

All Flesh Was Corrupt

א"ו

Rabbi Zev-Hayyim Feyer

Parshat Noah

G*d observed the world and – behold! – it was corrupt, as all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth. (Genesis 6:12)

Holding that not a word in Torah is superfluous, the tradition asks why the word *corrupt* is here repeated. The Hassidic tradition responds that **G*d observed that the world was corrupt** – it was only in G*d's eyes, not in the eyes of humanity, that the world was corrupt – **for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth** – humanity had grown so accustomed to corrupt ways that those ways seemed normal to all except G*d.

But there is another way to read it.

G*d observed that the world was corrupt – it was only in G*d's eyes, not in the eyes of humanity, that the world was corrupt – **for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth** – it was only the flesh that was corrupt; the souls of humanity remained pure as they were on the day G*d created them.

However greatly we may fall short of the ideal – and we all fall short to some degree – our souls remain pure, and nothing that we or anyone else may do can change that! How glorious is G*d's handiwork throughout the world!

Shabbat Shalom.

All Flesh Was Corrupt

© Copyright 2003 Rabbi Zev-Hayyim Feyer

This document may not be reproduced (in whole or in part) in any manner, including, without limitation, print and electronic media, without the written permission of the copyright holder.