**OHH! Noach – “Noah”**

**Introduction**:

Hebrew letter:

* ב – bet = 2
* Meaning: house, container, division

Hebrew names and meanings:

* Noach = relief, comfort, respite, gentleness, pleasure
* Elohim = God (today, God is commonly referred to as HaShem)
* Adonai = Lord

Hebrew Words:

* Beer (pronounced “bear”) = well

(Example: Beersheva, literally means “7 wells”)

* Bayit = house

(Example Shalom Bayit, means “peaceful house”)

* Chen = grace
* Chesed = grace

History:

* Hebrew is an ancient and unique language.
* Hebrew is commonly considered to be a holy language – many ultra-orthodox will only use it for prayer.
* The Hebrew language (as a spoken language) was lost after the people of Israel were exiled and the Israelites took on the languages of the region in which they were exiled.
* However, the written language remained, was read in synagogues, and used for prayer.
* After 2000 years, the Hebrew language was revived as a modern language 150 years ago by a man named Eliezer Ben-Yehuda.
* Eliezer Ben-Yehuda is the Israelite equivalent of Noah Webster, one of America’s founding fathers, who wrote Webster’s Dictionary.
* Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, not only wrote the first Modern Hebrew dictionary, but also raised the first children in 2000 years who only spoke Hebrew.
* It is now spoken as a modern language by over 9 million people.

Culture/Song:

* Hatikva (Israel’s National Anthem)

Fun Factoids:

* Noach was the first zookeeper!
* Noach was the first person born after the death of Adam!
* Noach was first person allowed to eat meat (Gen 9:3).
* Noach means “relief” or “comfort.”
* Noach’s father, Lamech, named him Noach because he hoped the curse on the ground (which was brought on by Adam’s sin) might be lifted.
* Before the flood, everyone was vegetarian!
* In Noach’s day, everyone believed in a “Flat Earth.”

**Body**:

Torah Portion summation (Genesis 6:9-11:32):

* The Corruption of Humanity and Noach’s family
* The Flood
* The Floodwaters Recede, Noach Worships, & God’s Promise
* God makes a Covenant with Noach & All Living Creatures
* Nations that came from each of Noach’s sons
* The Tower of Babel, the Family Line of Shem down to Abram

Torah Portion Themes:

* Grace & Faithfulness
* Mountain Tops
* Clean and Unclean
* Exile

Questions:

1. How many pairs of animals did Noach take into the ark? (Gen 7:1-3)
2. How did Noah know about clean and unclean?
3. Why would it be important for God to tell us that there were clean and unclean animals taken into the ark (when the dietary laws of Leviticus chapter 11 were not in place yet)? (see Gen 8:20)
4. What can animals represent in scripture? (Acts 10:9-11:18)
5. What is the purpose of unclean animals? (Lev 11)
6. Can unclean animals ever be used as a sacrifice?
7. How are the Garden of Eden and Noach’s Ark related?
8. What is righteousness according to scripture?
9. Why is remembering important?
10. How is faith related to faithfulness?
11. Did God “forget” Noach (Gen 8:1)?
12. What does this Torah Portion show us God’s Character?
13. Can we see a glimpse of Messiah in this Torah Portion?

**Conclusion**:

So What?!! Application section:

1. Explain how the righteousness given to Noach, which came through faith, comes to us through faith today.
2. How does our faithfulness to God, and to His Covenant, glorify God in the earth?
3. Is it possible that as we study scripture, we will see that the same stories repeat many times with different characters?