

# BITACHON LESSON FROM THE PARSHA

פרשת אלה תולדת נח תשפ"ה – Bon Voyage!

וְאַתָּה קַח לָךְ מִכָּל מֵאֲכָל אֲשֶׁר יֹאכֵל וְאִסַּפְתָּ אֵלֶיךָ וְהָיָה לָךְ וְלָהֶם לֶאֱכֹלָה - And you, take for yourself some of every kind of edible food and gather it in for yourself, so that you and they have food to eat. (Bereishis 6:21)

There are a number of interesting observations in this Posuk.

קַח לָךְ - Take for yourself. *What about for everyone else?*

וְהָיָה לָךְ וְלָהֶם לֶאֱכֹלָה - so that you and they have food. *How will they have food if he only took for himself?*

לֶאֱכֹלָה - food to eat. Obviously food is meant to eat. *Why does the Posuk need to state the obvious?*

The truth is, if you calculate the amount of food that Noach had to bring on to the Teivah to sustain himself, his family, and all the animals for an entire year, even 100 Teivos couldn't hold it all. In fact, the size of the Teiva was totally inadequate to hold the quantity of species it needed to hold to ensure the survival of them all.

Consider some of these facts, and do the math:

- Scientists have estimated that there are 7.8 million animal species on earth
- There are 298,000 plant species on earth
- 20,000 different kinds of birds exist on our planet
- A single elephant eats around 100 pounds of food daily
- 1 camel requires the equivalent of approximately 6,000 2-liter bottles of water per year

There clearly was no "natural" way for there to be enough room on the Teiva for 2 of every animal and bird, and for all the plant species that exist, as well as for all the food and water needed to sustain them for a full year. There was also no "natural" way for Noach to locate every last animal, bird and plant species and bring them aboard the Teiva.

So, how was it possible? Obviously, it was a huge open miracle that allowed this solitary boat to hold the entirety of the world's living things in it, and for all of them to make their way to the boat in time for the year-long voyage. (See Ramban Bereishis 6:19)

All Noach had to do was some Hishtadlus. His efforts were insignificant and virtually useless - as all Hishtadlus is - as it was Hashem Who orchestrated everything - as He always does. Hishtadlus must be done, because that is the will of Hashem, but it is not our Hishtadlus that produces any results; that's Hashem's department.

With this we can also understand the Posuk of וְאַתָּה קַח לָךְ מִכָּל מֵאֲכָל אֲשֶׁר יֹאכֵל וְאִסַּפְתָּ אֵלֶיךָ וְהָיָה לָךְ וְלָהֶם לֶאֱכֹלָה and explain our original observations.

All Noach had to do was קַח לָךְ - Take for yourself. With that minor act of bringing in some lunch for himself he satisfied his obligation to do some Hishtadlus. The result of that was וְהָיָה לָךְ וְלָהֶם לֶאֱכֹלָה - You and they have food. Hashem turned Noach's lunch into breakfast, lunch and dinner for all the passengers of the Teiva, for a full year! And lest you think that they only ate minimally, and didn't get the full amount needed to nourish them properly for an entire year, the Posuk tells us לֶאֱכֹלָה - to eat - they ate their fill, and nobody went hungry!

Noach's Mabul may be over, but there is always a Mabul raging around us. Be it the dangerous waters of materialism, the incessant flood of toxic media, the downpour of atheism or the deluge of immorality that threatens to drown us.

Our protection now is the same as it was for Noach: וַיַּעַשׂ נֹחַ כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱתוֹ אֱלֹהִים כֹּן עָשָׂה - Noach did everything that Hashem commanded him to do, exactly (Bereishis 6:22). Noach did not deviate an iota from what Hashem commanded him to do; he built a Teiva, relied on Hashem, and was protected. It's a simple formula that each and every one of us can - and must - follow. Do everything that Hashem commands, without deviating an iota. That is our own personal Teiva of Bitachon that will protect us from all the destructive tides that threaten us at every turn. All Aboard! Trust Hashem. Listen to Hashem. Rely on Hashem.

Make yourself comfortable in your Teiva, and remember that it is Hashem Who is providing for all your needs, steering your life in the right direction and fending off any harmful currents. Bon Voyage!

**Good Shabbos!**