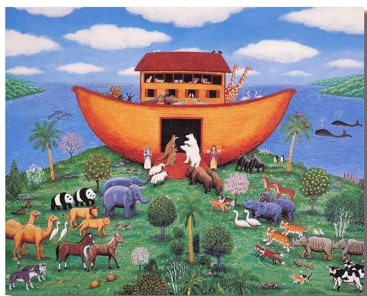
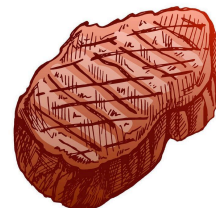


Weekly Vort - נֹחַ



Intro: In this week's parsha, נֹחַ, Hashem brings a מַבּוּל (flood) to reset the world, because people have become corrupt through stealing and immorality. Noah builds a תֵּבָה on which he, his family, and the entire animal kingdom survive. He brings two of each animal, male and female, and seven of every kosher animal. He and his family feed and care for the creatures day and night during the entire year on the ark.

When נֹחַ emerges from the ark, humanity experiences a profound dietary shift. Whereas before, according to most interpretations, people only ate fruits and vegetables, after the flood, Hashem permits mankind to eat *fleishigs*—meat!



Bereshit 9:3 _____

לְאֹכְלָהּ	יְהִיָּה	לָכֶם	כָּל־רֶמֶשׂ אֲשֶׁר הוּא־חַי

אֶת־כָּל	לָכֶם	נָתַתִּי	עֵשׂוֹב	כִּי־רָק

Question: Why did Hashem allow humanity to eat meat after the flood? There are many answers given to this question, so give it a try!

Answer:

One Answer: The Sefer haKrim brings a fascinating explanation. He says that before the flood looked at the world and said, “The animals eat plants, and we eat plants. Why are we any better than animals?” This low interpretation of humanity caused them to slide into immoral behavior. They did not see a higher purpose to their existence and so began to steal and act immorally towards one another. They “acted like animals,” so to speak.



After the flood, Hashem wanted to correct this mistake. Because of our ability to know G-d and be thankful for our life, human beings have an important mission in this world, greater than that of animals'. So that we become aware of this special purpose, Hashem allowed mankind to eat meat.

Lesson: Meaning and mission inspire people. When we see ourselves as having a special destiny, we get the best out of ourselves and others.

One Minute Debate: The mainstream Jewish approach is to support eating meat, with some commentators, such as Rambam, going so far as to require it on Shabbat and Yom Tov. The Mystics say that when we eat meat, we elevate it by turning it into energy for mitzvot. Nevertheless, there are a few opinions throughout Jewish history that support vegetarianism, at least for extremely righteous people. Rav Kook says that in the Era of Moshiach, humanity and the world will reach a higher level of perfection, and at this time, people will become vegetarians.



Should people always eat meat, or will we reach a stage where we are vegetarian?

Puzzle: The Dor haMabul (generation of the flood) sinned in all areas, but Rashi says their fate was sealed on account of גַּזְלָה (theft.) Rewrite this word in regular script, calculate its gematria, and explain its connection to the flood.