

Noah And His Family Were Saved From the Flood



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Overview

NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WERE SAVED FROM THE FLOOD

Noah's story is told in Genesis 5:29-10:32. He is also mentioned in 1 Chron. 1:3-4; Isaiah 54:9; Ezekiel 14:14, 20; Matthew 24:37-38; Luke 3:36; Luke 17:26-27; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5.

The story of Noah's life involves not one, but two great and tragic floods. The world in Noah's day was flooded with evil.

The number of those who remembered the God of creation, perfection, and love had dwindled to one. Of God's people, only Noah was left.

God's response to the severe situation was a 120-year-long last chance, during which he had Noah build a graphic illustration of the message of his life.

Nothing like a huge boat on dry land to make a point! For Noah, obedience meant a long-term commitment to a project.

Noah was the son of Lamech

Genesis 5:28-29

And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: and he called his name Noah, saying, this same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed.

Noah builds an ark (ship) and saves his family from the great flood

Genesis 6:14-22

"Make a boat from resinous wood and seal it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. Make it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

Construct an opening all the way around the boat, 18 inches below the roof. Then put three decks inside the boat—bottom, middle, and upper—and put a door in the side.

"Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing. Everything on earth will die!

But I solemnly swear to keep you safe in the boat, with your wife and your sons and their wives.

Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood.

Pairs of each kind of bird and each kind of animal, large and small alike, will come to you to be kept alive. And remember, take enough food for your family and for all the animals."

So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

Noah, and His Family and the Living Creatures, Enter the Ark, and the Flood Begins

Genesis 7:1-12

The call to Noah is very kind, like that of a tender father to his children to come indoors when he sees night or a storm coming.

Noah did not go into the ark until God bade him, though he knew it was to be his place of refuge.

It is very comfortable to see God going before us in every step we take. Noah had taken a great deal of pains to build the ark, and now he was himself kept alive in it. What we do in obedience to the command of God, and in faith, we ourselves shall certainly have the comfort of, first or last.

This call to Noah reminds us of the call the gospel gives to poor sinners.

Christ is an ark, in whom alone we can be safe, when death and judgment approach. The word says, "Come;" ministers say, "Come;" the Spirit says, "Come, come into the Ark." Noah was accounted righteous, not for his own righteousness, but as an heir of the righteousness which is by faith, Hebrews 11:7.

He believed the revelation of a saviour, and sought and expected salvation through Him alone. Thus was he justified by faith, and received that Spirit whose fruit is in all goodness; but if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

After the hundred and twenty years, God granted seven days' longer space for repentance. But these seven days were trifled away, like all the rest. It shall be but seven days. They had only one week more, one Sabbath more to improve, and to consider the things that belonged to their peace.

But it is common for those who have been careless of their souls during the years of their health, when they have looked upon death at a distance, to be as careless during the days, the few days of their sickness, when they see death approaching; their hearts being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

As Noah prepared the ark by faith in the warning given that the flood would come, so he went into it, by faith in this warning that it would come quickly. And on the day Noah was securely fixed in the ark, the fountains of the great deep were broken up.

The earth had within it those waters, which, at God's command, sprang up and flooded it; and thus our bodies have in themselves those humours, which, when God pleases, become the seeds and springs of mortal diseases.

The windows of heaven were opened, and the waters which were above the firmament, that is, in the air, were poured out upon the earth.

The rain comes down in drops; but such rains fell then, as were never known before or since. It rained without stop or abatement, forty days and forty nights, upon the whole earth at once.

As there was a peculiar exercise of the almighty power of God in causing the flood, it is vain and presumptuous to attempt explaining the method of it, by human wisdom.

Noah was shut in the Ark

Genesis 7:13-16

The ravenous creatures were made mild and manageable; yet, when this occasion was over, they were of the same kind as before; for the ark did not alter their natures.

God continued his care of Noah. God shut the door, to secure him and keep him safe in the ark; also to keep all others for ever out. In what manner this was done, God has not been pleased to make known.

Observe then, it is our great duty, in obedience to the gospel call, by a lively faith in Christ, to come into that way of salvation which God has provided for poor sinners.

Those that come into the ark, should bring as many as they can with them, by good instructions, by persuasions, and by good examples. There is room enough in Christ for all who come.

