

Lesson 25

God Saves Noah

God must judge sin, but God also shows mercy.

Overview

Lesson Focus

God brought a global flood to destroy the entire earth. But God showed mercy to Noah, a righteous man, and his family and kept them safe in the ark along with two of each kind of animal.

Key Passages

Genesis 7:7–9, 7:16, 7:21

Memory Verse

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Even though Noah was a preacher of righteousness, calling people to repent for nearly 75 years, no one but his family came into the Ark with him. The people who heard Noah's message of imminent judgment refused to believe. When the Flood came, Noah and his family were safe in the Ark, but every other person and air-breathing, land-dwelling animal on the earth was destroyed: all flesh died that moved on the earth (Genesis 7:21), every man (Genesis 7:21), and everything on dry land with the breath of life (Genesis 7:22). So God destroyed all living things from the earth, and only Noah and those who were with him in the Ark remained alive (Genesis 7:23). God was faithful to His promise that He would provide and protect in the midst of this severe judgment (Genesis 6:18).

God revealed His patience with the people of Noah's day by giving them time to repent. But because of His holiness and justice, He finally had to punish the wicked and those who were suppressing the truth. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth" (Romans 1:18).

While the rest of the world was being destroyed outside, Noah and his family were safe in the Ark. God mercifully rewarded Noah's faith and obedience by saving him and his family from the Flood. God continues to demonstrate His mercy to all of us through Jesus Christ. We can think of the Ark as an example of how we can be saved from God's judgment of our sin. Just as Noah entered the door of the Ark to be saved, so we are saved if we repent, turn from our sins, and trust Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation.

Historical/Apologetics Background

The Bible is very specific about the timeline of the Flood. Although biblical skeptics arbitrarily dismiss this account as pure mythology, Christians stand on the Word of God and our Creator who was there rather than the opinions of fallible men who were not.

The Flood came in the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month. Scripture records that on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst open (Genesis 7:11) and the waters prevailed upon the earth for 150 days (Genesis 7:24). As we examine the Flood account in Genesis chapters 6–8, we can determine the overall progression of the year-long global Flood. The table below summarizes the timing of the Flood based on Scripture.

Timeline of the Flood	Description	Bible Reference
Day 0	The fountains of the great deep broke apart, and the windows of heaven were opened; it began to rain.	Genesis 7:11
Day 150 (Includes the 40 days and nights in Genesis 7:12)	The water rose to its highest level (covering the whole earth) sometime between the 40th and 150th day. On the 150th day, the fountains of the deep were closed, the rain from above ceased, and the water began continually receding. The Ark rested on the mountains of Ararat.	Genesis 7:11–12 Genesis 7:17–20 Genesis 7:24–8:5
Day 224	The tops of the mountains became visible on the first day of the tenth month.	Genesis 8:5
Day 264	After 40 more days, Noah sent out a raven.	Genesis 8:6–7
Day 271	After seven days the dove was sent out after the raven. It had no resting place and returned to Noah. * Note: Gen. 8:10 says, "After another seven days" or "He waited another seven days." In the Hebrew this implies that there was a previous period of seven days, which must have been between the raven and first dove, though there is some debate about this.	Genesis 8:8–9
Day 278	After seven more days, Noah sent out the dove again. It returned again but this time with an olive leaf in its beak.	Genesis 8:10–11
Day 285	After seven more days, Noah sent out the dove again, and it did not return.	Genesis 8:12
Day 314	Noah removed the cover of the Ark on the first day of the first month. The surface of the earth was dried up and Noah could verify this to the extent of what he could see.	Genesis 8:13
Day 371	The earth was dry, and God commanded Noah's family and the animals to come out of the Ark.	Genesis 8:14–17

The Flood was a real event, specifically recorded in God's Word. This catastrophic judgment by God on man's wickedness lasted more than a year.

Because the Bible is the true History Book of the Universe, you can be confident that the Flood was a real event—it occurred just as the Bible tells us. Many people wonder how Noah could have possibly built an Ark of this proportion, even in 75 years! Although the biblical record is not specific about this, we do know a few things.

When God created Adam, he was perfect and intelligent. Noah and the people of his day were fairly recent descendants of Adam—probably maintaining much of the intelligence God originally gave man.

Building the Ark was a huge task—one that had never been accomplished before. And, although the Bible doesn't record much information about the world before the Flood, we know that the people of this time were very intelligent. Genesis gives us insight into these folks and what they were capable of. For instance, they built cities (Genesis 4:17), raised and cared for livestock (Genesis 4:20), made and played musical instruments (Genesis 4:21), and were metalworkers in bronze and iron (Genesis 4:22).

Many people dismiss this historical event as impossible—both the Flood and the Ark that survived it. But with God's guidance, Noah's faith, and man's intelligence, the Ark's construction was accomplished in God's timing according to God's purpose.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.

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