

# Lessons From The Story Of Noah



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

# Lessons From The Story Of Noah

Learn some lessons about how God responds to righteousness and wickedness, how it is possible to live right whenever most are living wrong, true faith, success in preaching, and the results of trusting and obeying God from the story of Noah

**Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ [www.godsaidso.com/dgw86](http://www.godsaidso.com/dgw86)**

## Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW86

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

**Copyright:** Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

**Scripture quotations:** Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

**FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES @  
[WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM](http://WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM)**

# Lessons From The Story Of Noah

Noah is one of the most identifiable people in all of the Bible. Most people are familiar with his story about how God became so angry with the wickedness that had filled the world at the time that God determined He would destroy everyone who was living on the earth. That is, everyone except Noah and Noah's family (as Noah found favor in God's sight).

The way in which God would destroy the world was through a flood that would cover the entire world at the time. However, God would use an ark that would be constructed from gopherwood to save Noah, Noah's family, and the animals taken onboard the ark. Then, after God caused the flood waters to recede, after the ark came to a rest (in the mountains of Ararat), and after Noah built an altar to the Lord, God put a rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the promise that God would never again destroy the entire world with a flood.

While this story of Noah is widely known, we must recognize that these events are *not* make believe. The things we can read about in Genesis 6-9 actually happened. And, as a true story about events that unfolded and concerned real people, we need to be diligent to make applications of this story. In fact, as we will see in this study, even Jesus and New Testament writers would make reference to the story of Noah and draw some lessons from it. Yes, we can

all certainly learn some much-needed lessons from the story of Noah.

Romans 15:4 says that the things "written before were written for our learning." Therefore, one of the reasons God included the story of Noah in the pages of the Scriptures is so that we would learn lessons from it that will help us live in a way that He approves. During this lesson, we want to focus on a number of lessons we need to learn from the story of Noah (though I am sure we will not identify every lesson we can learn from this story).

## ***God Rewards Righteousness And Punishes Wickedness***

---

As you read the story of Noah, not only should you learn lessons about Noah, but you should also learn lessons about God and His view of the things mankind does while he lives on this earth. And, as you consider how God viewed the people of the world during the days of Noah, you should recognize that God rewards righteousness and punishes wickedness.

### **God destroyed the wicked from the earth**

Consider the things said about the wicked condition of mankind on the earth at the time Noah was living. Genesis 6:5-7 says, "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. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.'" Then, verses 11 and 12 say, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth."

While I cannot say how populated the earth was at that particular time, these passages indicate the extreme degree of wickedness that was upon the earth. Wickedness had been increasing on the earth

ever since the time Adam and Eve sinned and were separated from living in the Garden of Eden. Now, it had reached a point at which God recognized evil as having completely filled the earth. Not only were the actions of man wicked; but, “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Violence and corruption had filled the world.

Now, how would our God (who is entirely separated from all the ways of evil) respond to this wickedness? First, recognize that God “saw” the wickedness that was being done – even the wicked thoughts and intents of man’s heart. Nothing was concealed from God’s all-seeing eyes. Similarly, Proverbs 15:3 expresses it this way: “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.” Therefore, just as God was able to see the wickedness of the people who were living during the time of Noah, God sees everything about your life – the evil and the good. He is able to know every thought you think, every word you say, and every deed you do. Hebrews 4:13 says that everything is “naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

Second, man’s wickedness caused God sorrow and grief. Yes, mankind can act in a way that causes the Almighty God to experience sorrow and grief. Remember, God created mankind in His own image so that he would glorify God during his time on this earth (see Isaiah 43:7 and Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). But, whenever man sins and falls short of accomplishing the purpose of glorifying God (Romans 3:23), God grieves. Then, whenever man repents, there is rejoicing in Heaven (Luke 15:7, 10). On this occasion, the wickedness of mankind had caused God to be sorry that He had even created mankind.

Third, man’s wickedness caused God to destroy mankind from the face of the earth. Because of the wickedness that was in the world, God determined, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them” (Genesis 6:7). Thus, He told Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth” (Genesis

6:13). Sin always results in experiencing the vengeance of God (if the sin is not corrected). Similarly, those who die in their sins will experience the same wrath of God that He demonstrated in the story of Noah (see 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) and He will destroy the world by fire some day (2 Peter 3:10).

