

**Rabbi Kacev**

**for the 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2008**

**PARSHAT LECH LECHA  
BUILDING WHAT REALLY MATTERS**

The Talmud (Avodah Zara 9a) teaches that the history of the world is divided into three epochs. The first 2000 years were a time of void and emptiness. The next 2000 years were years of Torah, while the final 2000 years are year of a messianic process. When did the second 2000 year period begin? The Talmud quotes the verse (Breached 12:5) "...And Avram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew and all their possessions and all of the souls that they made in Charan and left ..."

What does it mean to make a soul, asks the midrash? Giving the answer that Avram and Sarai taught them the fear of Heaven and whoever teaches someone it is treated as if they made them.

The world was purposefully created in an incomplete manner so that man would be tasked to continually develop the potential it held. The first 2000 years described in Breishit and Noach were filled with activity. It was filled with the making of weapons and tools and the building of cities and towers. A noisy factory was being built with no soul. Drawn in by this external advancement, no one could pierce the bubble of superficiality. It is such a world that is referred to as void and empty. Avraham began to build a different type of world. He chose to become a nomad, leaving city life, leaving the superficial context in which he had grown up. He began a building of another type of world, building people, relationships, connection beyond the veil. He introduced the world to G-d. He was on a journey and he began taking people on the journey with him and thus our Sages saw the world beginning a new epoch, a new journey, 2000 years of Torah.

Thus our Sages state that with Avraham began matan Torah, the giving of the Torah. The message to the world *was* that one has to connect beyond the external world in order to build people and a caring reality.

Shabbat Shalom

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