

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

לרפואה שלימה ליוסף יצחק בן ברכה

NOACH

Good Struggles

This week's Parsha, Noach, talks about the great flood, the powerful waters that destroyed all living things on the earth.

What positive lesson can we take from the flood? Why is this read right after the holidays?

In Song of Songs, we read, "Many waters cannot extinguish the love, and rivers cannot flood it." This is talking about the

IT IS NOW THAT WE NEED A REMINDER THAT THE "TURBULENT WATERS" OF MAKING A LIVING AND DEALING WITH THE STRUGGLES OF LIFE ARE NOT THERE TO HURT US BUT RATHER TO HELP US ACCOMPLISH OUR PURPOSE.

love we have for Hashem, the hidden essential love deep inside every Jew, the Pintaleh Yid.

This love is compared to the fire hidden inside coal; as the previous verse says, "her coals are coals of fire of a great flame." When you look at a coal, you don't see a flame, but inside the coal, the fire burns strong. It is also compared to a flint, which can

be submerged underwater for years, but when struck, out comes fire.

What are these "many waters" that fail to

extinguish this inner fire? And what are these "rivers" that fail to flood it?

One explanation, is that many waters, refers to the worries and hardships that we incur, trying to make a living, which is simply part of this world we live in. And the rivers are when these worries, thoughts and pressures don't let up, like the strong current of a river.

Though these worries and hardships are constant, they can't extinguish the hidden love found in the depths of our souls. Why not?

To understand this, we must take a deeper look at ourselves and the reason we are in this world of constant worries.

Our souls, before they entered this physical world, were in a pristine holy state. What gain is there for the soul to come down here and be involved in this lowly, troublesome place? We must conclude that by making the descent into this world, the neshama attains higher levels of holiness and G-dly revelation upon its return to its Heavenly abode. It is a descent for a greater ascent.

This is similar to taking a short term loss for a long term gain. Many understand the value of living with discomfort for a while as they build themselves up financially.



They do it with joy because they realize that this is the path to their goal.

The struggles we contend with are there to help us attain the purpose of our descent into this world. And when we realize that, we start looking at our struggles differently. We begin to see them in a positive light.

Knowing this, you realize that being that the “many waters” are here for our benefit, they could never extinguish the love we have for Hashem. Because that is the opposite of their purpose.

By coming down to this world, the neshama fulfills Hashem’s will, which causes a great elevation in the soul.

Prior to its descent into the world, the soul is like a Tzadik (righteous). However, by descending into this turbulent world and doing Hashem’s will, it attains the status of a Baal Teshuva (returnee to Hashem). Of whom our sages say, “that in the place where Baal Teshuvos stand, complete Tzadikim are not able to stand,” because through their struggle, they attain a level of holiness far greater than that of a Tzadik, so great that the Tzadik isn’t even able to stand there.

With this in mind, we start to take our struggles in stride. We begin to see them as the path to our goals and not as the enemy. It is the struggles that make us stronger and refine us. It is the struggles that bring us closer to Hashem. He put us here specifically to contend with this world. And this world is a world of struggles. But when you understand that it is all from Hashem and it is all purposeful, it is no more a struggle. You will embrace it with joy and with a spring in your step, knowing that on the other side of this struggle is the goal you were

created to achieve.

Now, we can appreciate why the story of the flood is read right after the holidays. The holidays are like Heaven, as we celebrate with Hashem and enjoy the holiness of the time. Now, with the holidays behind us, we re-enter the world of struggles. It is now that we need a reminder that the turbulent waters of making a living and dealing with the struggles of life are not there to hurt us but rather to help us accomplish our purpose.

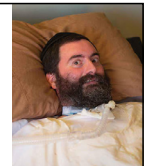
May our efforts to do Hashem’s will be successful, may His will be realized and usher in the coming of Moshiach. May he come soon.

*“Dear Rabbi Yitzi,
I see your posts and pictures online, and I am speechless. I know Mashiach is at the entrance already, and through him may G-d grant you a refuah shlema and salvation for you and our entire nation!”*

- Yisroel E, Argentina

RABBI YITZI WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND YOUR MESSAGE TO:
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Despite facing one of life’s most difficult challenges, Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz continues to spread joy and faith to thousands around the globe. Diagnosed in 2012 with ALS, Rabbi Yitzi is now 95% paralyzed and no longer able to speak or breath on his own. Thanks to the miracle of technology, Rabbi Yitzi continues to spread his wisdom through his eyes, focusing on each and every letter of these Torah articles. Rabbi Yitzi, his wife Dina and their seven children are the Rebbe’s Shluchim to Temecula, California.



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