



“Justice only Justice shall ye seek-- Is Justice REALLY a priority in Orthodox life?

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class

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Source Sheet for *Parshat Noach* class # 2

1. Moshe Katzav, president of Israel - convicted of Rape [video](#) – see list below

Katsav is [Israel Prison Service](#) inmate #1418989. His cell is located in the prison's Torani cellblock, a special bloc for religious prisoners. Though considered less harsh than other blocs, inmates in the Torani bloc have no access to television or newspapers. Prisoners are woken at 4:30 am for morning prayers, pray three times a day, and spend most of the day in two seminaries studying [Torah](#) and other sacred Jewish texts.

2. *Noach – Beraishis: 6:6-9*

These are the chronicles of Noah: Noah was a righteous man, perfect in his generation. Noah walked with God. Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham and Yefeth. The world was corrupt before God, and the land was filled with Chamas/robbery. God saw the world, and it was corrupted. All flesh had perverted its way on the earth. God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me. The world is filled with [man's] Chamas/robbery. I will therefore destroy them with the earth.

3. Rashi’s commentary

<p>was corrupt: Heb. מְשֻׁחָת is an expression of immorality and idolatry. (other editions add: immorality, "for all flesh had corrupted (הִשְׁחִית) its way," and idolatry), as in (Deut. 4:16): "Lest you deal corruptly (מְשֻׁחָתוּן)." - [Sanh. 56b, 57a]</p>	<p>והשחת: לשון ערוה ועבודה זרה, כמו (דברים ד טז) פן תשחיתו, כי השחית כל בשר וגו':</p>
<p>and the earth became full of robbery: Heb. חֲמָס, robbery. (other editions add: as it is said (Jonah 3:8): "and of the dishonest gain (חֲמָס) which is in their hands.") - [Sanh. 108a]</p>	<p>ותמלא הארץ חמס: גזל:</p>

<p>for the earth has become full of robbery: Their verdict was sealed only because of robbery. — [from Sanh. 108a]</p>	<p>כי מלאה הארץ חמס: לא נחתם גזר דינם אלא על הגזל:</p>
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4. What is worse –robbery or Idolatry?

5. Rashi's commentary on "Noah walked with God"

Noah walked with God: But concerning Abraham, Scripture says (below 24:40): "[the Lord] before Whom I walked." Noah required [God's] support to uphold him [in righteousness], but Abraham strengthened himself and walked in his righteousness by himself. — [Tan. Noach 5]

את האלהים ים התהלך נח: ובאברהם הוא אומר (י) (א) התהלך לפני, (כד מ) אשר התהלכתי לפניו, נח היה צריך סעד לתומכו, אבל אברהם היה מתחזק ומהלך בצדקו מאליו:

- Why are we comparing these two great men?

Rambam, Mishnah Torah, laws of Idolatry, ch 1:2-3

...The wise men among them would think that there is no God other than the stars and spheres for whose sake, and in resemblance of which, they had made these images. The Eternal Rock was not recognized or known by anyone in the world, with the exception of a [few] individuals: for example, Chanoch, Metushelach, Noach, Shem, and Ever. The world continued in this fashion until the **pillar of the world** - the Patriarch Abraham - was born.

Halacha 3

After this mighty man was weaned, he began to explore and think. Though he was a child, he began to think [incessantly] throughout the day and night, wondering: How is it possible for the sphere [universe] to continue to revolve without having anyone controlling it? Who is causing it to revolve? Surely, it does not cause itself to revolve.

He had no teacher, nor was there anyone to inform him. Rather, he was mired in Ur Kasdim among the foolish idolaters. His father, mother, and all the people [around him] were idol worshipers, and he would worship with them. [However,] his heart was exploring and [gaining] understanding.

Ultimately, he appreciated the way of truth and understood the **path of righteousness** through his accurate comprehension. He realized that there was one God who controlled the sphere [universe], that He created everything, and that there is no other God among all the other entities. He knew that the entire world was making a mistake. What caused them to err was their service of the stars and images, which made them lose awareness of the truth.

Questions:

- 1) What lifestyle emerges from Avraham's new found understanding of the existence of G-d
- 2) What is Avraham called the "Amudo shel Olam" – the Pillar of the World?
- 3) If you ask 100 people, "Are you just?" what will they say?



4) Are society's methods of deterring corruption – effective?

