

Genesis 6-9

Imagine yourself in the place of Noah. What would you do if you received a command to build an ark to protect you and your family from a flood that would destroy every living thing on the Earth?

Section 1: God and Humanity

Genesis 6: 5-7 (NIV)

5 The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. 7 So the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them.

God creates man and calls it good. Later we see God looking at humanity differently. What do we see that accounts for this change?

- How does this view of humanity compare to our modern society?

Section 2: God and Noah

Genesis 6: 8- 14, 17-22

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. 9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. 10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. 11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. 13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. 14 So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. 19 You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20 Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. 21 You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." 22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Gen 7: 5-16

5 And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him. 6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. 7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8 Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, 9 male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep

burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. **12** And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. **13** On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. **14** They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. **15** Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. **16** The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in.

Gen 8: 1, 20

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

Gen 9: 1

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.

How would you describe Noah’s relationship with God?

- How is it the same or different from your relationship with God?
- Are there ways that you’d like your relationship with God to be more like Noah’s?

Genesis 9: 8-11

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: **9** “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you **10** and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. **11** I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

What is the covenant that God makes with Noah? Why is it significant?

- How does this covenant help us understand God’s character?
- Are any of these aspects of God’s character that are more easy or more difficult for you to believe?

Section 3: Blessing and Curse

For each of the following passages, how is the blessing / curse described?

Romans 8:18-27	<i>Creation groans waiting for the blessing</i>
Genesis 12:1-3	<i>Abraham was promised a blessing</i>
Galatians 3:8-9	<i>Believers in Christ share in Abraham's blessing</i>
Hebrews 11:7, 39-40	<i>Noah has not yet received the promised blessing</i>
Revelation 21:4, 22:3	<i>There will no longer be any curse</i>

- How does seeing blessing and curse throughout Scripture help us understand the flood story more fully?

How do the above blessings / curses affect you today?

How can you more fully experience God's blessings in your life?

What is our community application of this passage?