



THE MAN, THE ARK, THE FLOOD

SESSION 1
NOAH THE MAN

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, certain things in the Bible hardly seem possible—especially the events surrounding Noah. But Your Son Jesus once said, “With God, all things are possible.” Open my mind and guide my investigation into Noah, the ark, and the flood that I may learn the truth and never doubt You or Your Son’s great salvation. I ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Watch the Video: Session 1

Many elements in the Bible’s account of Noah’s flood sound mythical:

- Noah is 600 years old when the flood comes.
 - Noah builds a huge, ocean-going craft without power tools.
 - There’s room for a pair of every animal on earth.
 - There is enough water to cover the entire planet, topping the highest mountain by 20 feet.
 - Somehow the extra water all disappears.
- Which of these assertions are the most difficult for people to accept? Why?
 - What effect might doubts about creation, Noah’s flood, or other Old Testament events have on a person’s trust in the accuracy and authority of the Bible?

The following passage shows Jesus had no doubts Noah’s flood was an actual, accomplished, historical fact, which powerfully foreshadowed His own Second Coming on Judgment Day.

Read Matthew 24:36-42. (Compare Luke 17:22-27.)

³⁶ But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,

³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.

⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

- Building the ark was a massive, decades-long process. Discuss the sorts of things that might have discouraged Noah and tempted him to turn away from that enormous project.

- Why would it be important for him to frequently recall God’s warning about the coming flood?
- How does recalling Jesus’ Second Coming transform our work and our relationships?

Why Would God Send a Devastating Flood?

Genesis provides several reasons God chose to destroy His beautiful world by a devastating flood.

Nephilim

The Nephilim were mighty warriors—strong, sturdy thugs who attacked those around them. For a sample of their thinking, consider the proud boast of Cain’s unbelieving descendant Lamech: “Lamech said to his wives, ‘Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain’s revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech’s is seventy-sevenfold’” (Genesis 4:23-24).

Not only was he approving of Cain’s murder of Abel, he was boasting of the vengeance he would take on anyone who tried to retaliate against him.

- What reaction would you expect common people to have to dangerous thugs like that?
- Why do you think the people of Noah’s day admired them and set them up as leaders?
- Describe some of the ways our culture displays its admiration for evildoers?
- Why was this societal attitude so offensive to God?

Complete Rejection

God’s wrath was also stirred by the way people completely rejected His ways and willingly sold themselves to do evil. “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” (Genesis 6:5).

Like Lamech, people impulsively followed their sinful desires, going from bad to worse. They felt no regret or sorrow for their sins, no fear of God’s wrath, and no pity for their victims.

Paul describes how that same attitude in the world today is leading toward Judgment Day,

“Put to death therefore whatever is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming” (Colossians 3:5-6).

- What are some of the ways our culture misuses sexuality?
- How does being bombarded with sexual imagery desensitize us to it?
- How does it negatively affect our marriages?

Noah Stands Out

In the midst of the unbelievers who filled the land, Noah stands out as “a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God” (see Genesis 6:9). In fact, the book of Hebrews praises Noah for his determined obedience.

“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith” (Hebrews 11:7).

- What challenges did Noah face as he stood alone trusting God’s warning about the flood, while the rest of the world refused to believe?
- How hard is it for you to go against the stream of public opinion when you believe something is true?
- What are some ways for a struggling Christian to shore up his faith in the face of opposition and unbelief?

Noah persisted in his faith and in his work no matter what ridicule and abuse were heaped upon him. By faith he completed his work, entered that ark, and survived the dreadful flood. This ancestor we all have in common was truly a remarkable man of faith. But that doesn’t mean Noah was without sin. The following embarrassing event occurred after the flood.

Read Genesis 9:20-26.

²⁰ Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard.

²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.

²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside.

²³ Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father’s nakedness.

²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him,

²⁵ he said, “Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.”

²⁶ He also said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant.”

- How did Noah’s drunkenness affect his sons’ respect for him?
- How does drunkenness (occasional or frequent) hamper a man’s role as father?
- Why was it good for Noah’s older sons to cover his sin rather than expose it?
- When might a son need to expose his father’s sins? How should he do this?

Perhaps Shem and Japheth honored their father and sought to protect his reputation because of the great labors he had undertaken in obedience to God's command to save them from the destruction of the flood. But Noah's work did not make him righteous. God declared him righteous for the sake of Jesus Christ, who would take Noah's sins and ours to the cross, suffering on our behalf and securing our eternal salvation. The Holy Spirit gave Noah faith in the coming Savior, and He guarded that faith against the influence of the unbelievers that surrounded him.

- God declared Noah righteous *before* he began building the ark (see Genesis 6:22). How does knowing we have been declared righteous, free us and empower us to do good works for our families, friends and neighbors?

Closing Prayer: Lord God, Heavenly Father, thank You for choosing Noah to save our human race from the devastating flood. As You declared him righteous for Jesus' sake, give us that same declaration, and embolden us to share our Savior with our family, friends and neighbors that they might escape the wrath to come when He returns on the Last Day. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER LINKS

Outside of Genesis, Where Else Do We Find Noah in the Bible?

[1 Chronicles 1:1-4](#) - This lists the genealogy from Adam to Noah's sons.

[Isaiah 54:7-10](#) - After pouring out His wrath on His rebellious people, God turns to them in mercy and love as He remembered Noah in the midst of the flood.

[Ezekiel 14:12-23](#) - In God's judgment, Noah's righteousness through faith could only save himself.

[Hebrews 11:7](#) - By faith Noah built the ark.

[1 Peter 3:18-22](#) - Christ Jesus descended into hell to make proclamation to the souls who perished in the flood.

[2 Peter 2:4-10](#) - God knows how to save the righteous while punishing unbelievers.

[The Bible Trumps Everything—Even Creation Science](#): This article explains the danger of clinging too tightly to models arising from creation science. It examines some early creation science models that have given way over the years and discusses the strengths and weaknesses of current models describing the flood.

[Flood!](#) This article briefly surveys some of the numerous flood accounts in ancient civilizations.

[Noah's Flood: The Gilgamesh Epic and Genesis](#): Some scholars argue Genesis borrowed its flood account from the Akkadian *Epic of Gilgamesh*. This article challenges that assertion and provides an alternate view.

[Living for 900 Years](#): Today very few people reach the age of 120 years—or anywhere near it. We're understanding more, but with new research, can we live longer? Fascinating new information about how and why we age casts fresh light on the long lifespans of pre-flood people.

[Decreased Lifespans: Have We Been Looking in the Right Place?](#) This article looks at some possible reasons for the decrease in longevity after the flood.

[Meeting the Ancestors](#): This article shares a fascinating observation about the patriarchal lists of early Genesis.

[Extreme Aging](#): Tragically, some children age at tremendous rates, resulting in an average lifespan of 13 years.