## **Noah found favor in God’s sight**

Although the story of Noah clearly indicates the severity of God toward those who sin against Him, the story of Noah also demonstrates the goodness of God toward those who live favorably in His sight. For instance, even though God saw all the wickedness of mankind on the earth, He also saw the righteousness of Noah. After describing the wicked condition of the world, Genesis 6:8 says, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Genesis 6:9 describes Noah as being a “just man, perfect in his generations” and has having “walked with God.” Genesis 7:1 says that Noah and his household were “righteous” before God in that generation.

To be “just” is to live according to the standard of law that has been revealed. In Noah’s case, he was living according to whatever law God had revealed to him. He was blameless in the time he lived on the earth. No, he was not a sinless man (as we can see with his drunkenness in chapter 9). However, as a whole, Noah’s life demonstrated his commitment to following the ways of God. Noah was dedicated to walking with God (walking in fellowship with God by keeping His commandments).

Now, how would our holy God respond to a man who was living in this kind of a way? First, recognize that God is a righteous judge. As God saw how all mankind was living on this earth and saw the state of continual wickedness, perhaps God could have rushed to judgment and concluded that every single person was evil. However, God is not that kind of a judge. He is an impartial judge who looks upon the deeds of each individual – and rewards or punishes each person according to the things each one has done (see Romans 2:5-11). So, even though the overwhelming majority of people who were living on the earth at that time were wicked, God could see that Noah was living in a way He approves.

“Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Genesis 6:8). Likewise, God continues to see everything that people do and can see the good deeds of the righteous – even when the rest of the world is wicked! He will judge each person according to his/her deeds.

Second, recognize that God will save those who live in a way He approves. Yes, God will punish those who live in a way that He does *not* approve. But, He will save those who live according to His ways from that same vengeance. As God revealed His intentions to destroy the world by means of the flood, He also revealed to Noah the means He would use to save Noah and Noah’s household from the flood. Similarly, whenever Jesus Christ returns to show vengeance on those who have not obeyed the ways of God, He will save those who have lived according to His ways. Matthew 25:46 says, “And these [the wicked] will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

## ***It Is Possible To Live Right When Most People Are Living Wrong***

---

Noah was truly in the minority while He was living on this earth. During a time when the thoughts and intents of the hearts of men were continually evil on this earth, Noah committed himself to living in a way that was pleasing to God. Therefore, though the story of Noah, you can learn that it is possible to live in a way that is right with God - even when most people around you are living wrong.

### **Most did not live right**

Again, take some time to consider what kind of a world Noah was living in. The wickedness of mankind was so great that God actually was sorry He had created man. He was so sorry He had made man that He determined to destroy mankind from the face of the earth by sending a flood to cover the entire world. Mankind’s wickedness was so great that “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5).

Their focus was simply not on doing the will of God. Instead, their focus was on their own lusts and desires. They were focused on doing the things that were pleasing to themselves. They were carnally minded rather than spiritually minded. They were undoubtedly guilty of loving the world and the things in the world. 1 John 2:16 says that “all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of the life – is not of the Father but is of the world.”

Though there are not many specifics given in the Genesis text regarding what kinds of sins the people were involved in, one can speculate based on the information given throughout the Scriptures. For instance, Galatians 5:19-21 identifies the “works of the flesh.” These are the things that people who are focused on fulfilling their own desires have always been guilty of participating in. These works of the flesh are: “adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like.” Do you suppose that Noah encountered any of these same kinds of wickedness?

In Matthew 15:19, Jesus said, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” Now, recall that those who were living during the time of Noah were continually wicked in their hearts. Certainly, their wickedness did not remain quarantined to their hearts. But, just as Jesus said, the evil that was in their hearts manifested itself in the form of wicked deeds.

Today, there is still a great amount of wickedness that is present in the world. Just read Romans 1:18-32 (in addition to the passages that have already been identified) to see the various types of sin that exist in this world – and have existed for quite some time. Furthermore, 2 Timothy 3:1-7 identifies some types of sinful activity that would be present in the world during the “last days” (the final period of time before the return of Jesus Christ, the Christian Age/Dispensation).

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud,

blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

So, even though there seem to be a greater number of righteous people on earth today than the eight who were alive during the days of Noah and the flood, there is still a great amount of wickedness that is on this earth. And, just like we saw with regard to the wicked people of Noah’s time, the wickedness that is on the earth today also stems from the evil intents and thoughts of their hearts.

### **Noah found favor in the eyes of God**

While we are not specifically told what kinds of wickedness the people Noah was living around were involved in, we do know that they were not interested in the holy ways of God. Yet, even though Noah lived during a time when every other person on this earth was evil (with the exception of the seven other people in his family), Noah still dedicated himself to live in the way that was approved by God.

