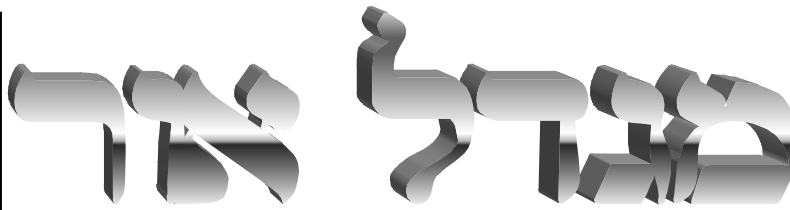


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Zmanim for **צבת**

Wesley Hills, NY

- 5:39 - הדלקת נרות
- 5:57 - שקיעה
- 9:25 - זק"ש מ"א
- 10:01 - זק"ש גר"א
- 10:54 - סוף זמן תפילה
- 5:57 - שקיעה
- 6:39 - צאת הכוכבים
- 7:09 - צאת 72

Times Courtesy of MyZmanim.com

Did you **קפוא?**

After the flood, HaShem made the first rainbow as a sign that He would never bring another flood upon the earth to destroy it.

"The rainbow," says R' Yehonason Eibushitz, "is a natural phenomenon made up of dirty, cloudy air, struck by the rays of the sun.

These two elements symbolize a human being's two main excuses for failure to live up to his mission in life of keeping Torah and mitzvos.

First, is claim that we are made of earth which dirties and clouds our pure and clean neshama.

Our second excuse is that we were born with bad mazal, with a natural inclination to behave as we do. Our inborn traits prevent us from doing Hashem's will.

Mazal is represented by the sun. Therefore, when Hashem is angry, He looks at the rainbow and consoles himself over human failings and does not vent His wrath upon us."

Thought of the week:

With all their boxing training and physical conditioning, it's nearly impossible to knock out a prize-fighter. If you see a fighter lying on the canvas, it's because he has lost the will to get up.

– Muhammad Ali (as heard in *The Shmuz*, by R' Bentzion Shaffer.)

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"ויפץ ה' אתם משם על פני כל הארץ ויחדלו לבנות העיר" (בראשית יא:ח)

"And HaShem scattered them from there upon the face of the earth and they ceased building the city."

The people of Bavel decided to build a city and a tower reaching the sky. They wanted to make a name for themselves lest they be scattered upon the face of the earth and they wished to wage war against G-d with this tower.

HaShem, Himself, testified that with their unity of purpose they could not be stopped. He thereupon caused them to speak different languages and not understand each other (hence the word, "babble." Then HaShem scattered them and the stopped their project.

It is noteworthy that the posuk doesn't say that HaShem scattered them and prevented them from building it. Rather, after HaShem had scattered them, they stopped building of their own volition. The cessation was not caused by the scattering, but by the people.

Rashi says that when HaShem scattered them, it was a fulfillment of their own fear that they would be scattered. If they were thereby *prevented* from building the city, why does the posuk not say so? And, if they could have chosen to continue working, why did they not? According to their beliefs, had they come back and worked on the city, they would have been able to prevent G-d from doing it again.

The answer lies in the destructive power of negativity and cynicism. They were afraid that something would separate them, so they started building a city to unify them. They suffered a setback. They could not understand each other and found themselves carried far afield. Had they had real desire, they could have regrouped and continued building. But they did not.

Instead, they gave in to their cynicism and said, "We knew this would happen. What's the point of trying to prevent it? We're doomed anyway." When they lost hope, they figured it was no use and stopped building.

In contrast, this same language is used regarding the Jews in Egypt. When Pharaoh announced they would no longer be given straw to make bricks, they scattered across the land to find their own straw. They were committed to maintain their identities and to survive. Instead of stopping work, they worked harder because they knew there was a future worth living for.

When Adam sinned and brought death to the world, the next posuk tells us that he called the woman Chava, for she was to be the mother of all life. He didn't dwell on the past; he looked to the future. When the world was doomed, Noach remained and it was his job to repopulate and cultivate the land. Though it was a daunting task, he did it and succeeded.

We can learn from this episode the positive power of will, as Chazal say, "Nothing stands in the way of determination," and also the destructive power of negativity. If we take this lesson and continue to strive and accomplish then we cannot help but succeed in all we do.

I have been writing this publication for thirteen years and it isn't easy. There are times that I think I can't do it; times that I can't think of anything to write. I think of giving up.

Then I realize that I'm not doing this on my own. If it was up to me I'd never have been able to keep it up for so long. However, I'm doing this for the glory of G-d. I can't stop now.

Yesterday I had no idea what I would write. I was tired and couldn't search for a topic. But I made the effort. I took out a chumash and opened it up. The first posuk I saw was the one on the top of this sheet, and I wrote another issue. I didn't think of it, G-d put it in my head.

But He only did that because I persevered and kept trying.