



The Beginning

Lesson 5: The Flood

(Genesis 6:1-8:22)

In Genesis 5:29-32, the Bible introduced us to a man named Noah. This man descended from Seth after Cain killed Abel. And, Noah had three sons. These sons were named Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Sin continued to spread more and more on the earth. At this time, “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” (Genesis 6:5). This great wickedness made God very sad and He was sorry that He had even made man on the earth.

So, God said that He would destroy mankind from the earth even though He had created them. In destroying mankind, He would also destroy the animals, creeping things, and birds of the air.

Yet, even when there was great wickedness on the earth, there was one man and his family who were still listening to God. The Bible says that Noah “walked with God.” He and his family were living in a way that pleased God. So, Noah found favor in God’s sight and God would save them from the destruction.

God told Noah to make an ark of gopherwood in order to be saved from the flood He was going to bring on the earth. God told Noah to make this ark with rooms inside and cover it inside and outside with pitch. It was to be 300 cubits long (about 450 feet), 50 cubits wide (about 75 feet), and 30 cubits high (about 45 feet). There was to be a window and a door in the ark, positioned according to God’s instructions. And, it was to have three levels (floors) inside it.

God made an agreement with Noah that He would save Noah and His family from the destruction by this ark. There were eight people in total: Noah, Noah’s wife, Noah’s three sons, and his sons’ wives. Then, Noah was commanded to take animals into the ark so that they could survive the flood. Noah was told to take seven of every

clean animal, male and female. Two animals were to be taken of the unclean animals, male and female. And, seven of each of the birds were to be taken, male and female. “Clean” animals were animals that would be used in sacrifices. “Unclean” animals were not used in sacrifices. This would keep all the species alive. These animals went into the ark two by two.

Noah obeyed everything that God told him to do. Noah was 600 years old whenever he went into the ark, and God shut all of these inside the ark. Then, God caused it to rain on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. The waters rose so high on the earth that it was higher than the tallest mountain. And, the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. All that was living on the dry land died. Only those that were in the ark survived. And, the waters remained at this very high level on the earth for 150 days.

But, God never forgot about Noah and his family. God caused a wind to pass over the earth and the waters started to recede. The ark rested on the mountains of Ararat. After 40 more days, Noah opened the window of the ark and released a raven. The raven flew here and there until the waters dried up. Then, Noah sent out a dove to see if the waters had receded. But, the dove did not find any place to land, so she returned to Noah in the ark. Then, after seven more days, Noah sent out the dove out again. This time, the dove returned with an olive leaf in her mouth. Now, Noah knew that the waters had receded. Finally, after seven more days, Noah sent out the dove again, and she did not return.

When Noah was 601 years old, he removed the covering of the ark and saw that the waters were dried up on the earth. Then, God told Noah and his family to go out of the ark and to bring all the animals with them. They were to be fruitful and multiply to fill the earth again. And, Noah built an altar to God and sacrificed one of every clean animal and bird on it. The Lord smelled this sacrificed and it pleased Him. So, God promised never to destroy every living thing on the earth again in this same way.

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Study Questions:

- 1) Why did God decide to destroy everything that was alive on the earth?

- 2) How many people did God save?

- 3) Why did God save these people?

- 4) How many of the animals did God save?

- 5) Why did God save these animals?

- 6) How was Noah commanded to make the ark?

- 7) How long did it rain on the earth?

- 8) How long did the water remain before it started to recede?

Memory Verse:

“And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him.” (Genesis 7:5).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: