

Did you know that G-d gave all Gentiles a covenant to guide their lives?

The **Noahide Code** of 7 Divine Commandments was given to Noah and his descendants after the Flood. It was also given as part of the Torah that Moses received from G-d at Mount Sinai, which then became the eternal source that obligates its continuing observance by all mankind. When studied properly, these laws are found to encompass a wealth of ethics and spirituality, which gives meaningful purpose to life.

AskNoah.org is a web site where we can join together to learn about these laws in the light of Chassidic teachings. It features lessons on the nature of creation, and our important roles as individuals and members of wider communities. We also provide networking for further information about Noahide families and groups worldwide. Please visit our site or write to us at:

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Noah's Covenant of the Rainbow is a living heritage for all Gentiles. When we fulfill our potential by living within this covenant, the Creation is spiritually elevated to realize its intended goal. This makes the world into a beautiful gem – a place where G-d can dwell!

1. BELIEVE IN G-D: Do Not Worship Idols. The essence of life is to acknowledge and believe in the Supreme Being, the Creator of the universe, accepting His commandments with awe and love. He is aware of all our deeds, and His Providence is over all of creation.

2. RESPECT AND PRAISE G-D: Do Not Blaspheme His Name. Trust and loyalty are crucial in life. Know that G-d is just, but we can't comprehend our Creator, Who is infinite. A person shouldn't confuse freedom of speech with the disloyal act of blasphemy.

3. RESPECT HUMAN LIFE: Do Not Murder. This law shields us from extreme selfishness or anger that may lie within. Human life (even of the unborn) is sacred and must be guarded.

4. RESPECT THE FAMILY: Do Not Commit Forbidden Sexual Acts. Wholesome families are a basis of healthy communities, nations and societies. Forbidden acts such as homosexuality and incest lead to spiritual decay.

5. RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS: Do Not Steal. Income and property are granted by G-d, so we should seek to acquire these honestly, and not by theft or deception.

6. ESTABLISH A JUDICIAL SYSTEM: A system of righteous courts and honest officials creates a society that is worthy of G-d's blessings.

7. RESPECT ALL CREATURES: Do Not Eat Meat Taken From a Living Animal. Humans are given dominion over the whole world, but we are also its caretakers. We should care about animals and not be cruel to them. This law prohibits eating meat that was taken from an animal while its heart was still beating.

The 7 Universal Commandments

teach acts of peace, goodness and kindness throughout the world!



Gentiles who truly live by and fulfill the Torah's 7 Laws of Noah are granted a reward forever.

A Message to the World

from Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson ("the Rebbe"), *Lubavitch International*, v. 2, '90, p. 3

In explaining the purpose of Creation, our sages say that G-d, the Essence of all good, created the world as a result of His desire to do good. As it says in Psalm 145, "The L-rd is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works." For as it is the nature of good to do good unto others, the creation of the universe was a Divine expression of goodness.

Hence, everything that occurs in the world, even the apparent bad, such as natural disasters, must ultimately have redeeming good. Similarly, the negative inclination within human beings, who essentially desire to do good, is but a mechanism by G-d's design, to establish free choice. For had G-d created a world that is totally and exclusively good without any efforts on the part of mankind to achieve it, there would be no or little appreciation of goodness.

In the individual's struggle with evil, the approach should not be one of confrontation. By emphasizing the good in people and in the world, and by bringing the positive to the fore, the evil is superseded by the good until it eventually disappears. G-d created the world giving people free choice, but He has given us the tools and the guidance we need to encourage us to choose the good: a Divine moral code, one that predates all human codes, and the only one that has timeless and universal application for a good, moral civilization. This Divine code, known as the 7 Laws of

Noah, establishes an objective definition of "good" that applies to all people. For as recent history has proven, a morality based on human ideas of good is relative, subjective and not truly persuasive. Furthermore, as abundantly clear to educators and law-enforcement agents, neither intimidation nor threat of punishment can foster a deep sense of moral obligation. This only comes from the knowledge through education that there is an "Eye that sees and an Ear that hears" to Whom we are accountable.

The Noahide Code of 7 basic Divine laws was given to Noah and his children after the flood. This code would assure Noah and his children, the forebears of the human race, that humanity would not degenerate into a jungle again. The laws, which command the establishment of courts of justice and prohibit idolatry, blasphemy, homicide, incest, robbery, and eating the limb of a live animal (cruelty to animals), are the foundation of all morality. And they extend by laws derived from these into all aspects of moral behavior.

A particular task [is] to educate and to encourage the observance of the 7 Laws among all people. The religious tolerance of today, and the trend towards greater freedom gives us the unique opportunity to enhance widespread observance of these laws. For it is by observance of these laws, that are in and of themselves an expression of G-d's goodness, that mankind is united and bound by a common moral responsibility to our Creator. This unity promotes peace and harmony among all people.

Why be a Righteous Gentile?

What difference does it make what kind of a Gentile you are, and who cares? After all, look at all the chaos in the world today. And look at all the people there are in the world!

A great leader of our generation said that it does make a difference if you are a Righteous Gentile. It does mean something and someone does care. The Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, told the world that we will soon see the coming of the righteous redeemer Moshiach (the Messiah descended from King David) as promised in Deuteronomy and books of the Prophets. He urged all people to prepare by strengthening observance of their commandments. For Gentiles, this means the 7 commandments that apply to them: the 7 Laws that had been given to Noah for all his descendants. For Jews, this means the commandments that apply to them. Both sets of commandments are found in the Torah and the Jewish Oral Tradition given by G-d to Moses at Mt. Sinai. The Divine rewards for observing the 7 Laws, learning their details, and encouraging their acceptance are an inheritance for all Gentiles. This advance will be made by all Jews and Gentiles working in concert along these two paths in a spirit of kindness and goodness.



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