

Our Midrash

1. Bereishit Rabbah 30:3

אלה

א"ר אבהו: בכל מקום שנאמר 'אלה' פסל את הראשונים, 'ואלה' מוסיף על הראשונים. כאן שנאמר 'אלה' פסל את הראשונים, דור המבול.

3"These"

Rabbi Avahu said: Wherever "these" is stated, it disqualifies the earlier ones. "And these" adds to the earlier ones. Here it states "these", disqualifying the earlier ones, the generation of the flood.

What motivated this comment?

2. Bereishit 5:28-6:13

- (כח) ויחי-למך שנים ושמונים ושנה ומאת שנה ויולד בן:
- (כט) ויקרא את-שמו נח לאמר זה ינחמנו ממצעשנו ומעצבון ידינו מן-האדמה אשר אררה ד':
- (ל) ויחי-למך אחרי הולידו את-נח חמש ותשעים שנה וחמש מאת שנה ויולד בנים ובנות:
- (לא) ויהי כל-ימי-למך שבע ושבעים שנה ושבע מאות שנה וימת:
- (לב) ויהי-נח בן-חמש מאות שנה ויולד נח את-שם את-חם ואת-יפת:...
- (ה) וירא ד' כי רבה רעת האדם בארץ וכל-יצר מחשבת לבו רק רע כל-היום:
- (ו) וינחם ד' כי-עשה את-האדם בארץ ויתעצב אל-לבו:
- (ז) ויאמר ד' אמחה את-האדם אשר-בראתי מעל פני האדמה מאדם עד-בהמה עד-רמש ועד-עוף השמים כי נחמתי כי עשיתם:
- (ח) ונח מצא חן בעיני ד': פ
- (ט) אלה תולדת נח נח איש צדיק תמים הנה בדרתיו את-האלקים התהלך-נח:
- (י) ויולד נח שלשה בנים את-שם את-חם ואת-יפת:
- (יא) ותשחת הארץ לפני האלקים ותמלא הארץ חמס:
- (יב) וירא אלקים את-הארץ והנה נשחקה פיי-השחית כל-בשר את-דרכו עלי-הארץ: ס
- (יג) ויאמר אלקים לנח קץ כל-בשר בא לפני כי-מלאה הארץ חמס מפניהם והנני משחיתם את-הארץ:

28And Lemech lived 182 years, and he produced a son.

29And he named him Noach, saying, "This will comfort us from our deeds and the strain of our hands, from the land that Gd has cursed.

30And Lemech lived 595 years after producing Noach, and he produced sons and daughters.

31And Lemech's entire life was 777 years, and he died.

32And Noach was 500 years old, and Noach produced Shem, Cham and Yefet...

5And Gd saw that Man's evil in the land was great, and all of the thoughts of his heart were only evil, all day.

6And Gd regretted creating Man in the land, and He was upset in His heart.

7And Gd declared, "I will wipe out the Man that I created from upon the earth, from Man to beast to crawling creature to bird of the heavens, for I regret having made them."

8And Noach found favour in Gd's eyes.

9These are the generations of Noach; Noach was a righteous man, complete in his generations; Noach walked with Gd.

10And Noach produced three sons: Shem, Cham and Yefet.

11And the land was corrupted before Gd, and the land was filled with violent theft.

12And Gd saw that the land was corrupted, for all flesh had corrupted its path upon the land.

13And Gd declared to Noach: The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the land is filled with violent theft due to them. Behold, I will destroy them with the land.

3. Other cases of "these" or "and these"

- Bereishit 2:4            Creation                            These
- Shemot 1:1            The Jews who descended to Egypt            And these
- Shemot 21:1            Laws                                    And these

But do I really need "these" to teach me that Noach is different?

4. Sissa and Detienne, *The Daily Life of the Greek Gods*, pg. 139

They all had their favorites. Zeus swore by the altars of Priam, with their unforgettable aromas. Apollo could deny his priest Chryses nothing and was attached to the city of Tenedos as well as that of Chryse.

5. The Iliad, Book 1:22-52 (<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Iliad1.htm>)

Silently, he walked the shore of the echoing sea; and when he was quite alone, the old man prayed deeply to Lord Apollo, the son of bright-haired Leto: 'Hear me, Silver Bow, protector of Chryse and holy Cilla, high lord of Tenedos: if ever I built a shrine that pleased you, if ever I burned the fat thighs of a bull or goat for you, grant my wish: Smintheus, with your arrows make the Greeks pay for my tears.'

So he prayed, and Phoebus Apollo heard him. Down he came, in fury, from the heights of Olympus, with his bow and inlaid quiver at his back.