

Lessons from Noah and the Ark

Dec 10, 2017

Outline of Noah's life (Gen 6:1 – 10:32)

Preparation for the flood

God is grieved at the condition of people (6:1-7, 11-12).
Noah finds grace (6:8-10); and God instructs Noah about building the Ark (6:13-22).

Protection and destruction (7:1-24)

Noah and his family occupy the Ark and are safe (7:1-9, 13-16).
All life outside the Ark perish (7:10-12, 17-24).

Provision after the flood (8:1 – 10:32)

The storm passes, waters recede, Ark rests and the earth becomes dry (8:1-14).
The covenant with Noah [all] and the sign of the covenant (8:15 – 9:17).

Life after the flood (9:18 – 10:32)

Noah's shame (9:18-29).
Noah's descendants (10:1-32).

Background:

Noah

Noah lived at a time when the whole earth was filled with violence and corruption. Yet Noah did not allow the evil standards of his day to rob him of his walk with God.

Noah's name means: "rest" or "comfort" (Gen 5:28-29).

Lamech became the father of a son, he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands arising from the ground which the Lord has cursed."

Noah's life brought a rest to the earth from the curse of sin which would have destroyed humanity

The story of Noah is one amazing miracle.

Noah did his part. He built a boat in faith.
God did his part. He sent Noah, his family, with the animals into the ark, then He shut the door.

A miracle is "an event that appears to be contrary to the laws of nature – an act of God.

The animals arrived two by two; Noah would bring them into the ark
7 pairs of clean animals; 1 pair of unclean animals; 7 pairs of birds of the sky.

There's no rudder on the ark - God directed the ark where it needed to go.

Noah preached for decades that a flood was coming.

But people would not believe him. There were no visible signs that an earthquake would strike Haiti, but it did. We are not going to get an email from Jesus saying He's coming back in a week or a day.

Jesus believed in Noah (Mt 24:36-42)

The parables found in Mt 25, Mk 13 & Lk 21 all say the same thing, "BE READY!"

The Bible on Noah

Noah is a man of faith.

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

The return of Jesus will be like the days of Noah.

Mt 24:37-39 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Lk 17:26-27; Jude 17-18; 2Pt 2:4-5; 3:3-7)

Someday, God will destroy the world with fire, but He will give us an ark (Jesus).

2Pt 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

Noah is a type of Christ, and a picture of baptism.

1Pt 3:18-21 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (2Pt 2:4-5)

Noah is a picture of the new covenant.

Isa 54:9-10 "For this is like the days of Noah to Me, When I swore that the waters of Noah would not flood the earth again; So, I have sworn that I will not be angry with you nor will I rebuke you. 10 "For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken," says the Lord who has compassion on you.

A righteous person can only save themselves and no one else.

Ezk 14:20 even though Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, as I live," declares the Lord GOD, "they could not deliver either their son or their daughter. They would deliver only themselves by their righteousness." (Ezk 14:13-14)

The faith of Noah

Faith enables us to walk with God and be a worshiper.

Noah was righteous, he walked with God (Gen 6:9).

Noah first worships, (through blood sacrifice) when he comes out of the Ark (Gen 8:20-22).

Faith hears what God says and obeys.

Noah did all that God commanded him (Gen 6:22, 7:5).

Faith leads to obedience (Rom. 1:5; 15:18; 16:26)

Noah's faith leads to salvation in judgment.

Noah saved his family and animals from the flood (Gen 7:7-9)

Noah would bring his family on the ark (His wife, 3 sons and their wives.)

The result of Noah's faith

His household was saved (Heb 11:7; Gen 7:1; Ac 11:14; 16:31).

He was counted righteous (Rom 1:17; 3:22; 4:11, 13; 9:30; 10:6; Gal 5:5; Phil 3:9).

He became an heir of righteousness (Rom 4:13; Gal 4:1, 7, 30; 1Pt 3:7).

Faith leads to the fear of God:

2Cor 7:1 we perfect holiness in the fear of God

Pro 8:13 the fear the Lord is to hate evil

Pro 16:6 the fear of the Lord keeps you away from evil

Ps 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

Pro 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;

Pro 8:13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil;

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
Pro 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongs life,
Pro 14:26 In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.
Pro 14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, That one may avoid the snares of death.
Pro 16:6 And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.
Pro 19:23 The fear of the LORD leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.
Pro 22:4 The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life.

