

Justice and Bnei Noach

Likutei Sichot, vol. 5, p. 150

Story

- **Shchem**

- Abducted and violated Dina

- **Shimon and Levi**

- Deceived all men to circumcise
- Kill all of men of Shchem to recover Dina (sister)
- Did not consult with Yaakov (father)

- **Yaakov**

- Was angry at them
 - Wanted to prevent Chilul Hashem (desecration of His name)
 - They should have consulted out of respect

- **G-d**

- Helped!

Honoring parents?

- **Commandment**

- At Marah (a place) the **Jewish** people were commanded to honor parents.
- We find that **Abraham** did not honor his father (Terach) when he left him alone in old age.
- We find that **Yaakov** was angry at Shimon and Levy for not honoring him.

- **But they were Bnei Noach...**

Charity – Tzedakah?

- **Abraham**

- "For I have known him (a term of affection) in order that he may command his children and his household after him to do **righteousness** (tzedakah) and **justice**"
- "his sons to **justice**, his daughters to **charity**."

- **Sdom and Amora**

- Were punished for not doing charity
- "did not uphold the hand of the poor and the needy"

Justice - Dinim

- **Rambam**

- “Put judges and police in every settlement to judge the Seven Commandments”
- Bnei Noach are **not obligated** in Tzedakah.

- **Ramban**

- Includes all laws “between man and his fellow”
- According to this, Sdom and Amora were punished because they went against “settling the world”
- Bnei Noach **are obligated** in Tzedakah to “settle the world”

Bnei Noach vs. Jews

- **Bnei Noach**

- In order to ensure that the world remains a proper environment for Israel and the Torah—without negative influences, but rather as a refined and perfected world
- to prepare the world so that Israel can properly fulfill their mission of Torah and Mitzvot

- **Jews**

- Observance of Torah and Mitzvot

Tzedakah

- **Maimonides**

- Why were Sdom and Amora punished?
 - when the situation of "they did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy" reaches such an extreme—where they not only refrain from giving charity themselves but also prevent others from doing so, and even go so far as to sentence those who give charity to death—such behavior is certainly a grave sin
- Honoring parents? ...

- **Nachmanides (settle the world!)**

- Bnei Noach are obligated in Tzedakah
- Bnei Noach are obligated in Honoring parents

Honoring parents

- **Shimon and Levi**

- Since “honoring parents” was not a Mitzva in itself rather a part of “settling the world”, when Shchem violated etc. he went against settling the world, against his own existence.
- They did not consult because the issue touched their very own souls deeply.

- **Yaakov**

- Was angry but didn't realize how much Shimon and Levi were “touched” by what happened to Dina

- **G-d**

- Helped...