

Noah – Lesson 4: The Flood

Psalm 28:8 The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 3 (God's Plan)

1. According to Genesis 6:11, what was the earth filled with?

Answer: The earth was filled with violence.

2. According to Genesis 6:13, what did God state He would destroy?

Answer: The end of all flesh (I will destroy them with the earth).

3. According to Genesis 6:14, what was the ark to be made of?

Answer: Gopher wood.

4. According to 6:18, who is to accompany Noah on the ark?

Answer: And thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. (Noah's immediate family only).

5. Complete the following scripture:

Matthew 26:39 Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

True / False

False Lucifer aimed to be equal to God (ISA 14:13 – Exalt my throne above)

True The tribe of Judah was punished for pride (ISA 5:25 – Anger of the LORD kindled against his people)

False When Christ returns, all will be saved (LUK 17:26 – And as it was in the days of Noe)

False Those not in the book of life will go to purgatory (REV 20:15 – Cast into the lake of fire)

Extra Credit - In your opinion, are your plans aligned with God, and why or why not?

Lesson 4: The Flood

'Adversity does not build character, it reveals it.' – James Lane Allen (1849-1925) American author

Life is riddled with challenges, from the youthful anxiety of 'fitting in' through the complexities of adulthood with obstacles in family, finances, career and social environments. Some are trivial (not impactful and easy to dismiss), and some seem devastating, as life itself is on the brink of extinction – A challenge to who we think we are.

Mr. Allen reveals a truth - It is the difficulty in life that do more than shape us. It shows who is actually in there: A quitter or a champion, introvert or extrovert, a complainer or contender. Most often the one who is at first surprised, is oneself, as you see something about your character you didn't know a short while ago:

James 1:22-24 – Who are you?

(22) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

(23) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

(24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

The reflection you see in the mirror is the world: Condemned flesh (**GEN 3:19** – Unto dust thou shalt return) that has no place with God (**1 COR 15:50** – Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God), and without God we are weak (**PROV 24:10** – If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small). Just as Mr. Allen alluded, James guides us to look past our flesh, into the Spirit of God that dwells within

(**ROM 8:11**), each believer has the ability to become much more than they naturally are – To take the Word of God and apply it! But you have to know it, believe in it, and completely trust in it.

Noah now faces challenges like never before – We will see him demonstrate his character as no one had done since the creation of humanity.

Where we left off

Genesis 6:22 – First glimpse of character

(22) Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

After the Lord reveals the plan (**GEN 6:17-19**), Noah demonstrated exactly why God viewed him as just (**GEN 6:9**) – He was obedient to the will of God and began to faithfully execute his tasks:

- 1 Samuel 15:22-23 – What delights the Lord

(22) And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as *great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

(23) For rebellion *is* as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is* as iniquity and idolatry.

The prophet Samuel explains to King Saul his error:

The Lord looks for our obedience to His will, not our excuses and penance.

Samuel goes on to explain that resistance to the Lord's will (rebellion) is a very serious sin, as it is a branch of the root of Satan's sin (**GEN 3**) which was to place God below himself.

Noah is an example of how to align with God and build a life of righteousness (**GEN 7:1**) which results in the protection of the Lord (**JOHN 10:29** – *No man can pluck you out of my hand*).

The plan unfolds - Preparation

Genesis 7:1, 6-7 – First, protect the righteous

(1) And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation

(6) And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

(7) And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.

The Lord preserves Noah and his family in preparation for the cleansing of the world as they are separated into the ark. Set apart from all humanity to align with the will of God:

- 2 Chronicles 30:8 – To separate oneself from evil

(8) Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers *were*, *but* yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

King Hezekiah recognized that the plan of God is for all Israel to be restored (new kingdom) as they were sanctified by God (**ISA 44:1** – Chosen) and he felt compelled to reach out to all (despite a divided kingdom) in the hopes of glorifying God during the Passover in a renewed unity (revival) under God.

His Guidance was for all Israel to put their pettiness and pride aside, submit to God, and enter into the sanctified temple (the key component - God's sanctuary) and in doing so, the people become sanctified (set apart from the world) and avoid the wrath of God (for disobedience).

Spoiler Alert: King Hezekiah brought blessings to Israel (**2 CHR 30:27** – Prayers came up to heaven), but it did not last because of pride, and all were not aligned (cannot force people to seek God)

The Lord guided Noah and family – Sanctifying them (setting them apart from the world) to become the vehicle of the promise to Abraham (**GEN 17:4** - Thou shalt be a father of many nations) in the sanctuary of the ark.

Let it rain

Genesis 7:10-12, 23-24 – All is gone

(10) And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

(11) In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

(12) And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

(23) 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.

(24) And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Once inside Noah, his family and the animals were secure in the ark, God executed the plan and brought enough water to cover all, and all life was extinguished. The mind cannot easily comprehend the elimination of all flesh (human and animal life) from the world in one event. There has never been a challenge like this in the existence of humanity.

There is not much detail about the preparations, but scripture clearly indicates God played an active role in establishing the ark's readiness:

- **GEN 6:19** – Of every living thing...two shalt thou take
God guided the animal kingdom to Noah (Noah did not travel the world searching for animal)
- **GEN 6:21** – Take unto thee ... all food that is eaten
God provided for nourishment by making food available for loading onboard the ark (a LOT of food)

Some background details:

Noah missed meeting Adam by three years and had his sons at the age of 500 years old (**GEN 5:32**) at about the 1,433rd year after creation. With the flood at Noah's 600th year, it is now about 1,533 years after creation and all are destroyed except for those in the ark (his sons are about 100 years old at this time).

Raining 40 days/nights and the world flooded for 150 days (about 1 month of rain and 5 months of flood), Noah and his family would not only have to provide for their own nourishment, but are also responsible for the welfare (feeding and cleaning) of a floating zoo where the meeting of all needs had to be preplanned (the ark was not only built by the small group, but stocked and prepared with food to nourish all for about six months).

God knew Noah's character (**GEN 7:5** And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him) but Noah is only now coming to terms with who he is, as he meets the challenge head-on to guide his family, build an ark, gather provisions and collect the animals, and all with no utterance of complaint.

It is not because he is more capable, or more skillful than any other, but because Noah placed all confidence in God (**PSALM 37:5** – Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass).

The believer is encouraged to have the faith of Noah – Unwavering confidence in the Lord:

- **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

It is not our personal strength or exceptional character that protects from the deceiver, but the Lord (see **EPH 6:12-18** – Take unto you the whole armour of God). It is only when you trust in Christ that the image in the mirror can change to reveal character that is pleasing to God (**JOHN 14:6** *No man cometh unto the Father but by me*), and you are capable of meeting the challenges of the world (**PHIL 4:13**).

Next Lesson: Noah – Testing The Waters

Noah – Lesson 4: The Flood

Study Questions

1. According to Genesis 7:6, how old was Noah when the flood started?

2. According to Genesis 7:12, how long did it rain?

3. According to Genesis 7:23, who survived the flood?

4. According to Genesis 7:24, how long was the world flooded?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Psalm 28:8 The _____ is their strength, and he is the saving _____ of his anointed.

True / False

Reference

T F The Lord prefers sacrifice to obedience

T F The Lord accepted Noah's obedience as righteousness

T F Noah gathered all the animals God presented.

T F Noah loaded enough food for all (people and animals)

EXTRA CREDIT – In your opinion, are you ready to meet your challenges, and why or why not?