Noah's character

Noah was righteous (Gen 6:9).

Noah was "right with God because he took God at His word!" He built the boat. Motivated by "holy fear" or reverence – he built this humongous vessel where no water would ever touch it. Makes no sense but sometimes God doesn't make sense. He simply wants us to trust him.

Noah's righteousness

He walked with God (Gen 6:9; Ezk 14:14, 20).

Genesis tells us that 4 people walked with God; Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Isaac.

What does it mean to walk with God?

You walk with God when you believe that He exists! Since He exist – you try to do what He says, trusting that He'll keep His promises as you seek Him.

Noah was blameless (Gen 6:8-9).

He wasn't perfect, He was subject to human frailty (Gen 9:20-22)

Nakedness was seen as shameful by OT writers.

Noah was a worshipper (Gen 6:20)

The first thing he does when exiting the ark is builds an altar and offer sacrifices to God.

Noah "found favor" with God (Gen 6:8).

There was nothing special about Noah, he was saved because he believed God.

Noah preached God's righteousness to his generation (2Pt 2:5).

Noah was a just and righteous man who walked with God in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

There are some important lessons we can learn from Noah

Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten:

Everything I Need to Know I Learned from Noah:

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark

For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Stay fit. When you're old, God may ask you to do something big

Don't listen to critics; just do the job that needs to be done

Keep perspective - the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals

Don't miss the boat. Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Build your future on high ground.

Speed isn't everything, the snails were on board with the cheetahs.

When you're stressed, float awhile.

No matter what the storm, when you are with God there's always a rainbow waiting.

Noah teaches us:

1. We are encouraged by Noah **to live a godly life in an ungodly world.**

Don't give in to the spiritually careless attitude of the world.

2. **Work hard.**

God told Noah to build an ark (438 ft. long x 73 ft. wide x 44 ft. high). That's two-thirds the length of a football field and as high as a three-story house. It had three decks, a window and a roof.

The ark had to be built to God's specific details without power tools and pre-cut, treated lumber. It would have been about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Not until the late 19th century was another ship built anywhere near this size. The ark had a ratio (length × width × height) of 30 × 5 × 3. According to modern shipbuilders, this ratio represents an advanced knowledge of shipbuilding since it is the optimum design for stability in rough seas. The ark, as designed by God, was virtually impossible to capsize—to do so, it would have to be tilted over 90 degrees. With the shorter cubit the ark would have an internal volume of 1,518,750 cubic feet, or the equivalent of 569 standard railroad boxcars. If the average sized animal was the size of a sheep, it means the ark could hold over 125,000 sheep. (Assuming the shape of the ark to be rectangular there would have been over 100,000 sq. ft. of floor space!) [from Manners and Customs of the Bible]

3. **Don't give up.**

For over 100 years Noah labored, not quitting, not getting discouraged and only 8 people were saved. The Bible tells us the God spoke to Noah at the beginning of this project and doesn't speak to him again for nearly 100 years. Nowhere does the Bible say God gave Noah a monthly pep talk. "Keep up the work Noah. You're doing great. Ignore those making fun of you! Just 60 more years. Just 30 more years. Just 5 more years!" Don't you think after a while Noah started wondering – "Did I hear God right or not?" BUT to his credit he kept going until he built what would have to be considered one incredible boat.

4. **How to respond to your critics.**

During this time Noah was mocked, ridiculed, called crazy and insane, etc. (it had never rained). There must have been times when Noah say's to himself – "This is crazy, the sky is hot the ground is dry. Boats have no business being built in the desert. But God said it – so I'm going to do it."

5. **We inherit God's promises through faith and patience (Heb 6:12).**

Noah and his family entered the ark, with all the animals - God closed the door (Gen 7:16).

God made them wait on the ark for 7 days before the rain came (Gen 7:10).

The storm and rain came, the water rose for 40 days (Gen 7:12).

The high water lasted on the earth 150 days, or 5 months (Gen 7:24).

The waters gradually receded (Gen 8:1-19).

The ark rested upon mountains of Ararat on the 17th day of the 7th month (Gen 8:4)

The mountains became visible on the 10th month, 1st day (Gen 8:5).

The earth was dry on the 27th day of the 2nd month (Gen 8:13).

Then God called Noah and his family out of the ark (Gen 8:15-17).

