

In Parshat Noach G-d tells Noah that G-d is going to get rid of all life on earth but he takes pity on Noah because Noah is a good person. That is why the Torah calls him blameless and righteous. G-d tells Noah to build an ark and make it out of gopher wood, and make it very large. G-d tells Noah to take his wife and sons, and his son's wives and prepare to leave on the ark. Then G-d makes it Flood for 40 days and 40 nights. After the flood Noah sends out a crow, but it comes back empty handed. Then Noah sends out a white dove and it comes back with a white olive branch after 7 days and 7 nights. G-d tells Noah to leave the ark and all of the animals go on their way. G-d then puts a rainbow in the sky as a symbol that G-d will never do this again.

---

On the surface, this seems to be a story about sin and punishment. Everyone (besides Noah) in the story is bad or lawless and that's why G-d brings the flood. But at a deeper level, we can ask, 'is it really fair of G-d to kill all the people G-d made?'

Think for a moment: if you were to build something like a robot with feelings just to see that you built it wrong, would it be fair to just walk up to the robot and tell the robot that it is useless? Instead of destroying the robot, should you not just try to teach or reprogram the robot? I believe the same goes for the human race.

This is why I question the fact that G-d just killed everyone (except Noah) because he gave them false hope that they would live a life. But if the people that lived before the flood were really so bad to each other, was it even worth living in a world like that? God makes a promise to Noah and his descendents that he will never destroy everything again, but can you trust someone who kills everyone you know, no matter what the reason? This is the reason why I think G-d should have thought of all the humans before the flood and maybe that way humans today wouldn't be so selfish and we for an example wouldn't have the problem of global warming or world hunger.

If God makes us just to destroy us, He should be held accountable. Is he really a G-d if he hurts people just for fun? That's even worse. Without certain authority or reason, you can't just do whatever you feel like, there has to be a reason. Even for G-d.

But what if it's not for fun and G-d makes earth with people and the people are killing each other, maybe they do need to be destroyed? For humans to be a creation worth creating we had to be free. If the humans abused their freedom so badly, maybe the flood makes sense. But it is still worth asking, what *could* have humans done so badly with their freedom that caused G-d to end the entire attempt? And if we, humanity now with all of its many problems, are the new attempt, the fruit of the covenant, it can be scary to think of how bad the people were before.

Whether or not we should hold G-d responsible for the flood, it happened. Whether or not we deserve it, bad experiences do give us the opportunity to start things anew, to see new possibilities. The flood was meant to give us a chance to have a good civilization. One in which people share water, are honest about mistakes they made, are held accountable for wrongs they've done. If we cannot make the most of our opportunity, maybe we can't be surprised if we are 'flooded' again. Thank you and Shabbat shalom.