Now, I want you to just imagine the kind of pressure that would have been placed on Noah and Noah’s family to conform their lives to the wickedness of the world. Do you suppose Noah was ridiculed by the wicked people living around him? Do you suppose they joked about the way Noah was living? Do you suppose they treated him with contempt because the way he lived was a judgment against the ways they were living? Do you suppose they didn’t want to listen to him whenever he told them about their wickedness? Do you suppose that he and his family were ostracized from the community? Do you suppose that Noah’s children were laughed at and mocked by the children who were around them? Do you suppose that Noah and his family would have found it easier to conform their lives to the ways of the world around them than it was to walk with God?

We aren’t given any of this information. But, as we live around great wickedness today, the Scriptures teach us that we can expect this type of treatment from the world. And, this all happens because the world hates the ways of God. John 3:19-20 explains that the world (while it is focused on practicing the evil works of darkness) hates the light – because the light exposes their wickedness as being wicked. This is exactly why the world hated Jesus. And, it is the reason why the world will hate those who follow Jesus.

Consider John 15:18-21. “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.”

Yes, the Scriptures warn that the world will persecute, ridicule, and mistreat those who live according to the holy ways of God rather than living according to the wicked ways of the world (see Matthew 5:10-12, 2 Timothy 3:12, and 1 Peter 4:3-4). Yet, God expects His people to be living for Him despite how other people throughout the world are living. God expects His people (like Noah) to dare to be different from the world. He tells us, “do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2).

While it certainly will not be easy, Noah has demonstrated that it is possible to live right while everyone else around you is living wrong. Noah only had seven other people in his family who were also living right. Yet, he did not allow that to deter him from doing the right things he knew he should be doing. What about you? When you are the only Christian at work? When you are the only Christian in your class? When you are the only one standing for what is right in your family? When you are interacting with your neighbors and friends? Are you

willing to be bold enough to stand for what is right – even when no one else is standing beside of you?

## **Few were saved**

Ultimately, the overwhelming majority of people living during the time of Noah were living according to their own pleasures and desires. And, they were destroyed in the flood. Only Noah and his family who had dared to stand alone for the ways of God on this earth were saved from destruction.

Although this event transpired thousands of years ago, things have not changed that much. Listen to Jesus' words in Matthew 7:13-14. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

In fact, this principle is repeated time after time in the Holy Scriptures. God's people are always in the minority. Most people will choose to live for their own earthly pleasures and desires. However, although they experience some earthly joys during their lives on this earth, the pleasures of sin are only temporary (see Hebrews 11:24-26). When their earthly lives end, they will experience the vengeance of God and spend eternity in Hell fire. However, the few who were faithful to the Lord will be welcomed into eternal life in Heaven.

So, just as the temporary ways of the wicked did not pay off for the people in the days of Noah, the wickedness of people today will not pay off for them either. And, just as Noah's faithfulness in the midst of a wicked world resulted in salvation, those who are faithful to God in the midst of a wicked world today will be saved one day as well! It truly does pay to serve Jesus – even when you must serve Him alone!

## ***True Faith Acts In Obedience***

---

Take a moment to consider what God told Noah in Genesis 6:13-22. "And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the

earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.' Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did." As you study the story of Noah, you should learn that true faith acts in obedience.

## **Noah had full confidence in God**

What if you had been Noah and you heard these words? Do you suppose you would have doubted what God had just said? Do you suppose that you would have actually believed that God would send a flood to destroy all the people who were living on the earth? Do you suppose that you would have believed that God could and would save you by an ark that was made out of gopherwood?

Noah did. Noah had complete confidence in what God had promised. In fact, Noah is recommended to us as one of the great examples of faith in the Bible (see Hebrews 11:7). Now, certainly, he could not be recommended to us as a great example of faith if he had not actually believed that God would or could do as He had promised.

Instead, we can see a demonstration of the fact that Noah had complete confidence in God and

what God had said. Noah did not *just* mentally acknowledge the truth that God could and would send a flood to destroy the earth. He did not *just* mentally acknowledge the truth that God could and would save him and his family from that destruction by means of the ark. Instead, Noah demonstrated complete confidence in God by obeying God, thus demonstrating true faith.

