

PARSHAS NOACH

Copied from AISH HATORAH

Genesis 6:9-11:32

“Failing To Plan Is Planning To Fail”

“Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; make the ark with compartments, and cover it inside and out with pitch”. (Genesis 6:14)

Daniel calls up his contractor and says, "I just bought a sizeable piece of land and would like you to build me a magnificent house. I would like the kitchen counters to be made from the finest granite..."

The contractor interrupts, "Woah! Just slow down a little! First we need to deal with the zoning, write up the blueprints and get a building permit. Then we'll begin with the details; how many floors and what type of materials. We have plenty of time until we begin discussing the kitchen counters...!"

G-d commanded Noah to build an ark. He gave Noah the building plans for the ark: make an ark of gopher wood and make many rooms. The ark should be covered inside and out with pitch. It should be 300 cubits in length, 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high. He then proceeds to the details, telling him how many floors there should be and where the window and door should be placed. It seems that the command to make "many rooms" is really out of place. G-d should've first finished explaining the basic structure, before he told him about the "many rooms"!

Now, if the main reason Daniel decided to build a new house was that he could not tolerate his kitchen counters, which were poor quality and looked terrible, then we would understand why one of the first things he mentioned was the counters. After all, that's why he wanted to move.

The same concept applies to the ark. The behavior of the people was so corrupt that it affected the animals as well, until they too cohabited with other species. G-d therefore decided to destroy the world and start it over from scratch. Since His reason for destroying the world was because of the corruption it would make sense that the first thing He would care about in rebuilding the world was that it not get corrupt again; hence came the commandment to make many different rooms, since all the animals needed to be kept separate from other species.

When a person turns over a new leaf and wants to change, he begins working hard and growing, but can often find himself falling back into the same hole. For example, a person switches schools to get away from bad influences, and yet before he knows it he's hanging out with the same type of crowd once again. The first step in the growing process is to create some plan to ensure the mistake doesn't repeat itself. Failing to plan is planning to fail.