

The 30 Mitzvot of the Bnei Noah

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The Thirty Mitzvot of the Bnei Noah

By: Rabbi L Rabinowitz

The Talmud Bavli (Chullin 92a) mentions that Bnei Noach have thirty mitzvot (laws):

‘Rav Yehuda Says: This verse (Zacharia 11:12) refers to the thirty righteous persons among the nations of the world, whose merit sustains the nations of the world.

Ulla said: This verse refers to the thirty commandments which the Noachites have accepted. But they keep only three of them. One, they do not draw up marriage contracts for homosexuals. Two, they do not merchandize (human) flesh in the marketplace. Three, they do have respect for the Torah (and for Torah scholars).’

As RASHI tells us, Chazal do not elaborate on the nature of the 30 Mitzvot, but various commentaries offer suggestions. The basic thesis with which they work is that the 30 Mitzvot are subdivisions of the seven Noachide laws.

Rabbi Menachem Azaria de Fano 1548-1620 (also known as the ‘REMA mi’PANU’ מנחם פאנו) in his book מנחת מנחם אסור Asarah

Ma'amaros, Ma'amar Chikur Din 3:21 אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר
אָמָר (Amsterdam 1649), enumerates the 30 laws as follows:

The REMA Mi'Panu's 30 laws in Romanised Hebrew And translated into English in the original Hebrew

1. AVODAH ZARAH / Avodat Elilim IDOLATRY:
2. Ma'avir Ba'esh Passing a child through fire in the worship of molech אָמָר אָמָר
3. Kosem Stick divination אָמָר
4. Me'onen Divining of auspicious times אָמָר
5. Menachesh Interpreting of omens / Superstition אָמָר
6. Mechashef Witchcraft / Sorcery אָמָר
7. Chover Chaver Charming / using incantations אָמָר אָמָר
8. Ov Consulting mediums אָמָר
9. Yidoni Consulting oracles אָמָר
10. Doresh El ha'Mesim Necromancy אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר
11. GILUY ARAYOS SEXUAL SINS: אָמָר אָמָר
12. Peru * Be fruitful. אָמָר
13. Revu * Multiply seed. אָמָר
14. Ba Al ha'Zechur Don't draw up marriage contracts for homosexuals. אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר
15. Kilayei Behemah Cross-breeding of animals אָמָר אָמָר
16. Sirius Castration אָמָר
17. Harkavas ha'Ilan Grafting trees אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר
18. SHEFICHUS DAMIM MURDER: אָמָר אָמָר
19. Soter Lo'o Shel Yisroel Striking a Jew אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר
20. BIRKAS HASHEM BLASPHEMY: אָמָר אָמָר
21. Kavod ha'Torah * Honour the Torah (and Torah scholars). אָמָר אָמָר
22. la'Asok ba'Torah she'Nitnah Lahem * Studying relevant parts of the Torah. אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר אָמָר

23. GEZZEL THEFT: גזל
24. Shelo la'Asok ba'Torah Shel Yisrael No to study non-relevant parts of the Torah. אסוק בתורה אסוק בתורה אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק
25. HADINIM LEYISHUVO SHEL OLOM * ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF JUSTICE: אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק
26. Velo Yishbosu No to observe the Sabbath אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק
27. EIVER MIN HACHAY EATING ALL OR PART OF A LIVING CREATURE: אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק
28. Dam Min ha'Chay Blood of a living creature אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק
29. Nevelah Eating an animal that died (without slaughter). אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק
30. Basar Hames Human flesh. אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק אסוק