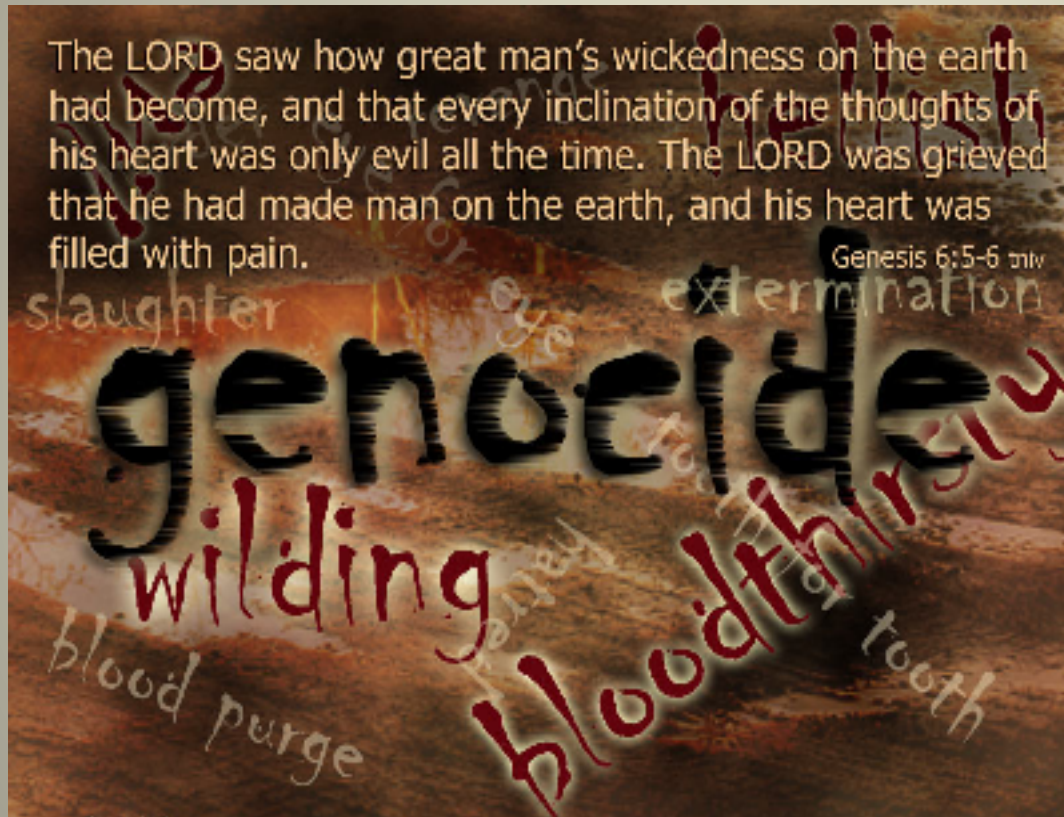


The Divine Pathos

“Pathos:” from the Greek word denoting emotion, feeling, passion



“The Holy and Blessed One is a partner in the suffering of His creatures; He is involved in the lot of His people, wounded by their sufferings and redeemed by their liberation.”

Rabbi Heschel

WHAT IS GOD'S PROMISE?



“The promise to Abraham and his family that he would inherit the world...depends on faith in order that the promise should be sure for all his family, not only those who are of the law but also those who are of the faith of Abraham.” (Rom. 4:13, 16)

“If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s family, heirs according to the promise.” (Gal. 3:29)

“You Gentiles...were without Christ, aliens from citizenship in Israel and strangers to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world....This mystery has now been revealed, that the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, joint partakers in the promise through Christ Jesus.” (Eph. 2:11-12, 3:6)

Is Your Faith Selfish?

“If man was created to seek the purity of his soul, then his entire worship [is] for his own benefit.”

“The essence of religion does not lie in the satisfaction of a human need. As long as man sees religion as a source of satisfaction for his own needs, it is not God whom he serves but his own self.”

Rabbi Heschel

Mark 8: 34, 35 CEB

“All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me.

³⁵ All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them.”



