

What is the true legacy that we leave this world?  
Should we expect to get tangible rewards for the good that we do?

Genesis 6:4

אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק תָּמִים הָיָה בְּדֹרֹתָיו אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים  
הִתְהַלְקֵד־נֹחַ:

This is the line of Noah.—Noah was a righteous man; he was blameless in his age;  
Noah walked with God.— Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 7:23

וַיִּמַח אֶת־כָּל־הַיְקוּם | אֲשֶׁר | עַל־פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה מֵאָדָם עַד־בְּהֵמָה עַד־רֶמֶשׂ  
וְעַד־עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיִּמְחוּ מִן־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשְׁאַר אֲדָנֹחַ וְאֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ בַּתֵּיבָה:  
כִּד וַיִּגְבְּרוּ הַמַּיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ חֲמֵשִׁים וּמֵאת יוֹם:

All existence on earth was blotted out — man, cattle, creeping things, and birds of  
the sky; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him  
in the ark.

Proverbs 11:30-31

פְּרִי־צַדִּיק עֵץ חַיִּים וְלִקְחַ נְפֹשׁוֹת חָכְם:  
הֵן צַדִּיק בְּאָרֶץ יְשָׁלֵם אֹף כִּי־רָשָׁע וְחוֹטֵא:

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; A wise person captivates people.

[alternatively, (the righteous) acquire souls with wisdom]

If the righteous on earth get their deserts, How much more the wicked man and the  
sinner.

[Alternatively, Do the righteous on earth get their deserts? How much more the  
wicked and the sinner]

Midrash Rabbah - Genesis Parasha 30 Midrash 6

(ו) אלה תולדות נח הה"ד (משלי יא) 'פרי צדיק עץ חיים' מה הן פירותיו של  
צדיק? מצות ומעשים טובים. 'ולוקח נפשות חכם' שזן ומפרנס כל י"ב חדש  
בתיבה. אחר כל השבח הזה 'הן צדיק בארץ ישולם' בא לצאת ונשתלם –אתמהא!  
דאמר רב הונא משום רבי אליעזר בנו של רבי יוסי הגלילי, נח כשהיה יוצא מן

התיבה הכישו ארי ושיברו ולא היה כשר להקריב והקריב שם בנו תחתיו קל וחומר 'אף כי רשע וחוטא' זה דור המבול:

6. THESE ARE THE OFFSPRINGS OF NOAH: NOAH. Thus it is written, The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and (the righteous) acquire souls with wisdom] (Proverbs 11, 30): what is the fruit of the righteous? Mitzvot and good deeds. [(The righteous) acquire souls with wisdom]: for he fed and provided for [its inhabitants] the whole twelve months in the Ark. After all this praise, “Do the righteous on earth get their deserts?” When Noah was about to leave the Ark, did he gets his just deserts? Surely Rabbi Huna said in Rabbi Eliezer's name: When Noah was leaving the Ark a lion set on him and maimed him, so that he was not fit to sacrifice, and his son Shem sacrificed in his stead. Infer from this: “How much more the wicked and the sinner”, which refers to the generation of the Flood.

'וימח את כל היקום וישאר אך נח' רב הונא בשם רבי יוסי, 'אך' מיעוט שאף הוא היה גונח דם מפני הצינה:

AND HE BLOTTED OUT EVERY LIVING SUBSTANCE... AND NOAH ONLY (AKH) WAS LEFT (7: 23): AKH is a diminishing particle: he too coughed blood on account of the cold.

אך נח. לבד נח. זהו פשוטו. ומדרש אגדה (ב"ר) גונח וכוהה דם פטורח הבהמות והחיות ויש אומרים, שאיחר מזונות לארי והכישו. ועליו נאמר (משלי יא) הן צדיק בארץ ישולם:

Noah Only. This is its contextual meaning (pshat). But the midrashic explanation is that he was coughing and spitting blood because of the trouble he had with the cattle and beasts. (In this verse, the word *Akh* is seen as superfluous, and is often understood to mean that something is missing or defective. In this context, “They were blotted out from the earth, *only* Noah remained” but even Noah did not remain the same as before). others say that he was once late in bringing food to a lion so it struck him. Regarding Noah then this verse from Proverbs applies, Do the righteous on earth get their just deserts?