

To All My Dear Friends and Relatives:

Parshat Be'Shalach – 2012, 5772

In the Av HaRachamim recited on Shabbat before Mussaf we say, “May He, before our eyes, exact retribution for the spilled blood of His servants”. We want to see our enemies being paid back for all the suffering that they caused upon us. We want to witness the Nekamah against them. However, in order for us to see this happen we have to be Zocheh [meritorious] and deserving.

Upon the destruction of the cities Sedom and Amarah, Lot who was rescued from this destruction was specifically told by the Malachim [Angels], his rescuers, “Flee for your life! **Do not look behind you**” [Bereishit 19:17] because he was no better than the people of Sedom. He was saved only because of the Zechut [merit] of his uncle- Avraham. He was therefore not privileged to see their downfall.

Likewise, we find by No'ach who was rescued from the ultimate destruction of the entire world, the Mabul. No'ach was instructed to build a “Tzohar” in the Teivah [Ark], [6:15]. Shmuel, in Gemara Sanhedrin [108a] was of the opinion that the Tzohar was a stone that illuminated the inner and outer area of the Teivah. But, according to Shmuel, there was No window in the Teivah. No'ach could therefore not look outside to witness the destruction of mankind, for according to Shmuel, No'ach was not fully deserving of this rescue. Shmuel interpreted the word “Be'dorotov” in HIS generation in a negative vein. That No'ach was a Tzaddik only relatively speaking, when compared to rest of world. They were so bad that he was rated as a Tzaddik, but not that he fully deserved to be rescued on his own merit. Therefore, No'ach had no right to view the destruction of the others. He was not Zocheh to see the downfall of the others.

When we come to our parsha we read that “On that day, HaShem saved the Jewish People from the hand of Egypt, and **Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore**” [Shemot 14:30]. Our people may not have been fully righteous at first, upon leaving Egypt, but at this point they were truly Zocheh to behold the downfall of their cruel tormentors. Indeed it is written further, “The people revered HaShem, and they had faith in HaShem and in Moshe, His servant.

May we be Zocheh to have and to see such Nekamah in all our enemies of today.
(This idea heard from Rav Laiman)