## **Noah was moved with godly fear**

Before we consider the obedience of Noah to the things God had commanded him, consider what is said concerning Noah's motivation in Hebrews 11:7. "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

Noah possessed "godly fear." Certainly, as God revealed to Noah exactly what He would do, Noah recognized two things that are central to having a "godly fear." First, Noah had enough reverence for God that he knew God could do exactly what He had promised to do. Second, Noah feared being disobedient to God, knowing that he would also be subject to the punishment God would bring on the wicked if he was disobedient to God. Both of these elements worked to produce the obedience of Noah to the commandments of God.

Like Noah, God wants you to live your life in godly fear. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 identifies that the whole duty of mankind is to fear God and keep His commandments, in recognition of the Judgment God will bring on all the world some day. Then, Philippians 2:12 instructs that you "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

Again, like Noah, the proper fear of God involves two elements. First, it involves the proper degree of reverence for God (including the knowledge that God will do everything He has promised to do). Second, it involves fearing God for the vengeance He promises to exercise against those who do not obey Him (see Hebrews 10:30-31 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

## **Noah obeyed God in all things**

Finally, with his full confidence in God and being moved with godly fear, Noah was obedient to God in all things. Once again, Hebrews 11:7 says, "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

Think about it for a moment. Do you suppose that Noah would have been recommended as an example of faith if he would have believed God was going to destroy the world, but did not do anything to prepare for that destruction? Would he be an example of faith if he would have believed God would save him and his family if he built an ark, but did not actually build the ark? Absolutely not! That is not true faith.

True faith in God acts in obedience. Since Noah was truly convicted of the things God had revealed to him (even though they were things "not yet seen"), he "prepared an ark for the saving of his household." Noah recognized that God would do exactly as He had promised him. Therefore, he willfully submitted to the instructions God had given him to live by.

God expects the same from you in order for your faith to be acceptable to Him. God does *not* just want you to mentally acknowledge (accept as truth) the things He has revealed in the pages of His word. Instead, God wants you to put those truths He has revealed into action. So, when God tells you about the opportunity to be saved through Jesus Christ, He does not *just* want you to mentally accept that truth. He wants you to devote your life to that truth by obeying His commandments. For, James says that "a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" (James 2:24).



# ***Success In Preaching Is Not Measured By Numbers***

---

As you consider Noah and all the lessons you can learn from him, perhaps a lesson about preaching does not come easily to mind. However, the Scriptures clearly identify Noah as a preacher. 2 Peter 2:5 says that God “saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.” Then, as you think of Noah as being involved in the work of a preacher, you need to learn the lesson that success in preaching is not measured by numbers – as only seven other people were saved, despite the preaching work Noah accomplished.

## **God sent Noah to warn the wicked**

Consider the fact that Noah is identified as being a “preacher of righteousness.” That is, he was proclaiming the right ways of God to the people. Perhaps he was doing this by both telling individuals about the right ways of God and by demonstrating an example of righteous living to the people.

Though we are not given details regarding the work of Noah as a preacher of righteousness, we can know that God was using him to warn the wicked. Consider what is said in 1 Peter 3:19-20: “by whom [the Spirit] also He [Christ] went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.” Now, when were these people preached to? Was it after they had perished in the flood and while they were in “prison”? No. Instead, this passage only says that Christ preached to those who are now in “prison” through the Spirit. But, I believe we can properly conclude that they were preached to while they were living on this earth. After all, the time they were alive on the earth was the only time they could respond to the preaching of righteousness and be saved. However, they choose to be disobedient to God.

Still, appreciate the fact that God’s longsuffering caused Him to wait during the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared. We know that God does not desire for anyone to perish in their sins. Instead, He wants everyone to repent and be saved (see 2 Peter 3:9 and 1 Timothy 2:4). Perhaps this passage points to the work of Noah. Perhaps it was Noah who was being used by Christ to speak a message of warning through the Holy Spirit to those who were living for wickedness. Yet, regardless of the precise implications of these passages, we can know that Noah *was* being used by God to preach righteousness (thereby warning of wickedness).

## **The lack of conversions did not make Noah’s preaching unsuccessful**

I do not know how many people were living on the earth during the days of Noah. The Scriptures only say that the flood happened after men “began to multiply on the face of the earth” (Genesis 6:1) and that the “earth was filled with violence” (Genesis 6:11). I don’t know if there were hundreds, thousands, millions, or billions.

I also do not know exactly how long Noah was a preacher of righteousness. The Scriptures teach that Noah lived 950 years on the earth (Genesis 9:29). The Bible also says that Noah was 500 years old and “begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth” (Genesis 5:32). He was 600 years old “when the floodwaters were on the earth” (Genesis 7:6). Maybe he was preaching righteousness for the majority of his 950-year lifetime. Maybe he was only used by God for the approximately 100 years before the flood, while the ark was being prepared. We simply are not told for certain.

