

So That None Shall Be Left Behind

How hard is it for one person to look at something from two different (sometimes opposite) points of view?

Is it like learning a new culture or a new language?

My lessons in Amharic (a Mideastern language used in Ethiopia) continue. Today, I learned that the word involving “tomorrow” was a word that would have reminded us Westerners as something “negative”...something that we westerners would probable think of as bad or wrong.

Why? Because “being in the dark” is not where we like to be. To someone from the Mideast, however, something “in the dark” is something “in the future”...because it is something that cannot yet be seen.

It reminded me of a misconception in the word usually translation as “bad” in the book of Genesis. (I had already run into this problem when dealing with Noah and his family attracting the animals to his “ark”.)

This misconception may have come about because of the differences between mid-Eastern and Western thinking with regard to time. First and foremost, Western thinking sees time as a straight line, where the future is in front of us and the past is behind us.

On the other hand, mid-Eastern thinking sees time as circular, where the future is behind them (because the future cannot be seen); and the past is in front of them, in the light (because the past is known, i.e., it CAN be seen).

In addition, Western thought is based on abstract concepts, i.e., ideas that exist in thought, rather than in space

while Eastern thought is based on concrete events involving an individual.

During Moses' time (and with his Eastern thinking), something "dark" would have been interpreted as something that wasn't seen, something that was behind him and, therefore, a part of his/our FUTURE;

Therefore, by turning his back, Noah was leaving behind “a future on that earth” .

whereas, Western thought would have interpreted "dark" as a “negative, abstract attribute” and, therefore, something "bad".

This places a whole new spin on the story of Noah with regard to its

English/Western interpretation, particularly with regard to the concepts of good and bad.

In Western thought, if Noah was looked on favorably by God, he must have had a positive attribute (After all, he "stood in the Light"); therefore, he was "good".

In Eastern thought, if Noah was SEEN (again, in the light), he was a part of the known PAST.

Similarly, if everyone else were considered to be dark or hidden, then Western thought would have translated this as a negative attribute, i.e., "bad", as in all the other bad people and/or animals that were left behind when The Flood came.

Eastern thought would have seen everyone else as behind them, in the dark...and therefore as a part of their unknown, unseen FUTURE.

Since opposites attract one another (e.g., the negatives and positives), the past and the future would be drawn together...as would the Noah family and all of the animals.

Consequently, the Noah story isn't a story of exclusion; it's a story of INCLUSION! A coming together of what is usually seen as opposites...seemingly irreconcilable differences, including the past and the future.

In the world of cells, this process is called "synthesis". It is the duplication of DNA in preparation for cellular division: the old DNA and the DNA to be used in a future cell, (the past and the future) are linked together before the process of cellular division can occur.

(In a way, each one of us is the past linked to the future, by way of linking our ancestors to our children.)

I find it heart-warming...and comforting...to know that even in the cellular world, NO ONE is left behind...ALL of our DNA is loaded onto Noah's cellular ark (a mitotic spindle); so that in spite of total destruction, all of who and what we are has been secured for transport into a brand new world.

October 2, 2016