5. **Keep on working** for God, it will pay off in the end.

Worldwide Flood, Worldwide Evidence

<https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/global/worldwide-flood-evidence>

From Science Confirms the Bible, by Ken Ham

Evidence 1: Fossils of sea creatures high above sea level due to the ocean waters having flooded over the continents

We find fossils of sea creatures in rock layers that cover all the continents. For example, most of the rock layers in the walls of Grand Canyon (more than a mile above sea level) contain marine fossils. Fossilized shellfish are even found in the Himalayas.

Focus in: [High & Dry Sea Creatures](#)

Evidence 2: Rapid burial of plants and animals

We find extensive fossil "graveyards" and exquisitely preserved fossils. For example, billions of nautiloid fossils are found in a layer within the Redwall Limestone of Grand Canyon. This layer was deposited catastrophically by a massive flow of sediment (mostly lime sand). The chalk and coal beds of Europe and the United States, and the fish, ichthyosaurs, insects, and other fossils all around the world, testify of catastrophic destruction and burial.

Focus in: [The World's a Graveyard](#)

Evidence 3: Rapidly deposited sediment layers spread across vast areas

We find rock layers that can be traced all the way across continents—even between continents—and physical features in those strata indicate they were deposited rapidly. For example, the Tapeats Sandstone and Redwall Limestone of Grand Canyon can be traced across the entire United States, up into Canada, and even across the Atlantic Ocean to England. The chalk beds of England (the white cliffs of Dover) can be traced across Europe into the Middle East and are also found in the Midwest of the United States and in Western Australia. Inclined (sloping) layers within the Coconino Sandstone of Grand Canyon are testimony to 10,000 cubic miles of sand being deposited by huge water currents within days.

Focus in: [Sand Transported Cross Country](#)

Evidence 4: Sediment transported long distances

We find that the sediments in those widespread, rapidly deposited rock layers had to be eroded from distant sources and carried long distances by fast-moving water. For example, the sand for the Coconino Sandstone of Grand Canyon (Arizona) had to be eroded and transported from the northern portion of what is now the United States and Canada. Furthermore, water current indicators (such as ripple marks) preserved in rock layers show that for “300 million years” water currents were consistently flowing from northeast to southwest across all of North and South America, which, of course, is only possible over weeks during a global Flood.

Focus in: [Sand Transported Cross Country](#)

Evidence 5: Rapid or no erosion between strata

We find evidence of rapid erosion, or even of no erosion, between rock layers. Flat, knife-edge boundaries between rock layers indicate continuous deposition of one layer after another, with no time for erosion. For example, there is no evidence of any “missing” millions of years (of erosion) in the flat boundary between two well-known layers of Grand Canyon—the Coconino Sandstone and the Hermit Formation. Another impressive example of flat boundaries at Grand Canyon is the Redwall Limestone and the strata beneath it.

Focus in: [No Slow and Gradual Erosion](#)

Evidence 6: Many strata laid down in rapid succession

Rocks do not normally bend; they break because they are hard and brittle. But in many places we find whole sequences of strata that were bent without fracturing, indicating that all the rock layers were rapidly deposited and folded while still wet and pliable before final hardening. For example, the Tapeats Sandstone in Grand Canyon is folded at a right angle (90°) without evidence of breaking. Yet this folding could only have occurred after the rest of the layers had been deposited, supposedly over “480 million years,” while the Tapeats Sandstone remained wet and pliable.

Focus in: [Rock Layers Folded, Not Fractured](#)

What now?

The Bible’s history is reliable throughout—from the creation of man from the dust of the ground to the worldwide Flood to the coming of Jesus Christ. But just reading the evidence isn’t enough. The message of salvation founded in the Bible’s history is also true, and, God wants us to accept the gift of salvation He freely offers us.

Baker encyclopedia of the Bible

Patriarchal Altars. The Bible refers to several altars built by the patriarchs. Noah offered burnt offerings (Gn 8:20). Abraham built an altar at Shechem (Gn 12:7), another at Bethel (Gn 12:8), and one on Mt Moriah (Gn 22:9). Isaac built an altar at Beersheba (Gn 26:25), and Jacob at Shechem (Gn 33:20) and Bethel (Gn 35:7). Moses built one at Rephidim (Ex 17:15) and another at Horeb (Ex 24:4). In each case the altar was erected to commemorate an event in which God had helped the offerer.