However, I do know that Noah must have been a dedicated and longsuffering preacher! Just consider how discouraged you would have become if you kept warning people about the need to live right before God – and no one listened to you. Not a single conversion from outside of his family! Yet, the Scriptures are silent regarding any rebuke of Noah as a preacher of righteousness, leading me to believe that he endured and continued preaching – even when no one was listening!

Certainly, there are many times when God will use His people to warn others who are simply not interested in listening to His message of righteousness. Yet, they still must be warned of God's impending judgment against them. At these times (when you preach but do not find anyone to listen), will you become discouraged and give up on the work God has given you to do? Or, will you (like Noah) persevere and simply dedicate yourself to accomplish the work of proclaiming the righteousness of God? Will you be longsuffering in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ – in season and out of season (when it is being accepted and when it is being rejected), like Paul instructed Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2?

### **Noah was successful in saving his family**

Was Noah a successful preacher? Absolutely! Success in preaching is whenever the preacher faithfully makes God's word known to the people. So, even if Noah did not save anyone besides himself, he would have been a successful preacher – as long as he was a preacher of righteousness.

However, Noah *did* influence others in a positive way. I believe we can conclude that Noah (as the patriarch of the family) would have had a tremendous impact on saving his wife, his three children, and his three daughters-in-law. Certainly, in a world that was full of unrighteousness, training your family in righteousness and keeping your family righteous was no small task – while also trying to preach the righteousness of God to others, while trying to build an ark to survive a world-wide flood that was going to destroy mankind from the earth, and while being (presumably) the provider for his family. Yet, Noah successfully saved his family!

How did he accomplish this great task? I wish we had been given more information. However, I believe we can infer some things from what we know about Noah. First, Noah put God first in his life and demonstrated his faith and righteousness to others. Certainly, his family would have seen his tremendous example of faith (i.e. when he was constructing the ark). Second, as a preacher of righteousness, he should have also been preaching this message to his family. It surely would have

caused Noah to be heartbroken if he had preached righteousness to the entire world – and then lost his family!

Today, you should be focused on working to save your family. Be like Andrew who, when he found Jesus, went and brought his brother (Peter) to Christ (John 1:41-42). Fathers and mothers must be diligent to train their children in the ways of the Lord while they have the opportunity to do so – so that when they grow and leave the home, they will follow the ways of the Lord (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4). Then, even if you save no one else through your preaching, you will be comforted to know that you have saved your family!

## ***Only Trusting And Obeying God Results In Salvation***

---

Finally, after studying some of the wonderful lessons we can learn from the story of Noah, let's focus on the salvation Noah experienced – and the destruction experienced by all the rest. As we do this, you must learn the lesson that only trusting and obeying God results in salvation. Failing to trust and obey God results in destruction.

### **Fate was sealed when the door of the ark was shut**

I don't know what all the people around Noah were thinking when they heard Noah's message and if they saw the ark Noah was building (during the time of God's longsuffering, 1 Peter 3:20). I don't know if they dismissed it as being a "far-fetched" idea. I don't know if they believed Noah was crazy. I don't know if they thought they would be able to hop on board the ark whenever the rain started to fall.

However, I do know that (at the appointed time), God commanded Noah to "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation" (Genesis 7:1). Then, verse 16 says, "So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in." After this, we read about how everything outside of

the ark was destroyed by the flood and everything inside the ark was saved.

Please recognize that there was a time at which it was too late for those who were on the earth to repent of their wickedness and listen to the righteousness of God. Similarly, those who are living today and hear the warning about God's future Judgment whenever Jesus returns can wait too long and fail to have any additional opportunity to be saved. Listen to Matthew 24:36-39. "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

In Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus also teaches a parable about being prepared for His coming. He teaches about five virgins who were prepared to enter a wedding feast when the bridegroom came and five who were not prepared. Those who were prepared went into the wedding feast and the unprepared were shut out, for Jesus says that while those who were unprepared went to buy oil for their lamps, the bridegroom came "and the door was shut" (verse 10). Then, those foolish and unprepared virgins returned and begged for the door to be opened, but they were not granted access.

