



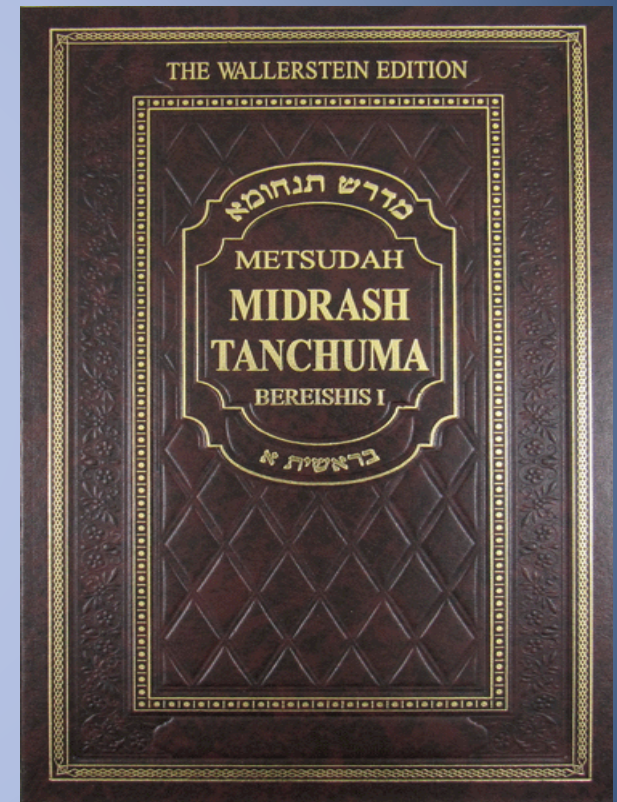
And Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. And he drank of the wine and became drunk, and exposed himself within his tent. And Ham the father of Canaan saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. And Shem and Japheth took a cloak and put it over both their shoulders and walked backward and covered their father's nakedness, their faces turned backward so they did not see their father's nakedness. (Gen. 9:20-23)

MIDRASH: a type of rabbinic biblical interpretation, often with imaginative additions to develop an understanding of the text

Once the waters had abated, Noah should have left the ark. However, Noah said to himself, “I entered with God’s permission, as it says, ‘Go into the ark’ (Gen. 7:1). Shall I now leave without permission?” The Holy One, blessed be he, said to him, “Is it permission, then, that you are seeking? Very well, then, here is permission, as it is said ‘Come out of the ark’” (8:16).

Rabbi Yehudah bar Ilai said: “If I had been there, I would have broken down the ark and taken myself out.”

(Midrash_Tanchuma, Noach 13-14)



“When it comes to rebuilding a shattered world, you do not wait for permission.”



Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

(Gen. 18:25)



Noah walked with God.
(Genesis 6:9)

The Lord said to Abraham,
“Walk before me.”
(Genesis 17:1)

“The meaning of this phrase can be understood by a parable. A king had two sons, one grown up, the other a child. To the child he said, ‘Walk with me.’ But to the adult son he said: ‘Walk before me.’”

Rabbi Yehuda bar Ilai (2nd cent.)



Tomb of R. Yehuda in Galilee

Thus said the Holy One, blessed be He: “When I win, I lose; and when I lose, I win. I defeated the generation of the Flood, but I lost thereby, for I destroyed my own creation....The same happened with the generation of the Tower of Babel and the people of Sodom. But in the days of Moses who defeated me, I gained for I did not destroy Israel.”

(Pesikta Rabbati 9)



Singing the Blues: “How Long, O Lord?”

(Psalm 13:1)



Why do the wicked prosper and live content?
(Jer. 12:1)

Why have you utterly forgotten us?
(Lam. 5:20)

*Why do you keep silent while the wicked devour
the righteous?*
(Hab. 1:13)

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?
(Psalm 22:1)

“I cry out to you but you do not answer.” (Job
30:20)

A Faith that Wrestles with God



Israel: *“You have striven with God and have prevailed.”*
(Gen. 32:28)