

Dvar torah by **Rabbi Chanoch Yeres**

to his community at

Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

Graciously shared with Philo-Torah

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The Parsha begins with the words

EILEH TO-L'DOT NO'ACH

"These are the offspring of No'ach"
(6:9)

Rashi gives a very interesting comment. He explains that the true offspring of righteous people are not their children, but rather their good deeds. If that is the real meaning, then why use the word TO-L'DOT? Wouldn't it make more sense to use the word MAASIM - 'Deeds' instead?

Many answers are given, yet it is Rabbi Moshe Feinstein that suggests a deeper understanding that sheds a different light of No'ach's legacy to mankind.

Perhaps the Torah means to teach us that one should perform good deeds with the same love a father has for his children, a love which causes a person to want to help others and not be compelled to. No'ach is being portrayed as that individual who is trying to influence the people around him by example. We should accept the need to assist others not because

of some command but rather due to the love we should have for mankind, like a father's love for his son.

Alternatively, just as a father loves his children even when they do not live up to his expectations, so a person should love the good deeds he has done and not regret that he did not do deeds of greater importance.

Other comparisons can be made to this relationship of father to son. For example, one should examine every good deed he performs for imperfections that need improvement, just as a father scrutinizes his children to uncover failings that need correction.

Still another connection is that just as a father works hard to make sure that his children have nothing lacking so too one should toil over one's good deeds to improve them as best as possible.

Now the verse of "these are the offspring of No'ach" can be understood as a deeper legacy to mankind, that No'ach tried to influence the actions of the people of the world. We too, can sense the important contribution No'ach left for all of us, not just having children and leaving descendants, but the importance of trying to help one another naturally and not having to be told to do so.