

NOAH AND THE GREAT FLOOD

Old Testament Lesson #5

Noah was the 10th generation from Adam, but now the people of the earth were violent. When God looked at the wickedness, he was extremely sad, and he decided to destroy all of the people, animals, creatures and birds he had made.

But there was a man named Noah (NO-a) who found favor with God. Because of Noah's righteousness, God allowed him and his family to escape the coming destruction. Noah was given the plan for the ark and 120 years (Genesis 6:3) for himself and his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth (JA-feth), to build it. God instructed Noah to take into the ark his wife, his sons and their wives, seven males and females of every clean animal and bird, a male and a female of the unclean animals and birds and enough food to store and eat.

When the preparations were completed, they all entered the ark, and the LORD shut them in (Genesis 7:16). It rained for 40 days and 40 nights, and the ark floated on the waters. Every living thing on the earth died. Only the people and animals on the ark were saved.

God stopped the rain, and eventually the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat (AR-a-rat). God then commanded Noah to leave the ark, taking his family, all the animals and all the birds in his care. The people were to make a new beginning on the earth. Noah left the ark and built an altar to God in gratitude for his deliverance.

God accepted Noah's sacrifices and made a covenant with him. God promised never again to destroy the earth by a flood and placed the rainbow in the clouds as a token of this covenant.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The terms "clean" and "unclean" did not mean the physical cleanliness of animals. Rather these terms referred to groupings of animals considered fit or unfit by Hebrews for dietary purposes. Animals were assigned to one category or the other according to God's command (see Leviticus 11). The purpose of the division was to remind the Hebrews that they were a nation set apart to be God's own (see Leviticus 20:22-26).
- Jesus referred to Noah in Matthew 24:36-42.
- Peter compared the salvation experienced by Noah in the ark to the act of baptism. See 1 Peter 3:20-21.
- The ark was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

- The commandment God gave to Noah in Genesis 9:1,7 is an echo of the one given to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28.
- The dietary laws were changed in Genesis 9:3.

Noah and the Great Flood

- I. God looked at the wickedness of the earth and was sad.
 - A. He decided to destroy all the people, animals and creatures.
 - B. He allowed Noah and his family to escape the destruction.
- II. God prepared Noah for the destruction.
 - A. He gave Noah and his sons plans to build an ark.
 - B. He told Noah who should be on the ark.
 - C. He ordered Noah to gather food for the people and animals on the ark.
- III. The flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights.
 - A. Every living thing on earth died.
 - B. God saved everyone and everything on the ark.
 - C. God stopped the rain, and the water eventually receded.
- IV. Noah and his family left the ark.
 - A. God commanded them to release the animals and birds.
 - B. Noah built an altar to God and thanked God for his deliverance.
 - C. God made a covenant with Noah and promised that the world would never again be destroyed by a flood. The covenant was marked by a rainbow.

ANSWER KEY:

world, women, earth, violent, walked, spare, name, build, boat, took, plan, fill, creatures, safely, inside, trusted, store, forty, rained, mountaintops, stopped, sent, fresh, important, altar, thanks, blessings, safety

