



RABBI SHALOM

ROSNER

RAV KEHILLA, NOFEI HASHEMESH
MAGGID SHIUR, DAF YOMI, OU.ORG
ROSH BAIS MEDRASH ENGLISH SPEAKING PROGRAM MACHON LEV

The Final Straw – The Sin of *Hamas*

The Torah tells us that, before the flood, ותמלא הארץ חמס - “the earth was filled with *hamas*.” Rashi (9:13) cites a Gemara that defines *hamas* as robbery – לֹא נִחַתָּם גְּזֵר דִּינָם - אֶלָּא עַל הַגְּזֵל (סנהדרין ק”ח) - *their sentence was sealed only on account of their sin of robbery*. On the surface the word “*hamas*” is often translated simply as violence or robbery—but a closer reading reveals a deeper, more universal meaning.

Rav Yosef Zevin (La’Torah V’LaMoadim) inquires as to why the final straw was *gezel*-robbery? The people during the generation of Noah engaged in many transgressions. Why

is *gezel* (robbery) what triggered the flood?

OSHEK YADEINU

It is interesting to note that we refer to *gezel* in another very significant context. In the Neila tefilla at the conclusion of Yom Kippur we no longer recite “*Al Chet*”, but we do state: למען נחדל מעושק ידינו – which is translated as - ceasing to steal! At the culmination of Yom Kippur, rather than repeating the list of sins in which we may have engaged throughout the year, all we reference is robbery. Perhaps, Rav Zevin suggests, that this is all inclusive. Typically, when you have a closing statement (חתימה) it reflects the content of all that precedes it. (הכל הולך אחר החתום). How does *gezel* capture all transgressions, especially transgressions between man and God?

Essentially, each of us is gifted with certain capabilities and if we do not utilize our talents properly, in our *avodat Hashem*, we are guilty of misappropriating those gifts. When we waste time, don’t act properly in shul or in our workplace, or engage in inappropriate behavior it is as if we are misusing the valuable talents God entrusted to us, which is like stealing. That is why we reference - *oshek*- stealing as the all-encompassing phrase in Neila.

HAMAS- GEZEL

Similarly, with respect to the generation of

**May the Torah learned from this
issue of Torah Tidbits be
in loving memory of our dear friend**

**Yehuda Leib Berren ז”ל
יהודה לייב בן אהרון יצחק ז”ל
on his fifth Yahrzeit**

**Aliyah L’kever מרחשון ח’
Thursday October 30, 1:30pm
Har HaMenuchoth
Gush תת, Section 7, Row 7
Zoom 831 4712 0889 Password - 230109**

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.ה

MAKE YOUR SHABBAT ZEMIROT MORE MEANINGFUL

Rav Shalom Rosner's insightful explanations
infuse familiar songs with inspiration.



Available at korenpub.co.il

the flood. Hamas- robbery - was the final sin that sealed the fate of the generation of Noach. It was not merely the acts of theft or cruelty between human beings; it was a comprehensive corruption of how people related to the world, to each other, and to God. In essence, it represents misappropriation: the taking or wasting of that which does not truly belong to us.

This misappropriation can take many forms. It includes the obvious wrongs done to others—robbery, deceit, oppression—but it also extends to the ways we fail to honor the gifts that God has entrusted to us. Talents left undeveloped, time wasted, opportunities ignored—these, too, are forms of *hamas*, theft from the Divine source of life itself. Just as in the final prayers of Yom Kippur, where all sins are summarized as *Oshek* a kind of spiritual misappropriation, the Torah teaches that the downfall of Noach's generation was

ultimately rooted in this misuse.

DIN V'HESHBON

The Gra says that in the future we're going to have to give a *Din V'Heshbon* (Judgment and accounting). Why the double language? *Din*- refers to what we did wrong. *Heshbon* – refers to the good things we could have accomplished during the time we engaged in transgressions.

NOACH- MIDRASH

Rav Pam asks how the people in the generation of Noach were able to fall so low? He cites a midrash that states that up until Noach, people were born with webbed fingers. Noach was the first individual to be born with separate fingers. That enabled him to create tools with which to work the land and it made it much easier to plow and plant. This innovation led to leisure hours. People became much more efficient and

suddenly had a lot of free time on their hands. Free time in and of itself is not problematic. What is problematic is when that time is used in the wrong way.

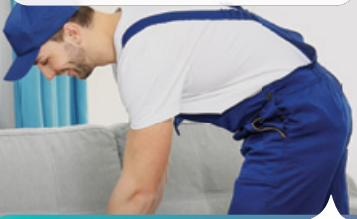
CONCLUSION

The destruction of the generation of Noach reminds us that free time, natural talents, relationships, and sacred opportunities are all entrusted to us, not for personal indulgence or neglect, but for meaningful use. When we misuse them—by wasting time, ignoring responsibilities, or exploiting others—we engage in a subtle form of theft that disrupts the harmony of life and, ultimately, the society we inhabit. The final straw – *hamas* (theft), was a warning to all future generations: integrity is measured not only by what we take from others, but by how faithfully we steward the gifts we have been given. ■



TAL CLEAN

Sofas & Carpets Cleaning





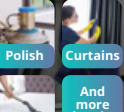
Contact us:
050-445-5975
info.talclean@gmail.com



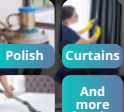
Sofas Cleaning



Carpet Cleaning



Mattress



Polish
Curtains
And more
cleaning
services

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.TALCLEAN.CO.IL



ANGLO- SAXON-JERUSALEM
 ISRAEL'S LEADING REAL ESTATE NETWORK

FOR SALE IN JERUSALEM

OLD KATAMON, ELROI ST.

4 rooms, high floor, Shabbat elevator, panoramic view, quiet & central, fully accessible, near synagogues, shops & cafes, schools & culture. Exclusive!

Matan 055-4549479

ARNONA, GAD TADESKY ST.

4 rooms, sunny & spacious, green surroundings, terrace, 2 parking spots, storage, near public transportation, shops, quality synagogues & schools. Exclusive!

Anita 055-4549429

HARLAP ST IN THE BEST LOCATION

Rare 2.5-room apt. + huge surrounding garden, sunny, private land, near everything: shops & cafes, green parks, synagogues, museums & theater, public transportation.

Exclusive! **Moshe 055-4549428**

FOR SALE IN GUSH ETZION

BEST DEAL IN EFRAT, HAGEFFEN

Huge 4.5-room apt, 132 sqm, 1st floor, sukkah balcony, open view. Near synagogue, green parks & playgrounds, shops, public transportation. Exclusive!

Sigalit 055-4549459

**3 Moshe Hess St. Jerusalem
 0778038511**