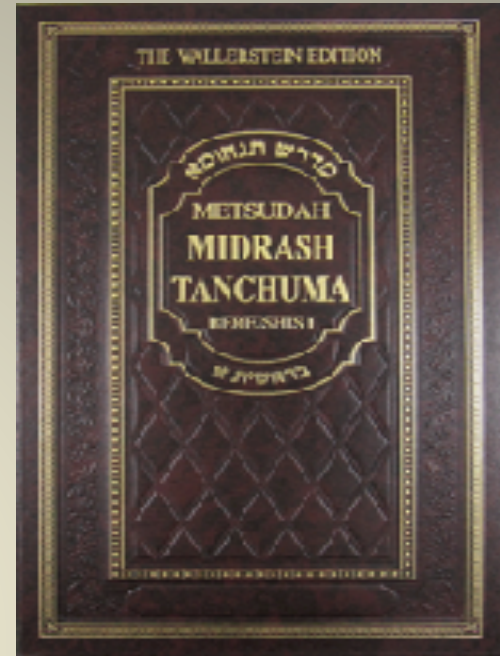
And Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. And he drank of the wine and became drunk, and exposed himself within his tent. And Ham the father of Canaan saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. And Shem and Japheth took a cloak and put it over both their shoulders 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)

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)

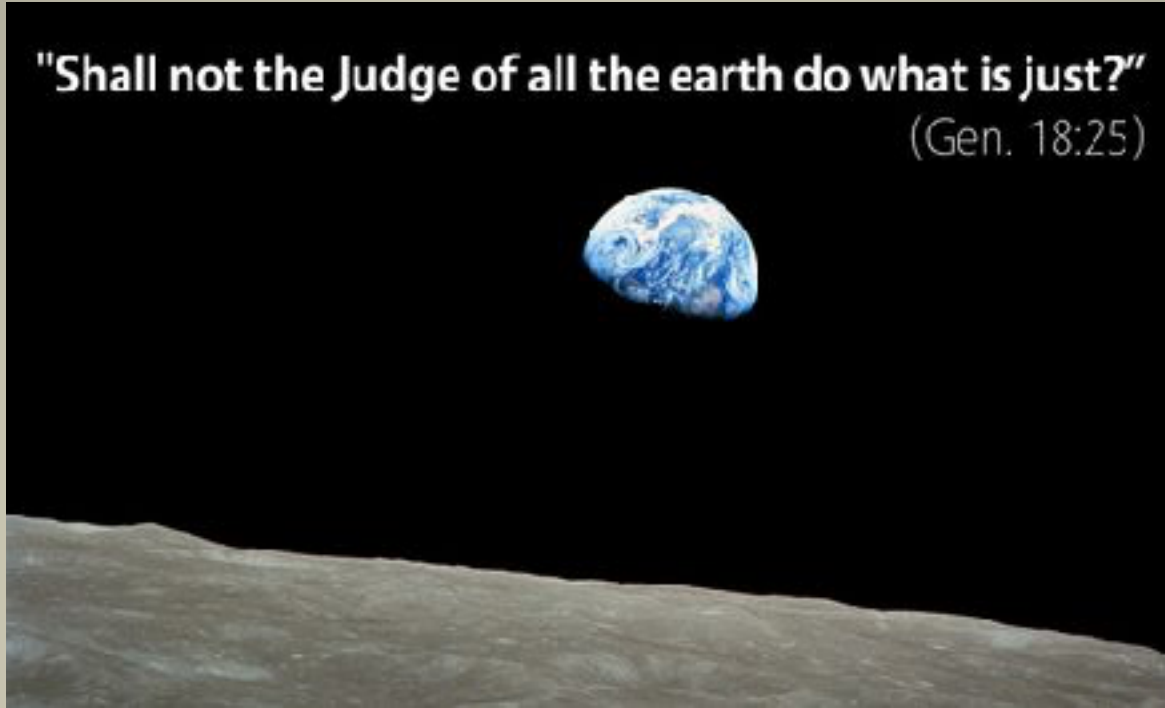
“When it comes to rebuilding a shattered world, you do not wait for permission.” Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



ABRAHAM'S FAITH

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

(Gen. 18:25)



NOAH'S FAILURE

“Noah’s end—drunk, disheveled, an embarrassment to his children—eloquently tells us that if you save yourself while doing nothing to save the world, you do not even save yourself. Noah, so the narrative seems to suggest, could not live with the guilt of survival.” Rabbi Sacks

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