

## Genesis 6, 9-13

אלה תולדת נח נח איש צדיק תמים היה בדורתי אתי  
האלהים התהלך נח:

This is the line of Noah.—Noah was a righteous man; he was blameless in his age; Noah walked with God.—

ויוולד נח שלשה בנים את־שם את־חם ואת־יפת:

Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

ותשחת הארץ לפני האלהים ותמלא הארץ חמס:

The earth became corrupt before God; the earth was filled with lawlessness.

וירא אלהים את־הארץ והנה  
שחיתה כִּי־השחית כל־בשר  
את־דרכו על־הארץ: (ס)

When God saw how corrupt the earth was, for all flesh had corrupted its ways on earth,

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְנֹחַ קַח לְךָ־בֵשֶׁר  
בָּא לְפָנַי כִּי־מָלְאָה הָאָרֶץ חָמָס  
מִפְּנֵיהֶם וְהִנְנִי מַשְׁחִיתֵם אֶת־  
הָאָרֶץ:

God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to all flesh, for the earth is filled with lawlessness because of them: I am about to destroy them with the earth

## Rashi on Noah

אלה תולדת נח נח איש צדיק

These are the progeny of Noah: Noah was a righteous man

Since the text mentions him it sings his praise, in accordance with what is said, (Proverbs 10:7) "The mention of the righteous shall be for a blessing." Another explanation is: since after stating "These are the progeny of Noah", it does not at once mention the names of his children but declares that he "was a righteous man", Scripture thereby teaches you that the real progeny of righteous people are their good deeds

## Autumn

by Charles Baudelaire

Soon we will plunge ourselves into cold shadows,  
And all of summer's stunning afternoons will be gone.  
I already hear the dead thuds of logs below  
Falling on the cobblestones and the lawn.

All of winter will return to me:  
derision, Hate, shuddering, horror, drudgery and vice,  
And exiled, like the sun, to a polar prison,  
My soul will harden into a block of red ice.

One righteous man, the only of his generation, asked to bear the cost of destruction wrought by a generation of lawlessness, he acquiesces without question. We see a dissonance arise among the texts between willingness to be a faithful partner bound to a demanding relationship and the loneliness of obligation in the face of a society that mocks fidelity strikes as a fierce battle of internal and external pressure. Facing an impending winter, in the form of a flood or the departure of known quantities, we see a sense of resignation to an inevitable collapse. We are asked to see the blessings in being where we are; even when we don't want to be there.

I shiver as I listen to each log crash and slam:  
The echoes are as dull as executioners' drums.  
My mind is like a tower that slowly succumbs  
To the blows of a relentless battering ram.

It seems to me, swaying to these shocks, that someone  
Is nailing down a coffin in a hurry somewhere.  
For whom? -- It was summer yesterday; now it's autumn.  
Echoes of departure keep resounding in the air.

## Thought Starters

What parallels can be drawn from the between Noah's possible state of mind and

and the impending winter facing Baudelaire?

What role does resignation, rather than acceptance, play in our willingness to carry on in our commitments in the face of events that we'd rather not occur?

Each piece offers an ending to a time, place, or condition of life and the attendant grief. how can we view grief and resignation as entry points to peace?

## **The Only Living Boy In New York**

Simon & Garfunkel

Tom, get your plane right on time  
I know your part'll go fine  
Fly down to Mexico  
Da-n-da-da-n-da-n-da-da and here I am,  
The only living boy in New York

I get the news I need on the weather report  
Oh, I can gather all the news I need on the weather report  
Hey, I've got nothing to do today but smile  
Da-n-do-da-n-do-da-n-do here I am  
The only living boy in New York

Half of the time we're gone but we don't know where  
And we don't know where  
Here I am  
Half of the time we're gone, but we don't know where  
And we don't know where

Tom, get your plane right on time  
I know that you've been eager to fly now  
Hey, let your honesty shine, shine, shine  
Like it shines on me  
The only living boy in New York  
The only living boy in New York