God put Adam into paradise, but did not shut him in, so he threw himself out; but when God put Noah into the ark, and so when he brings a soul to Christ, the salvation is sure: it is not in our own keeping, but in the Mediator's hand.

But the door of mercy will become shut against those that now make light of it. Knock now, and it shall be opened, Luke 13:25.

The Increase of the Flood for Forty Days

Genesis 7:17-20

The flood was increasing forty days. The waters rose so high so that the tops of the highest mountains were overflowed more than twenty feet.

There is no place on earth so high as to set men out of the reach of God's judgments. God's hand will find out all his enemies, Ps 21:8.

When the flood thus increased, Noah's ark was lifted up, and the waters which broke down everything else, bore up the ark. That which to unbelievers betokens death unto death, to the faithful betokens life unto life.

All Flesh Is Destroyed by the Flood

Genesis 7:21-24

All the men, women, and children, that were in the world, excepting those in the ark, died. They were deaf and blind to all Divine warnings. In this posture death surprised them. They were convinced of their folly when it was too late. We may suppose they tried all ways and means possible to save themselves, but all in vain. And those that are not found in Christ, the Ark, are certainly undone, undone forever.

God Remembers Noah, and Dries Up the Waters

Genesis 8:1-3

The whole race of mankind, except Noah and his family, were now dead, so that God's remembering Noah, was the return of his mercy to mankind, of whom he would not make a full end.

The demands of Divine justice had been answered by the ruin of sinners. God sent his wind to dry the earth, and seal up his waters. The same hand that brings the desolation, must bring the deliverance; to that hand, therefore, we must ever look.

When afflictions have done the work for which they are sent, whether killing work or curing work, they will be taken away.

As the earth was not drowned in a day, so it was not dried in a day. God usually works deliverance for his people gradually, that the day of small things may not be despised, nor the day of great things despaired of.

The Ark Rests on Ararat, Noah Sends Forth a Raven and a Dove

Genesis 8:4-12

The ark rested upon a mountain, whither it was directed by the wise and gracious providence of God that might rest the sooner.

God had told Noah when the flood would come, yet he did not give him an account by revelation, at what times and by what steps it should go away.

The knowledge of the former was necessary to his preparing the ark; but the knowledge of the latter would serve only to gratify curiosity; and concealing it from him would exercise his faith and patience.

Noah sent forth a raven from the ark, which went flying about, and feeding on the carcasses that floated. Noah then sent forth a dove, which returned the first time without good news; but the second time, she brought an olive leaf in her bill, plucked off, plainly showing that trees, fruit trees, began to appear above water.

Noah sent forth the dove the second time, seven days after the first, and the third time was after seven days also

The dove is an emblem of a gracious soul, that, finding no solid peace of satisfaction in this deluged, defiling world, returns to Christ as to its ark, as to its Noah, its rest. The defiling world, returns to Christ as to its ark, as to its Noah, its rest.

And as Noah put forth his hand, and took the dove, and pulled her to him, into the ark, so Christ will save, and help, and welcome those that flee to him for rest.

Noah Being Commanded, Goes Out of the Ark

Genesis 8:13-19

God consults our benefit, rather than our desires; he knows what is good for us better than we do for ourselves, and how long it is fit our restraints should continue, and desired mercies should be delayed.

As Noah had a command to go into the ark, so, how tedious so sever his confinement there was, he would wait for a command to go out of it again. We must in all our ways acknowledge God, and set him before us in all our removals.

Noah Offers Sacrifice, God Promises to Curse the Earth No More

Genesis 8:20-22

Noah was now gone out into a desolate world, where, one might have thought, his first care would have been to build a house for himself, but he begins with an altar for God. He begins well, that begins with God.

Though Noah's stock of cattle was small, and that saved at great care and pains, yet he did not grudge to serve God out of it.

Serving God with our little is the way to make it more; we must never think that is wasted with which God is honoured.

The first thing done in the new world was an act of worship. We are now to express our thankfulness, not by burnt-offerings, but by praise, and pious devotions and conversation.

The flood washed away the race of wicked men, but it did not remove sin from man's nature, who being conceived and born in sin, thinks, devises, and loves wickedness, even from his youth, and that as much since the flood as before.

But God graciously declared he never would drown the world again. While the earth remains, and man upon it, there shall be summer and winter.

