

other commentators, "was he deemed worthy to be saved from the flood; for the righteous shall not fail to appear guiltless when in judgment; while the reverse shall be the case with the wicked, in accordance with the principle laid down by the law. (Deut. xxv. 1,) 'They shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked!'" "And Noah's children," continues this learned teacher, "were also saved through his merits; for it would have been a punishment to Noah had they been cut off with the wicked, among whom indeed they could not be classed, since their father taught them by precept and example, so that they became righteous like himself. Noah, then, eminently deserved the glorious assurance he received from the Eternal כי אתך ראיתי צדיק לפני ברך הוה that him alone had God seen righteous before him, notwithstanding there had lived many generations since man first commenced to corrupt his way on the earth. And, therefore, the Medras Rabba, quoting from Proverbs xiv. 11, reminds us, 'The house of the wicked was to be overthrown, but the tent of the upright was to flourish.'"

Bearing in mind these teachings of our sage commentators, so pregnant with pious reflection and spiritual profit, we will now for a brief space inquire in what the righteousness of Noah consisted, and then referring to our own times and circumstances, see how it should influence our own conduct as Israelites and as members of the great human family. Turning to the sacred narrative for a solution of the first question we have proposed, we find that Noah's righteousness consisted in both his FAITH and PRACTICE. And first, we have to consider Noah's *faith*. He lived among a people universally corrupt. וירא אלהים את הארץ והנה נשחטה. All the then inhabited portions of the world presented to the eye of Omniscience a moral desert with but one small oasis—even that which was covered by the tent of the righteous Noah. Every religious precept and rule of conduct that had yet been revealed to man were openly and generally violated. As a consequence, the moral and mental deterioration of the race went rapidly on, and all perception of the good and the wise, of the right and the true, became impossible to them; and they sunk to the lowest level that humanity can attain. But different indeed with Noah