

Torah Portion #2: Noach (נח) "Noah"

Torah ~ Gen. 6:9-11:32 | Haftarah ~ Ps. 104:5-9; Isa. 54:1-55:5 | Brit Chadashah ~ Mt. 24:36-46; Heb. 11:6-7; 1 Pt. 3:18-22

Righteousness Before Mt. Sinai

The word righteous (tzaddik) means "acting in a just, upright manner, and doing what is right." A righteous person is obedient to God and His principles. Examples of righteousness within the first two Torah portions are Abel and Noah.

Yeshua speaks of Abel's righteousness in *Matthew 23:35* when He says "*the blood of righteous Abel*" NKJV .
Genesis 6:9 "Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time." MWEB
Genesis 6:22 "Noah did everything just as God commanded him." NIV

But how was these men righteous (obedient to God's Law) in the book of Genesis, before the giving of the Law at Mt Sinai. It is clear that the Law was in existence from the beginning and passed down to us orally from person to person.

Laws concerning the Shabbat in the beginning

In *Genesis 2:1-3* God give us the Shabbat at creation, before the Law was given at Mt Sinai. The Shabbat was given to all mankind, it is for all of God's people to observe regardless of your ethnic background.

Hebrews 4:9-10 (9) *So there remains a Shabbat-keeping for God's people.* (10) *For the one who has entered God's rest has also rested from his own works, as God did from his.* CJB

Laws concerning sacrifices in the beginning

The Laws concerning sacrifices was for all of God's people, regardless of your ethnic background, from the beginning.

Genesis 3:21 "Adonai, God, made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them." CJB
 In *Genesis 4:3-6*, Cain and Abel made sacrifices to the Lord before the Law was given at Mt Sinai.

Laws concerning clean and unclean meat in the beginning

The clean and unclean Laws concerning meat was given to all mankind before it was written down in *Leviticus 11*. It is for all of God's people to observe regardless of your ethnic background. The word "unclean" is better understood as "unfit for human consumption", "off-limits", or "not made for food/sacrifice". God did not make all meat to be eaten.

In *Genesis 7:2*, God told Noah to "take seven couples" of the clean animals but only "one couple" of the unclean. CJB
 In *Genesis 8:20*, Noah "took from every clean animal and every clean bird, and he offered burnt offerings" CJB.

So why does *Genesis 9:3* say "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you." NKJV

Was God saying that Noah could now eat every living creature, including skunks, rats, dogs, cats, etc.? No, He was not.

Think about this, in *Genesis 1:29*, God gave to Adam every seed bearing plant on the earth for food.

Does that mean that God wanted Adam to eat plants that were toxic or poisonous? NO.

Did God want Noah to eat animals that were toxic and harmful for his health? NO.

Noah was free to eat of every meat within the boundaries that was considered to be food. These boundaries was put in place by God to determine what was fit/unfit for human consumption and what was fit/unfit for sacrifices to the Lord.

Does the New Testament abolish theses dietary boundaries?

Like any other part of the Bible, the New Testament must be read in its full context, which is from Genesis to Revelation.

Mark 7 ~ In verse 5 "tradition of the elders" is not the Torah, it is rabbinic rules. Verse 19 says all "foods" is purified.

Acts 10 ~ Verse 28 shows that God was telling Paul that he was "not to call any man common or unclean" MEV.

Rom. 14:14 ~ Here again it is referring to meat that is fit for food but has been offered to idols, making it non-kosher.

Col. 2:16-17 ~ These verses must be read with the understanding of the full context in *Colossians 2:6-18*.