List of Israeli public officials convicted of crimes or misdemeanors -

Wikipedia

Presidents

On December 30, 2010, Israel's former [President Moshe Katsav](#) was convicted of two counts of [rape](#), [obstruction of justice](#) and other [sexual offences](#) by a court in [Tel Aviv](#)

- [Moshe Katsav](#) – the 8th president of the State of Israel. In a landmark and unprecedented case, on December 30, 2010, Katsav was convicted of two counts of [rape](#), [obstruction of justice](#) and other charges. On March 22, 2011, in a landmark ruling, Katsav was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Prime ministers

- [Ehud Olmert](#) – Prime minister from 2006 to 2009, cabinet minister 1988–1992, 2003–2006, mayor of Jerusalem 1993–2003. Convicted of breach of trust in July 2012, and of bribery in March 2015. In May 2015 Olmert was sentenced to six years in prison.

Ministers

- [Aharon Abuhatzira](#) – served as the [Minister of Religious Services](#), [Minister of Immigrant Absorption](#) and [Minister of Welfare & Social Services](#). Convicted of [larceny](#), [breach of trust](#) and [fraud](#).^[1] Abuhatzira was sentenced to a suspended sentence of four years and three months; thirty months for larceny, eighteen months for breach of trust and fraud by an administrator, and three months for breach of trust by a public servant.^[1]
- [Shlomo Benizri](#) – served as [Minister of Health](#) and [Labor and Social Welfare Minister](#) during the late 1990s and early 2000s. In 2008 Benizri was convicted of accepting [bribes](#), breach of faith, obstructing justice, and conspiracy to commit a crime for accepting favors worth millions of shekels from his friend, contractor Moshe Sela, in exchange for inside information regarding foreign workers scheduled to arrive in Israel. As a result, Benizri was sentenced to 18 months in jail and [moral turpitude](#) was added to the offense.
- [Aryeh Deri](#) – [Minister of Internal Affairs](#) between 1988 to 1993. Convicted of taking \$155,000 in bribes while serving as Interior Minister and given a three-year jail sentence in 2000.
- [Tzachi Hanegbi](#) – Among the top cabinet positions he previously held are Minister of Justice, Minister of Internal Security and Minister of Intelligence and Nuclear Affairs. On July 13, 2010, Hanegbi was convicted of [perjury](#), and subsequently was fined 10,000 NIS, and [moral turpitude](#) was added to the offense. As a result, Hanegbi suspended himself from the Knesset.
- [Avraham Hirschson](#) – The Israeli Minister of Finance between 2006 to 2007. In 2009 Hirschson was convicted of stealing close to 2 million [shekels](#) from the National Workers Labor Federation while he was its chairman.^{[2][3][4]} Hirschson was sentenced to five years and five months in prison and a fine of 450,000 shekels.
- [Avigdor Lieberman](#) – Israel's former foreign minister. Lieberman was convicted in September 2001, under a plea bargain, of threatening and assaulting a 12-year-old who had hit his son, and was ordered to pay the child a compensation of 10,000 shekels, and an additional fine of 7,500 shekels.



- [Yitzhak Mordechai](#) – Israel's [Minister of Defense](#) and [Minister of Transport](#) in the 1990s. Mordechai was convicted of harassing and sexually assaulting two women during his military service and later periods. As a result, Mordechai received an 18-month suspended sentence. After his conviction, he resigned from the Knesset.
- [Rafael Pinhasi](#) – served as [Minister of Communications](#) between 1990 and 1992. In 1997 Pinhasi was convicted of illegal transfer of funds, and sentenced to 12 months probation and a fine.
- [Haim Ramon](#) – Israel's [Minister of Health](#), [Minister of Internal Affairs](#) and [Minister of Justice](#). In 2007 Ramon was convicted of an [indecent assault](#) without consent, and was sentenced to [community service](#), which he served in a therapeutic riding center in [Tel Mond](#). After serving his community service sentence, Ramon returned to prime minister Ehud Olmert's government in July 2007 as a minister in the Israeli government.
- [Gonen Segev](#) – The [National Infrastructure Minister of Israel](#) between 1995 to 1996. Segev was convicted for an attempt of [drug smuggling](#), for [forgery](#) and [electronic commerce fraud](#), all committed after his public career. He was sentenced to five years in prison.