But as long as it does remain, God's providence will cause the course of times and seasons to go on, and makes each to know its place. And on this word we depend, that thus it shall be.

People were living as though God did not see their activities.

Luke 17:27

In those days before the flood, the people enjoyed banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat and the flood came to destroy them all.

By building the ark, Noah saves his family

Hebrews 11:7

It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before. By his faith he condemned the rest of the world and was made right in God's sight.

Only eight people were saved from drowning.

1 Peter 3:20

Those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.

God Blesses Noah, and Grants Flesh for Food

Genesis 9:1-3

The blessing of God is the cause of our doing well. On him we depend, to him we should be thankful. Let us not forget the advantage and pleasure we have from the labour of beasts, and which their flesh affords.

This grant of the animals for food fully warrants the use of them, but not the abuse of them by gluttony, still less by cruelty. We ought not to pain them needlessly whilst they live, nor when we take away their lives.

Blood, and Murder Forbidden

Genesis 9:4-7

The main reason of forbidding the eating of blood, doubtless was because the shedding of blood in sacrifices was to keep the worshippers in mind of the great atonement.

Man must not take away his own life. Our lives are God's, and we must only give them up when he pleases.

If we in any way hasten our own death, we are accountable to God for it.

When God requires the life of a man from him that took it away unjustly, the murderer cannot render that, and therefore must render his own instead.

God's Covenant by the Rainbow

Genesis 9:8-17

As the old world was ruined, to be a monument of justice, so this world remains to this day a monument of mercy.

The rainbow appears when we have most reason to fear the rain prevailing; God then shows this seal of the promise that it shall not prevail.

The thicker the cloud, the brighter the bow in the cloud. Thus, as threatening afflictions abound, encouraging consolations much more abound.

The rainbow is the reflection of the beams of the sun shining upon or through the drops of rain: all the glory of the seals of the covenant are derived from Christ, the Sun of righteousness.

Noah Plants a Vineyard, Is Drunken and Mocked by Ham

Genesis 9:18-23

The drunkenness of Noah is recorded in the Bible, with that fairness which is found only in the Scripture, as a case and proof of human weakness and imperfection, even though he may have been surprised into the sin; and to show that the best of men cannot stand upright, unless they depend upon Divine grace, and are upheld thereby.

Ham appears to have been a bad man, and probably rejoiced to find his father in an unbecoming situation.

It was said of Noah, that he was perfect in his generations, Gen 6:9; but this is meant of sincerity, not of a sinless perfection.

Noah Curses Canaan, Blesses Shem, Prays for Japheth, His Death

Genesis 9:24-29

Noah declares a curse on Canaan, the son of Ham; perhaps this grandson of his was guiltier than the rest. A servant of servants, that is, the meanest and most despicable servant, shall he be, even to his brethren.

This certainly points at the victories in after-times obtained by Israel over the Canaanites, by which they were put to the sword, or brought to pay tribute. The whole continent of Africa was Noah also blesses Japheth, and, in him, the isles of the gentiles that were peopled by his seed. It speaks of the conversion of the gentiles, and the bringing of them into the church.

We may read it, "God shall persuade Japheth, and being persuaded, he shall dwell in the tents of Shem." Jews and gentiles shall be united together in the gospel fold; both shall be one in Christ.

Noah lived to see two worlds; but being an heir of the righteousness which is by faith, he now rests in hope, waiting to see a better than either.

Lessons from Noah's life:

We are not told how far from the Garden of Eden people had settled

Occupation: Farmer, shipbuilder, preacher

Relatives: Grandfather: Methuselah. Father: Lamech. Sons: Ham, Shem, and Japheth

Key verse:

"Noah did everything just as God commanded him" (Genesis 6:22).

Life Application

Many of us have trouble sticking to any project, whether or not it is directed by God. It is interesting that the length of Noah's obedience was greater than the lifespan of people today. The only comparable long-term project is our very lives. But perhaps this is one great challenge Noah's life gives us—to live, in acceptance of God's grace, an entire lifetime of obedience and gratitude.

God is faithful to those who obey him. God does not always protect us from trouble, but cares for us in spite of trouble. Obedience is a long-term commitment. A man may be faithful, but his sinful nature always travels with him.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Holy Bible: Living Bible Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*.

Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print