

# Bi121 Old Testament

## *Lesson Bi121-5 Noah and the Flood (Gen 6 – 9)*

God is holy and judges sin. God is also full of redeeming grace and mercy. How can these two seemingly contradictory statements be true? In our last lesson God judged Cain for his sin. In today's lesson, which takes place some ten generations after Cain lived, the Bible introduces Noah. Noah's story centers on the fact that God is holy and He will judge those who sin. Yet, the story of the Flood is also a story of redemption.

Now before the flood, men and women lived to be hundreds of years old. Almost all of the descendants of Adam and Eve came to disobey God and they became extremely wicked. All of their thoughts and actions were evil. Because of their unrepentant evil, God's heart was broken. He decided that He would have to cleanse the earth of this wickedness.

But there was one man who was living a life of faith. His name was Noah. He had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The Apostle Peter states that Noah was "a preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5).

The Lord said to Noah, "I am going to destroy the entire earth with a flood because the people are so violent and wicked. However I have a plan to help you to preserve life on the earth. I want you to build yourself a big ark. I will give you the exact dimensions and instructions. After you are done, a flood will destroy all the people and animals on the earth. You and your family will be saved, as well as the animals you take with you into the ark. I will establish my covenant with you."

God was warning Noah about "things not yet seen" (Heb. 11:7). The land he lived in was dry and land-locked, meaning it had no bodies of water nearby. It seemed impossible that there would ever be enough water to float such a huge boat. But Noah believed God's word to him, gathered the cypress wood and pitch, and began to build. God gave him instructions, and Noah did exactly as God said. In holy fear he "built an ark to save his family" (Heb. 11:7). He demonstrated his faith towards God by obeying Him.

When it was done, God said, "Noah, go into the ark with your family. After seven days, water will fall upon the earth and every person and animal will be destroyed except those inside the ark." So Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives, moved into the ark. He was 600 years old. Once the family was in the ark, animals and birds started coming to them in pairs, male and female. There were seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, seven pairs of every kind of bird, and one pair of every other living creature. When every kind of animal and bird had come in, God shut the door.

That very day, the waters that were above the sky started falling to the earth. At the same time, the earth erupted, sending fountains of water shooting up from beneath the ground. Rain fell on the earth 40 days and 40 nights. Eventually water covered the entire earth. All the people

and animals drowned. This flood of water covered even the tallest mountains to a depth of nearly 7 meters (23 feet). And then the rain stopped.

God judged the earth because of people's unbelief. This total destruction was necessary to do away with the extreme moral corruption of mankind and to give the human race a new chance for fellowship with God. The same waters which brought judgment lifted Noah's ark above the destruction. Noah's family, and animals and birds of every kind that were in the ark were safe.

So, Noah's ark floated on the water for 110 days after it stopped raining. His faith was being tested because he did not know how long the flood would last. Then God remembered Noah and showed His loving care for him and his family. God sent a wind that moved across the earth to make the waters recede. He also closed the springs of the great deep. Finally, the ark came to rest on one of the mountains of Ararat. This range of mountains is located east of modern-day Turkey.

Noah waited for another four months and then opened the window to see what was left on the earth. He sent out a raven, a bird that eats animals that have died, and it never came back. The next bird Noah sent out was a dove. She came back with a green olive leaf in her beak. Noah then knew that plants were growing again. A month later, Noah removed the covering of the ark and saw that the earth was dry. God said, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every living creature that is with you so they can multiply on the earth."

Once they were out of the ark, Noah built an altar and sacrificed clean animals as burnt offerings to God. The Lord accepted the sacrifice and said, "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures with a flood. There will always be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night" (Gen. 8:21-22). God then set a rainbow in the clouds to seal this promise. Every time you look into the sky and see a rainbow you will remember His everlasting covenant with all life on the earth.

This story is important because it shows God's holiness, His judgment, and His redeeming grace. We cannot save ourselves from destruction. We can only be saved if we obey and trust God's Word.

The main truth this story teaches is that God is holy. He will judge all who are sinners and do not believe or respond to His plan of salvation. But those who do believe will receive mercy.

For the lesson review we ask,

1. After the ark was completed and before it rained, who did God send to Noah and his family?
  - a. [Pause for 8 seconds]. If you said, "Animals and birds started coming in pairs, male and female," you are correct.

2. What was the first thing did Noah after he came out of the ark?
  - a. [Pause for 8 seconds]. If you said, “Noah built an altar so his family could worship God,” you are correct.
3. What promise did God make to Noah and his family after they worshipped?
  - a. [Pause for 8 seconds]. If you said, “Never again will I destroy the earth with a flood,” you are correct.
4. Since every inclination of a person’s heart is evil from childhood on, we all deserve judgment and need the grace God offers. Is this a truth that people need to know? Think about what it means for your message to others.

Your assignment for this lesson is to listen to the story at least three times. As you hear the story each time, imagine how it happened; see the events in your mind. Then tell the story in your own words as you remember it. Then listen to the story again and retell it until you feel sure you are repeating the circumstances and actions correctly. You should spend at least 45 minutes in learning the story. You may need to have someone check that you are telling the story correctly.

Finally, go tell the story to a friend who has never heard this story before and tell about God’s three judgments in the first few chapters of Genesis. We have studied the judgments on Adam and Eve, on Cain, and on the entire disobedient world with a flood. Ask your friend if he or she is ready for the final judgment God will yet send on the earth? If not, share with them how to believe in Jesus and receive grace and mercy.