



Student Dvar Torah - Parashat Bereishit

By Jacob Mosseri – Grade 8

At the end of this week's Parasha before discussing the sending of the flood, the Pasuk tells us (6:5): "Hashem saw that man did much evil in the land and all the thoughts of his heart were evil the entire day." Sforno explains that "man did much evil" refers to the past, and "the thoughts of his heart are evil" refers to future. They would not listen to anyone who would try to correct them and therefore there was no hope that they would do teshuvah. Regardless of how many faults a person has, if he accepts criticism there is hope that he will improve. The best thing is to love criticism. A person with this quality will be grateful to anyone who shows him ways to improve. As Rabbi Noach Weinberg says "Everyone is grateful to someone who tells him that in his carelessness he dropped his wallet with a large sum of money. That should be our attitude towards constructive criticism. What is constructive criticism? Constructive criticism is the process of offering valid and well-reasoned opinions about the work of others. Even if someone does not appreciate criticism, but he is willing to improve himself when he is corrected, he will eventually become a better person. But there is no hope for someone who refuses to listen to those who try to correct him.