Knesset members

- [Naomi Blumenthal](#) – Knesset member in the [Likud](#) party. In February 13, 2006, Blumenthal was convicted of [bribery](#) and [obstruction of justice](#) and was sentenced to 8 months in prison, a ten-month suspended sentence and was fined 75,000 shekels.^[5]
- [Shlomo Dayan](#) – Knesset member in the [Shas](#) party. In 2008 Dayan was convicted of [fraud](#) and [forgery](#) and sentenced to 4 months of [community service](#).
- [Shmuel Flatto-Sharon](#) – Knesset member between 1977 and 1981. In 1979 Flatto-Sharon was convicted of false promises of housing solutions for groups and thus choose sentenced to three months of [community service](#) and a suspended sentence of 15 month. In 2000 Flatto-Sharon was convicted of fraudulently receiving a sum of ten million from a French company. In accordance with the plea bargain Flatto-Sharon was sentenced to 11 months in prison, a 1.2 million dollars compensation payment to the French company, as well as a suspended sentence of three years.
- [Michael Gorlovsky](#) – Knesset member in the [Likud](#) party between 2003 and 2006. Gorlovsky was involved in what became known as the "double votes scam" affair together with MK [Yehiel Hazan](#).^[6] In a plea bargain, Gorlovsky was charged with [breach of trust](#) rather than fraud, and was sentenced to two months of [community service](#).
- [Yehiel Hazan](#) – Knesset member in the [Likud](#) party. Hazan was convicted of voting twice during the second and third readings of a bill on the emergency economic plan in May 2003. Hazan was sentenced in June 2006 for 4 months of [community service](#) and a six-month suspended prison term.
- [Ofar Hugi](#) – Knesset member in the [Shas](#) party. On December 25, 2006, Hugi was convicted of various charges related to [forgery](#) and [fraud](#). As a result, Hugi was sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to pay a 12,000 shekel fine.
- [Yair Levy](#) – Knesset member in the [Shas](#) party between 1988 and 1992. In 1993 he was jailed for five years for embezzling [NIS](#) 500,000 from the party's El HaMa'ayan organisation.^[7]
- [Yair Peretz](#) – Knesset member in the [Shas](#) party. In March 2006 Peretz was convicted of fraudulently obtaining an academic degree.
- [Shmuel Rechtman](#) – Knesset member in the [Likud](#) party between 1977 and 1979. In 1979 Rechtman was convicted of taking [bribes](#) and was sentenced to imprisonment, thus he became the first Knesset member who was convicted of criminal offenses and sentenced to imprisonment.
- [Omri Sharon](#) – Knesset member in the [Likud](#) and [Kadima](#) parties during the 2000s. In 2006 Sharon was convicted of [fraud](#) and sentenced to 9 months in prison.



- [Saleh Tarif](#) – a [Druze](#) Knesset member. In April 2004 Tarif was convicted of [bribery](#), [fraud](#) and [breach of trust](#), and was sentenced to 6 months of [community service](#), fined 25,000 NIS and a suspended sentence of 8 months.
- [Yosef Vanunu](#) – Knesset member in the [Israeli Labor Party](#) between 1992 and 1996. In 1997 Vanunu was convicted on charges of [bribery](#), [fraud](#) and [breach of trust](#).

Public officials

- [Uri Lupolianski](#) – Mayor of [Jerusalem](#) 2003-2008, convicted of corruption in March 2014.
- [Asher Yadlin](#) – Leading member in the 1960s and 1970s of the [Israeli Labor Party](#), former head of the [Kupat Holim Clalit](#) and the [Hevrat Ovdim](#). In 1976, two days before he was due to take office as Governor of the [Bank of Israel](#), Yadlin was arrested and charged with accepting bribes. On conviction, he was sentenced to, and served, five years in prison.

Rabbis

- Rabbi Yona Metzger, former Ashekenazic chief rabbi was arrested on November 18, 2013, after the investigation, and "charged with bribery, money laundering and income tax violations."^{[43][44]} In February 2015 Attorney General [Yehuda Weinstein](#) decided to indict Metzger for accepting bribes, attempting to silence witnesses and interfering with the investigation about his dealings.^[45]
- Yoshiyahu Yosef Pinto (born September 27, 1973)[1] is an Israeli Orthodox rabbi who leads a global organization called Mosdot Shuva Israel. Based in Ashdod and New York, he is a Kabbalist.[2] Globes business journal named him in 2012 as one of the ten wealthiest rabbis in Israel.[3]
- As part of a series of legal issues, he pled guilty in September 2014 to bribing a high-ranking Israeli police officer. He was sentenced on May 12, 2015 to one year in prison, and must pay a fine of 1 million shekels.[4]