

# Grown up Children's stories 1 - Noah & The Ark

## **The Book of Genesis**

### **Chapter 6**

#### **Increasing Corruption on Earth**

*1 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.*

- 120 years, some interpret this as a cap for the length of human life, however there are many examples throughout history of people living longer than 120 years.
- This is more correctly seen as a deadline for the coming flood.

*5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.*

- The human heart is totally corrupt because of sin
- This corruption grieves God in a very significant way
- Noah, was certainly not perfect, but he must have honored or worship God more than most other people.

#### **Noah and the Flood**

*9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

*11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. 15 This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. 16 Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 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. 20 Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. 21 Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." 22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.*

- Because Noah honored God, God determine to save him from the coming destruction, not only him, but his family, and a remnant from all of creation will be saved because of him.
- God gives Noah instructions to build an Ark that will save him and his family from the flood
- Noah followed all of God’s instructions. The construction would have been hard and costly, yet he did as God commanded him.
- God intends the flood to destroy every person however, this in itself does not mean that the flood had to cover the whole earth. Genesis implies that prior to the Tower of Babel people had not yet spread throughout the earth. Therefore a huge regional flood may have been all that was necessary for God to destroy all human beings.

## **Chapter 7**

*1 Then the Lord said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. 2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, 3 and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” 5 And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.*

*6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. 7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 9 two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.*

- Noah continues his obedience to God.
- It's obvious that Noah had a strong relationship with God from the way he listens and responds.
- The addition of the clean animals was so that some could be sacrificed as an offering at the end of the flood, others could be eaten, and rest kept for survival of the species.

*11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, 14 they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. 15 They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. 16 And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the Lord shut him in.*

- The particular dating of Noah’s age when the flood came indicates this was a verifiable event.
- The safety of those in the Ark was depending on both human effort, in obedience to God, and God’s protection.

17 The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. 22 Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. 23 He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

- The affects of the flood were immense and devastating. Every person and land animal not in the Ark died as a result.

## **Chapter 8**

### **The Flood Subsides**

1 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, 3 and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, 4 and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

- Noah and his family spent a total of about 8 months in the Ark. The rain and flood continued for 150 days, about 5 months, ending in the 7 month, and land was not sufficiently dry until the 10th month.

6 At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made 7 and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. 9 But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. 10 He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. 11 And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. 12 Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

13 In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. 14 In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. 15 Then God said to Noah, 16 “Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” 18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. 19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.

- Noah used the birds to help him find dry ground.
- After finding dry ground he waits to let everyone and everything out until God tells him it is safe to do so.

### **God's Covenant with Noah**

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

- Noah built an altar and worshipped God once he got off of the Ark
- This is obviously for thanksgiving for preserving him and his family
- However, the burning of the offerings is similar to the process of atonement that God would implement later. This is also an act of worship also to seek forgiveness of sins.
- God is pleased by the offering and relents from His anger, notice this does not change the sinful nature of Noah or his family.
  - Despite this, God promises to never do this again. He holds to the process while also bringing judgement on sinful people throughout the rest of the Bible.

### **Chapter 9**

1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

6 “Whoever sheds the blood of man,  
by man shall his blood be shed,  
for God made man in his own image.

7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”

- God gives Noah a 3 part blessing as a result of their faithfulness
  - “Be fruitful and multiply” God has relented of His anger and despite their sinful nature, God wants humanity to flourish.
  - God gives humanity dominion over all of the animals. They are given to us to care for and manage them well.
  - God gives them permission to eat meat for food. It is unclear if meat was a part of their diet before this, but now it is clear. The killing of animals for food is directly approved by God.
  - God instructs them to not eat animals with “*its life, that is, its blood*” this speaks both to ethics and health standards that should be observed in butchering and preparing meat.
- God makes clear the humans are off the menu for both animals and people. Human life is very important to God. We are made in His image, therefore, killing another person is a direct assault on God himself.
- The unjustified taking of human life, either by other humans or animals, will be subject to God’s justice.

*8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”*

- God promises to Noah and every living creature that He will never again destroy the Earth with a flood.
- This promise continues forever into future generations. In order to remind them of this promise He creates a rainbow as sign of this promise He has made.
- This is the first ever recorded covenant promise God has made.
- In part this is God promising to be just in His judgement. He will punish those who do wrong. However in this covenant He promises to never again have his judgment upon the innocent, the faithful, and the guilty.

# Discussion Questions

- You may have heard of this story before, if you have, what is something new you learned from looking at it again?
- The reason God brought the flood was because of *“the wickedness of man, and every intent and thought of his heart was only evil continually.”* (V.5) How have you seen this in your experience or through out history?
- How does this story help you understand how God feels and responds to evil things done by people?
- Why do you think God instructed Noah to build the Ark rather than provide a more miraculous way to save them?
- How would you describe the connection between faith and obedience?
- What problems do you think Noah faced and/or solved in order to build and live on the Ark?
- How can Noah be an example of being obedient to God?
- How was the Ark end everyone in it saved, by Noah or God? Explain your answer?
  - How might Noah’s answered this question? His response when he got off of the Ark might help guess how he would have answered this question.
- What do you think the significance is that this story has the very first promise God made to mankind?
- How does this story help you understand how God loves and cares for people in general?
- How might the story of Noah be a picture of salvation from sin through Jesus Christ?