



Carnegie Shul Chatter

October 10, 2018



Candlelighting 6:27pm

Shabbat Services 9:20am

“A Righteous Man”

This week’s parshah tells the story of Noah and the great flood. Why was Noah selected to build the ark and save all living creatures from God’s wrath? Because, Noah was a “righteous man.” But what exactly is a righteous man?

Jewish legend tells us that in every generation there are 36 righteous men, saints, upon whose shoulders the fate of the world rests. On the following page is an article from the October 10, 2005 *Jerusalem Post* that discusses the concept of 36 righteous men.



Where is the Outrage?

We live in a troubled world, and sadly, to this day, we cannot escape the scourge of anti-Semitism even here in the United States. Earlier this week, 19 swastikas were painted on the Jewish Community Center in Fairfax, Virginia. And few people even blinked. I never saw the story on the national news on television or saw it in the local newspapers. It should have been a national outrage, but most do not even know that it happened.

Each week Dr. Block ends his message about the Torah portion by praying that it will hasten the coming of the Messiah. I join him in that prayer.

But until the Messiah comes, can we at least have some righteous men or women step forward? It doesn’t have to be 36. I’ll take just one or two righteous people in positions that can convince the world that the hatred and violence that surround us needs to stop. That we must begin to treat each other much more kindly.

The Jewish people are supposed to be a light unto the nations. Why do the nations refuse to see the light?

I’m sick and tired of reporting about hatred to Jews.

The 36 Just Men who save the world

Jewish tradition holds that each generation is saved by 36 righteous people

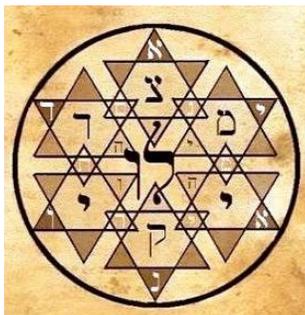
By CECIL BLOOM
October 10, 2005 22:09

There is an old Jewish legend that every generation has 36 saints (*lamedvavnikim*) on whose piety the fate of the world depends. The Book of Proverbs provides an early source for the belief that the just man is the basis of the existence of the world: When the storm wind passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous is an everlasting foundation (10:25). That is to say, that the righteous man holds up and supports the world just as the foundations of a building support it. Another source for the legend is from the Mishnaic period (1st-2nd century): When the righteous come to the world, good comes to the world and misfortune is removed, but when the righteous pass away disaster comes and goodness leaves the world (Tosefta, Sofa 10:1).



The specific reference to this phenomenon is in the Babylonian Talmud, which attributes to a fourth-century Babylonian teacher, Abbaye, the statement: *There are not less than 36 righteous men in every generation who receive the Shechina* (the Divine presence). *It is written, happy are all they who wait for Him* (Sanhedrin 97b; Sukkot 45a). The Hebrew for *Him* (lamed vav) also represents the number 36 in Hebrew numerology (Gematria) and this provides the basis for the number of saints. The number may also be derived from the verse in the Talmud: *Happy are all they who hope for Him* (Isaiah 30:18), which has been interpreted to mean: *Happy are all they who hope for the 36*, that is, who depend or rely on these 36 just men.

There is a less well-accepted belief that there are 72 saints. The Zohar points to Hosea 10:2, which reads: *Their heart is divided*. The gematria of *their heart* in Hebrew is 72, which some have interpreted as representing 36 saints in Eretz Israel and 36 in the Diaspora.



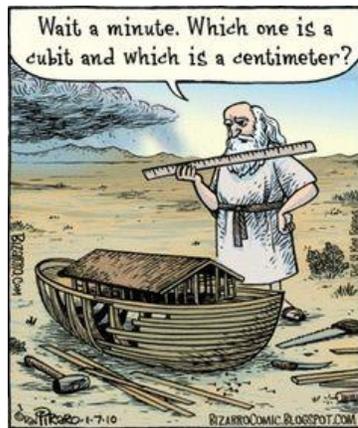
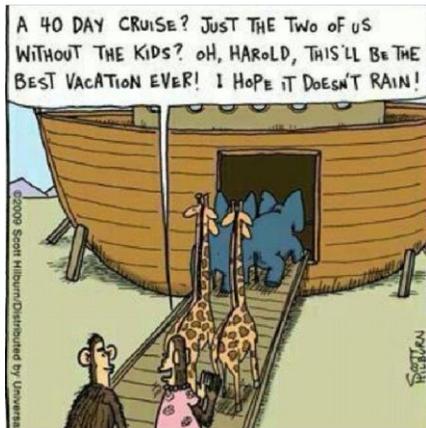
At first the Talmud viewed *lamedvavnikim* merely as being good individuals, but later they began to be seen as hidden saints and many legends then circulated about them. Unrecognized by their fellow men and unknown even to each other, they are said to pursue humble occupations such as artisans or water-carriers. They do not admit their identity to anyone and, if challenged, would deny their membership.

The Almighty is said to replace a *lamedvavnik* immediately upon death. A just man is believed to emerge and use his hidden powers when a Jewish community is threatened and return to obscurity once his task has been completed. This belief has given rise to the suspicion that a stranger who suddenly appears and who seems mysterious may be a *lamedvavnik*.

Yahrzeit Plaques

Commemorate a loved one by dedicating a yahrzeit plaque in his or her memory at the Carnegie Shul. These beautiful plaques, mounted on the sanctuary walls, are lit on the loved one's yahrzeit, Yom Kippur, and days when Yizkor is recited. The names are also read aloud from the Bimah during services on the Sabbath of the yahrzeit and on Yom Kippur. To purchase a plaque, for only \$175, please email Mike Roteman at mrmike7777@yahoo.com.

Parshas Noach: The Lighter Side



Coming Events



Most people struggle with issues about God, sharing a secret, painful fear that God isn't really involved in our daily lives. Many were brought up assuming science is incompatible with Jewish faith, so when they see compelling evidence for evolution, they feel forced to choose between science and faith. This 6-week course will tackle "big issues" like these.

Sundays, 10:15-11:30am, starting Oct. 23 (Chabad)
or **Tuesdays**, 7:30-9:00 pm, starting Oct. 28 (SHJCC)

For fees and information: call 412.344-2424 or email: rabbi@chabadsh.com

South Hills

NOSH & KNOW

with Rabbi Danny Schiff, Foundation Scholar

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 17 - NOVEMBER 14, 2018

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

The Artsmiths of Pittsburgh

1635 McFarland Rd., Mt. Lebanon, PA 15216

JUDAISM & THE HUMAN BODY

- 10/17 Tattooing and Piercing
- 10/24 Cosmetic Procedures & Enhancements
- 10/31 Visiting the Sick
- 11/7 Exhibiting Bodies
- 11/14 Extending Life

\$50 for all 5 sessions

Lunch provided, Dietary laws observed

Registration:

southhillsjewishpittsburgh.org
412-278-1780

Sponsoring Partners:

Beth El Congregation, The Carnegie Shul,
JCC South Hills, & Temple Emanuel



Presented By:

