Rachel Bat Leah	