

Get Out of the Ark!

Letters and Numbers of Torah – Noach

By Rabbi Aaron L. Raskin

Chabad of Brooklyn Heights

The word **הִצַּא** *hay-itzei* is a “*kri-and-a-ksiv*,” a word that is pronounced (*kri*) one way, but written (*ksiv*) in the Torah scroll a different way.

These two ways of reading the word also imply different shades of meaning.

Rashi explains that the *kri* in Genesis 8:17, *ha-yitzei*, implies, “*Order* them (all the animals) that they should go out.” However, the *ksiv* of this word, **הוּצַא** *ho-tzei*, implies, “If they don’t want to go out, take them out *by force*.”