Therefore, Jesus states, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming" (verse 13). Just as those who had rejected the preaching of righteousness by Noah recognized their need for salvation when it was too late, many people will recognize their need for righteousness when it is too late for them. While they have opportunity to change, they waste their lives by living to fill their own earthly pleasures and desires. Perhaps they think they will get around to living for righteousness. But, they may die before that time ever comes. Or, the Lord may return prior to making that change. One Day, the door will forever be shut on the opportunity to change for all people. Therefore, you had better take advantage of the opportunity you are presented with at this moment!

Won't you make today the day of your salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2) rather than delaying?

## **Salvation was only in the ark**

The salvation God offered to Noah and his family did not come in whatever form they choose it to come in, that required the least amount of work and dedication to God. Instead, Noah and his family were saved because they fully trusted in and obeyed God. God had only provided one avenue through which they could be saved from the flood and the wicked world. That way was through the flood and in the ark.

But, it was not enough *just* to believe that this was true. Noah had to actually build the ark – and he had to build it according to the pattern God had given him. God specified a number of things about the ark to Noah (see Genesis 6:14-21). He specified the kind of material it was to be built from (gopherwood). He specified the number of doors (one). He specified the number of windows (one). He specified the dimensions (300 x 50 x 30 cubits). He specified the number of decks (3). If Noah was to be obedient to God, he was required to comply with these specifications. He could not dismiss the pattern God had given him. He could not choose to build the ark out of a wood that may have been easier to come by or one that was more cost effective. He could not choose to build the ark a little smaller or a little larger than God instructed. Any changes to the pattern would not be acceptable to God.

Similarly, if you want to be saved by God, you must be obedient to all that God has instructed of you and you must follow the pattern God has revealed for you to live your life by. For instance, the apostle Paul instructed Timothy to "Hold fast the pattern of sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13). These are the words that are revealed in the pages of the New Testament. You must dedicate your life to living by these words.

Namely, God has required you to hear His word (Romans 10:17), believe (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (Mark 16:16) in order to become a Christian and enter a saved condition. Concerning baptism, please consider what is said in 1 Peter 3:20-

21. “who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” Just as Noah and his family were saved from a world of wickedness and sin by the waters of the flood, you are saved from your wickedness and sin through the waters of baptism!

Then, it is at this point you are added to the “ark of safety.” Just as the saved during Noah’s day were in the ark, the saved today are found in Christ’s church. Acts 2:47 says that the Lord “added to the church daily those who were being saved.” But, even though you have once been obedient to God and been added to His church and counted among the saved, you must remain faithful to Christ throughout your life by following the pattern God has revealed in the New Testament (see Revelation 2:10). If you will be faithful to Christ throughout your life, you will be eternally saved (see Matthew 25:46)!

---

## **Conclusion**

God means what He says – and His promises are sure! This is one more lesson we learn from the story of Noah. When God promised destruction for the wicked, He destroyed the wicked. And, when God promised salvation for Noah and his family in the ark, God saved them.

Today, as you consider these lessons from the story of Noah, please apply these lessons to your life and heed the teachings of God’s word while you have opportunity to do so. Recognize that the same word of God that caused the earth to be flooded by water in the days of Noah is also now preserving the heavens and the earth, reserving it “for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (2 Peter 3:5-7). Understand that, now, God’s longsuffering is granting you the opportunity to repent (2 Peter 3:9). However, just as God’s longsuffering ended for the people when He

destroyed them by the flood, God’s longsuffering will end for you and He will send Jesus to destroy and judge the world (2 Peter 3:10). At this time, will you be saved like Noah – or will you be in the majority who will be lost? Learn these powerful lessons from the story of Noah while you have the time and opportunity to change!

---

## **Study Questions**

Summarize the story of Noah and the flood.

### **1. God Rewards Righteousness And Punishes Wickedness**

How did God respond to the wickedness that He saw on the earth?

How does the story of Noah demonstrate the goodness of God? How is Noah described?

### **2. It Is Possible To Live Right When Most People Are Living Wrong**

How wicked was the world during the time of Noah?

Was Noah able to live right even though he was surrounded by this great wickedness?

How many were saved? How many were lost?

### **3. True Faith Acts In Obedience**

Describe the confidence that Noah had in God.

What is said about Noah's motivation in Hebrews 11:7?

To what extent did Noah obey God?

### **4. Success In Preaching Is Not Measured By Numbers**

How did God use Noah to warn the wicked?

How many people did Noah's preaching convert?  
Was he successful?

Who was Noah successful in saving? Why is this significant?

### **5. Only Trusting And Obeying God Results In Salvation**

Could anyone change their fate when the door of the ark was shut?

Where was salvation? Why were Noah and his family members saved?