

A Midrash for Monday (#8)

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A Midrash for Monday

“At that time God said said to me, ‘Hew for yourself two stone tablets, like the first...’” (Deuteronomy 10:1).

This is referred to in the verse, “To everything there is a time and a season” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). There was a time for the world to be created and a time for the Generation of the Flood to be destroyed by water.

There was a time for Noah to enter the ark and a time for him to leave it.

There was a time for Avraham to have been created and so too for Yitzchak and for Yaakov.

There was a time for our ancestors to descend to Egypt, a time for them to leave and a time for them to be enslaved.

There was a time for the *luchot* (tablets of the Ten Commandments) to have been shattered and a time for those others to that deed [of worshiping the Golden Calf]. Thus it says, “Hew for yourself two stone tablets.”

King Solomon said (Ecclesiastes 3:5), “There is a time to cast stones and a time to gather stones.”

There is a time to cast stones—the first *luchot*.

and a time to gather stones—a time to hew the second *luchot*.

...

“Hew for yourself.” God said to Moshe, “I said to you, ‘Hew for *yourself*’—I gave you the Torah, and you turned around and with your kind eye generously gave it to the Jewish people. I promise! You will be the Torah’s king. Whomever you want to disqualify, disqualify. Whomever you want to enlist, enlist.”

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