

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT NOACH

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To follow in Noach's ways



**HADAS
DERI**

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In Parashat Noach, Noach is commanded to build an ark. This is because God decided to bring a flood on the world in response to the many sins of the people and the spiritual low that the world was in. The Torah says: "And God said to Noach, 'the end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth has become full of robbery because of them, and behold I am destroying them from the earth'" (Bereishit 6:13).

Noach was told the exact details of how God wanted the ark to be built. He was commanded to bring into the ark a pair of each kind of non-kosher animal and seven pairs of all the kosher animals. He also brought on

board all of his family members and food for everyone.

At the beginning of the parasha, Noach is described as a righteous man: "Noach was a righteous man; he was perfect in his generations" (v.9). Rashi interprets the Hebrew word "*b'dorotav* - in his generations", in two ways. The first way is in praise of Noach, who managed to be righteous even whilst surrounded by the wickedness of his generation. The second interpretation suggests that the words "in his generation" are a reproach to Noach, who was righteous only in *his* generation, but had he lived in another generation, for example in the generation of Avraham, he would not have been considered righteous.

Let's focus on the first interpretation. Noach was a righteous man who walked in God's ways. Let's try to think why Noach

was righteous.

Imagine yourself, busy with your daily life, studies, work and family. One bright day, you are commanded to stop your life and engage in God's commandment. From now on, without knowing how long for.

Noach didn't ask questions. God commanded him to build the ark so that's what he did. He stopped his personal life and for 120 years he built the ark.

True, this is not our reality today. God does not ask us to put our lives on hold to engage in a single commandment for years on end. I think, however, that our challenge today is to bring God's commandments into our daily lives. For us, perhaps it is the little things and the small good deeds we do on a daily basis, that make the greatest difference.

Number puzzle

- How many people did God command to build the ark?
- How many of each type of non-kosher animal was Noach commanded to take with him into the ark?
- How many daughters did Noach have?
- Now line up all your answers** - this is the number of years it took Noach to build the ark!

Answers: A. 1 B. 2 C. 0 D. 120 years

