

Many writers have noted the comparison between the situations of Adam after creation and Noah after the flood. Both are brought into an empty world and charged with the mission of populating and cultivating it. After the flood, God proclaims His commitment to maintaining the natural cycles of day, night and the seasons (8:22), reaffirming and reestablishing the processes of creation, as though putting the natural order back into motion. Noah, like Adam, enters a newly-created earth – or, in his case, a newly-recreated earth – bearing the responsibility of continuing its development.

The parallel perhaps continues with the mistakes made by Adam and Noah shortly after their "creation." Adam, of course, partakes of the forbidden fruit, and Noah becomes intoxicated. As a result of Adam's sin, a curse is pronounced upon the ground, and Noah's intoxication results in a curse upon his son, Cham.

The parallel between Adam's sin and Noah's intoxication underscores the obvious distinction between the two incidents. Adam violated an explicit prohibition; he partook from the tree that was clearly designated as forbidden and off-limits. Noah's mistake, however, did not involve a specific violation. As Rashi (9:20) cites from the Midrash, "He profaned himself – he should have begun involving himself in a different planting." Noah violated not a particular prohibition, but the general value of dignified behavior. He did not commit an offense, but rather failed in his mission of setting an example of productive, dignified activity for his children and future descendants. Unlike Adam, he did not eat forbidden food, but acted in an unseemly manner.

If the narratives of Adam and Noah are indeed intended as parallel accounts, such that Adam's sin corresponds to Noah's intoxication, then a meaningful lesson perhaps emerges. Namely, undignified behavior, even if it involves no specifically prohibited activity, must be viewed with the same gravity as sinful acts. If Noah's inappropriate indulgence parallels Adam's partaking of the forbidden tree, then we, too, must equate unseemly behavior with specific violations. As the Ramban discusses in one of the most famous passages in his Torah commentary (beginning of Parashat Kedoshim), it is possible to live a lifestyle that is contrary to the Torah's values without transgressing any particular laws. The wine which Noah drank had not been designated as forbidden, but his excessive drinking rendered him – in Rashi's words – chulin, "profane," as he failed to live a life of dignity and holiness. Like Adam, he sinned – only not by performing a particular, forbidden act, but by engaging in activity that is wholly inappropriate for a devoted servant of God.

By Rabbi David Silverberg, from the Virtual Beit Midrash (www.vbm-torah.org).

To submit a Dvar Torah to the weekly Keshet, please email bulletin@mtsinaishul.com.

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The Mount Sinai Keshet

October 23-24, 2009 • 6 Marcheshvan, 5770 • Parashat Noach

Shabbat Schedule

Candle Lighting	5:45 p.m.
Mincha	5:50 p.m.
Hospitality Shabbat Oneg	9:30 p.m.
Shacharit	7:00, 9:00 a.m.
Kri'at Shema before	9:59 a.m.
Early Mincha (BM)	2:15 p.m.
Rabbi Schwartz's Gemara shiur	4:25 p.m.
Mincha	5:25 p.m.
<i>Seuda Shlishit following Mincha</i>	
Maariv/Shabbat ends	6:49 p.m.
Screening of "Unsettled"	8:30 p.m.

Tefilla Schedule Week of October 25th

<i>Shacharit</i>	
Sunday	7:30, 8:30, 9:00 a.m.
Mon., Thurs.	6:45, 7:20, 8:00 a.m.
Tues., Wed., Fri	7:00, 7:30, 8:00 a.m.
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	
Monday -Thursday	5:45 p.m.
<i>Next Shabbat, Parashat Lech Lecha</i>	
Candles	5:36 p.m.
Mincha	5:41 p.m.



HATZOLAH: (212) 230 1000

Volunteer Emergency
Ambulance Service

Sponsorships

The **ERUV** is not sponsored this week.

The Eruv DOES extend across Broadway, but does not extend into Fort Tryon Park. For an updated map of the Eruv please go to our website or see the map in the shul lobby. If you are not sure where you can carry, please contact the rabbi or a member of the eruv committee.

The **KESHER** is sponsored by **Tamar and Avi-Gil Chaitovsky** in honor of all our friends in Washington Heights. We hope you'll all come visit us in Teaneck, iy"H!

SEUDA SHLISHIT is co-sponsored by Nekhama Zilberstein in memory of her father, Mordechai Zilbershteyn

The **ONEG** is sponsored by:

- **Chaim Sussman** in honor of the warm welcome he received upon his recent move to the Mt. Sinai community
- **Rachel Haar** in honor of the shloshim of her grandfather Moshe Avraham ben Breindel A"H
- **Burton Morris**
- **Anonymous** in honor of Shifra Apter's upcoming birthday

The **SIMCHAT TORAH KIDDUSH** was sponsored by the Sisterhood.

Please send all announcements to office@mtsinaishul.com and bulletin@mtsinaishul.com by 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Thank you!

