Assembly Notes
PARSHAS NOACH 5786

Assembly Theme: Everyone Can Elevate The World By Elevating Their Own World

Dvar Torah

The rainbow is a symbol of hope, inspiration and joy. It appears after rain. Its unspoken message encourages people that after the storms and challenges of life, something of beauty can emerge.

In Parsha Noach the Torah tells us the origin of the rainbow. After the great Flood, Hashem created the sign of the rainbow as a reminder that He will never again send such a flood that would wipe out the entire world.
An obvious question arises. The rainbow is a natural phenomenon. Sunlight passes through raindrops and refracts (bends) and separates into the colours of the spectrum. Since this is a natural phenomenon of physics, how can we say that it was formed as the sign of Hashem's promise never to destroy the world again, 1600 years after Creation?

One answer to this question is that the world before the Flood was more intense and perfectionist, as befits the expectation of a perfect G-d. The elements and all of nature were more opaque, more demanding and less accommodating. Humans were more intense; the average lifetime was very long. People were either great Tzadikim or the opposite, as in the generation of the Flood.

In that world, the clouds also were thicker, more opaque and the sun's rays didn't refract and so there was no rainbow.

This perfectionist world is the world of Beraishis , where the flow of Creation is from Above.
After the Flood, Hashem empowered humans and we are to refine and elevate the world.
Therefore the world itself had become more refined, and the clouds became thinner and more diaphanous, so the sunlight could pass through them, and the rainbow forms. In other words, nature didn't change, but the world certainly did.
That is why our Sages say that Noach "saw a new world". Note, it's not called a cleansed world or a renewed world, but a *new* world where people are elevating the world and have become creators from below to Above. Our human weaknesses are taken into consideration.

The Parsha Beraishis about the world as given from Above is always read on the last Shabbos of Tishrei. It is the month replete with festivals and power from Above to us.
The Parsha Noach is then the first Shabbos of the month of Cheshvan, which has no festivals. This is the month where we take the inspiration from Tishrei and use it to elevate our mundane lives to be directed and inspired by the spirituality, so creating a new world.

Good Shabbos!

גוט שבת!