

God of Our Fathers: Genesis

Lesson 5: The Flood and Its Aftermath

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Lesson Introduction

- Imagine that you are one of the survivors after the world, as you know it, has been destroyed.
- How would you feel?

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, learners will:

- Discuss details of the flood and its aftermath
- Describe the implications of God's command to Noah after the flood had subsided
- Identify the covenant God made to Noah after the flood
- Express understanding of who God is

Background for the Scripture

Chapters 5-7 act as a transition between the era of Adam and that of Noah. By the time of Noah, humankind had declined to the point that the world known to Adam's descendants had become completely depraved. As evidence of this, the Bible relates the story of marriage occurring between "sons of God" and "daughters of men" (6:1-4). The biblical text states, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (6:5). Grieved that God had made humankind (6:7), God decided to destroy the world with a flood (6:17) that engulfed the whole earth. The destruction, however, was not total, for verse 8 says "Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." God established a covenant with Noah and directed him to build an ark:

But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. (6:18-20)

We are told that Noah was 600 years old when "the windows of heaven were opened" (7:11). Torrential rain continued for forty days and forty nights (v. 12). The day the rains commenced, Noah and his wife, along with their sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth and the three wives of his sons entered the ark. The account tells us that those who entered the ark also included:

every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the

breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in. (vv. 14-16)

In verses 23-24 the story continues:

And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

We pick up the story in chapter 8, after the floodwaters have begun to subside.

Genesis 8

8 And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged;

² The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;

³ And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.

⁴ And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

⁵ And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

⁶ And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made:

⁷ And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth.

⁸ Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground;

⁹ But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.

¹⁰ And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark;

¹¹ And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.

¹² And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.

¹³ And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.

¹⁴ And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.

¹⁵ And God spake unto Noah, saying,

¹⁶ Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

¹⁷ Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.

¹⁸ And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him:

¹⁹ Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.

²⁰ And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

²¹ And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

²² While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Examining the Scripture

1. Where is Mt. Ararat? Use a Bible Atlas to locate it.
2. What types of birds did Noah send to detect whether or not dry land had started to appear? What are the differences between the two birds?
3. What was God's command to Noah in verses 16 and 17? Why is this significant?
4. What was Noah's first act upon dry land after leaving he ark?
5. What covenant did God make with Noah?

Applying the Scripture

1. Discuss the significance of the dove and the olive leaf in the present day.
2. Read Genesis 9. Describe the terms of God's covenant with Noah. What are some of the present-day remnants of this covenant?

Quest to Know God Activity

1. What does this scriptural account reveal about God?
2. List two or three characteristics you discerned about God as you went through this lesson.
3. What statement can you make about the God of our fathers that you can pass down to future generations?