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The rabbi has two web sites:

[www.NoahideSevenCommandments.com](http://www.NoahideSevenCommandments.com)

[www.Ner-Torah.com](http://www.Ner-Torah.com) - on the weekly Torah portion.

The Rabbi and his wife now reside in Louisiana.

"The Seven Noahide laws are the basis of civilized society, upon which our great nation was founded," so declared the US Congress (HJ res.104, 1991.) These Seven Noaide Commandments are presented in the Books of Genesis and Exodus, starting with the Story of Creation and finishing with the Sinai revelation.

This book focuses on the first Commandment, IDOLATRY, as shown in the Book of Genesis. The questions it deals with are:

Who is the Creator? Why did He create the World? Why did He create Adam? What are His Names? What is the Eternal IDOLATRY Trail of Idolatry? How did He make Adam? What is the Kingdom of Mercy? What is the Eternal Sabbath? What is Heavenly KINGSHIP? What is Heavenly ONENESSS? What is Evil? How and when was Evil made? Who made it? When will Evil end?

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Rabbi Dr. Zvi Aviner

The Seven Commandments of Noah

Volume I - IDOLATRY

# Torah Classes On

## The Seven Commandments of Noah

### Volume I - IDOLATRY

### Rabbi Dr. Zvi Aviner

“And YHVH saw that the wickedness (evilness) of Adam was great on Earth, and That all the impulses of his heart are evil all day long, And YHVH Regretted that He had made Adam on Earth, and was Saddened to His Heart, and YHVH said,  
I will wipe out Adam whom I had Made from the face of the Earth, both Man and Cattle to creeping Things and the Bird of the air,  
For I regret Making them.”

“And Noah found face in the eyes of YHVH.  
These are the histories of Noah, Noah was a complete, righteous man, In his generations, with ELoKiM did Noah walk, and Noah Begot three sons, Shem ham and Yafet,”

“And the Earth Corrupted before ELoKiM, and the Earth filled with hamas, And ELoKiM saw The Earth And behold, it was corrupt; for All flesh corrupted its way On Earth. And ELoKiM Said to Noah, the end of All flesh has come before me, for the Earth is Filled with Their hamas, and I shall destroy them with Earth. And I, willingly, shall bring the Flood on Earth to destroy all flesh In which is breath of life, from Under the Heavens, and everything that is on Earth shall die.”

**Torah Classes On**

**The Seven Commandments of Noah**

**Volume I - IDOLATRY**

by

**Rabbi Dr. Zvi Aviner**



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## **Class 1: The Seven Commandments: Their Order**

### **1. Our List**

Welcome to our Noahide Torah Classes. We will learn the basics of the Noahide Seven Commandments in the order they appear in the Torah.

Although the Commandments have been listed in several ways, this class will use the following order:

I IDOLATRY

II ADULTERY,

III BLOODSHED,

IV THEFT,

V INJUSTICE,

V BLASPHEMY

VII Eating a limb from a living Animal.

The reasons for this particular order are as follows:

### **2. The Halachic reason**

Most Rabbinical Authorities place IDOLATRY as the first Commandment. In this, they follow the Sinai's Ten Commandments that start: *"I Am the Lord, Your God, Who took you out of Egypt; thou shall not have any God beside me...."*

According to the Talmud ADULTERY is second followed by BLOODSHED. These three 'major' Commandments are grouped together since they demand 'sanctification,' meaning we should surrender our lives rather than violate them. This may not be true with regard to the last four Commandments: THEFT, INJUSTICE and BLASPHEMY.

Thus,

If we are forced to worship IDOLS, we should surrender our lives rather than comply.

If we are forced to commit ADULTERY, we should give our lives rather than comply.

If we are forced to KILL someone, we should surrender our own life rather than save them with the cost of other people's lives.

This is why tradition **places these 'major' three at the top of the list.**

### **3. Are BN obligated to sanctify the Creator's Name?**

Israel is obligated to sanctify HaShem's Name with our lives--rather than violate His Commandments—by the verse in Leviticus that says, *“and I shall be sanctified among the Children of Israel.”*

Are BN also **obligated** by this Commandment?

Recently, several rabbinical authorities have revisited this issue and concluded although BN are not OBLIGATED to sanctify HaShem's Name, they are REWARDED for it.

The following Talmudic Story illustrates the issue. After the Temple destruction, the Romans took Rabbi H. Ben Tradion out to be burnt on the stake for the sin of teaching Torah. They wrapped his body with a wet Torah Scroll to prologue his agony. In addition they placed a wet cotton sponge between his body and the Scroll to slow his death. A fat Roman soldier ('centurion') turned the burning wooden logs so that the fire would not extinguish.

Having noticed that the Rabbi's lips were moving, the fat soldier asked: "Rabbi, what do are you saying? Do you wish to die fast? Should I increase the fire?"

Faintly, the Rabbi answered: "If I had asked you to do this, the Heavenly Court would regard me as committing suicide."

"Why were you condemned to death?"

"I taught Torah," The Rabbi said.

"What's your God's reward for sanctifying His Name?" the fat soldier asked.

"A share in the World-to-Come," the Rabbi whispered.

"Rabbi, take me with you!" The centurion cried out and jumped into the fire. They say that his fat increased the fire so much that the two of them died fast. A Voice then came from Heavens saying:

"The Rabbi and the Centurion are to share the World-to-Come together."

From this the Rabbis concluded that BN get the same reward as Israel for the sanctification of HaShem's Name.

#### **4. Logical reason for the proper order**

There is logic behind placing the Seven Commandments in the above order:

IDOLATRY comes first, since if you don't fear HaShem what would stop you from violating ADULTERY?

And if you've violated ADULTERY, what would you expect if not the husband's rage and subsequent BLOODSHED?

And if you've violated someone's wife, why not violate his property resulting in THEFT?

And if you've stolen, why not cheat and lie, committing INJUSTICE?

And if you live in a society that has violated all the above, you'd curse the moment you'd been born, curse your mother and father, curse your Creator –committing BLASPHEMY

That's why the Commandments come in the above logical order

#### **5. The Torah order**

The Torah text introduces the Commandments in the following order:

IDOLATRY --with the Story of Creation

ADULTERY-- with the story of Eden.

BLOODSHED - -with the Story of Cain slaying Abel

THEFT –with Abraham and his struggle against abduction and theft, INJUSTICE—with Jacob, who spent his life fighting for it

We'll discuss these stories in details. Now, what is IDOLATRY?

END OF NOAHIDE TORAH CLASS 1