

# Bnei Noach

Their commandments: a general look  
Baed on Likutey Sichot, vol. 5, p. 86

# Shir HaShirim 1:3

- **For the fragrance of your ointments is good, poured oil is your oil**
  - Midrash Raba (Shir HaShirim 1, 3:1) “All the commandments that the **forefathers** did were like “smell”,
  - but **we**, ‘poured oil is your oil’, 248 positive commandments and 365 negative ones”

# What is “fragance”?

- **Fragance**
  - Is not the essence of the thing
  - Is not something fixed and sustained
- **Commandments of Forefathers**
  - They brought down only a reflection (not the essence) of godliness down to earth
  - It did not remain here

# Before and after

- **Before Giving of the Torah**
  - There was a decree of separation between spirituality and materiality
  - Example of Yaakov and the sticks
  - They did it out of their own intellectual conclusions
- **After Giving of the Torah**
  - The decree is nullified: spirituality can imbue the material world
  - The **essence** of G-d was given in the Torah
  - Blessing after bathroom:
    - Blessed are You ... who heals every creature and **works wonders**: joins the soul with the body (Rama, Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 6:1)

# Bnei Noach

- **Rambam, Laws of Kings, 8:11**
  - Anyone who accepts upon himself the fulfillment of these seven mitzvot and is precise in their observance is considered one of 'the pious among the gentiles' and will merit a share in the world to come.
  - This applies **only** when he accepts them and fulfills them because the Holy One, blessed be He, commanded them in the Torah **and informed us through Moses, our teacher, that Noah's descendants had been commanded to fulfill them previously.**
- **There were commandments before Giving of Torah**
  - Those commandments were renewed in the giving of the Torah
  - Only by acknowledging the "Giving of Torah" a person, even a non Jew, can **bring holiness to the world**

# Law (Halacha)

- **“The Torah was given and the law was renewed”**
  - Talmud Shabat 135a/b, Rambam, Laws of Mourning, 1:1
  - This means that we don't extract **law** from the Forefathers.
  - It doesn't include **good behaviours**.
    - Avraham honored visitors, gave Tzedakah
    - Yaakov didn't want to profane an oath he made to Rachel
- **Bnei Noach**
  - All the commandments that were given to Bnei Noach and repeated to Israel, are for both
  - If it was not repeated, it was **taken** from Bnei Noach and **given** to Israel.
    - Talmud Sanhedrin 59a

# The main thing today

- **Practical world**
  - Dont's:
    - kill, steal, eat from a living animal, injustice, idolatry, blasphemy and sexual immorality
  - Do's
    - Give Tzedakah
    - Honor parents
    - Receive visitors
    - Emotional / Intellectual growth
    - Learn Torah
    - Live a moral and ethical life