

INTO THE WORD

LESSON 5

THE BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE

Into the Word:

Noah's Ark - The Righteous Family Preserved

About 5000 years ago, the human population on Earth had reached a large number. God had given man a free will to choose between good and evil. Man was totally evil in both thought and action. People had become so wicked that the LORD regretted ever creating them and grieved to see what his greatest creation had become.

- Genesis 6:3-8 (NLT)

³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years." ⁴In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times. ⁵The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. ⁶So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. ⁷And the LORD said, "I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them." ⁸But Noah found favor with the LORD.

- God was ready to destroy His creation, but He promised to spare Noah and his family because Noah found grace in His sight. Noah was a righteous man.

- 2 Peter 2:5 (NLT)

⁵And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood.

God made a way of escape for Noah. God instructed Noah to build an ark. The LORD knew how big and how strong the ark would need to be. He provided Noah with the exact dimensions and specific instructions.

- Genesis 6:14-16 (NLT)
¹⁴ "Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. ¹⁵ Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. ¹⁶ Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper.



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- Why did God save Noah?

- Why was God so specific? What would have happened if Noah chose to build the ark his own way and not according to God's plan?

God told Noah that He would send rain to flood the entire Earth. Noah had never seen rain before because it didn't exist yet. Water flowed up from the ground to nourish the Earth...it had never fallen from the sky. Noah probably had a hard time believing in something so farfetched as flood waters falling from the sky. Noah warned others, but they refused to believe...only Noah's family believed. Noah acted out of pure faith and obedience to God. He didn't challenge God or question the plan. Had Noah altered God's plan he too would have perished, but Noah had great faith, he trusted and obeyed. In doing so he escaped God's judgment. That is a lesson for all of us today. It's not important that we understand the details of God's plan for our lives. It's important that we remain faithful and trust and obey.


The rain was tumultuous, it not only rained for 40 days and nights non-stop, but also the fountains of the deep were opened up and water came up from inside the earth. Even the mountains were under water. The floodwaters continued to cover the mountains for 110 more days. After a total of 150 days, the ark came to rest somewhere on Mt. Ararat...about 500 miles from its origin. Two and a half months later, the mountaintops became visible. Most creation scientists believe that the oceans we see today were filled and expanded by the flood waters. The entire topography of the earth was changed.

- Genesis 7:11-12 (NLT)
¹¹ When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. ¹² The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.

Noah entered the ark in the 600th year of his life, on the 17th day of the 2nd month (Genesis 7:11-13). Noah left the ark on the 27th day of the 2nd month of the following year (Genesis 8:14-15). Therefore, assuming a lunar calendar of 360 days, Noah was on the ark for approximately 370 days.

- Genesis 7:10, 7:24, 8:3, 8:6, 8:10, 8:12

After a little over a year in the ark, God told Noah to take his family and the animals and leave the ark. One of the first things Noah did was build an altar. God told Noah and his family to multiply and fill the Earth.



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis


- According to Genesis 7:1-5, how many animals were there in the ark?

- How long did it rain and where did the water come from?

- How long was Noah in the ark?

- God brought judgment against the world because of sin and wickedness. There was only one way to escape, by entering into the ark. When the trumpet sounds we must find ourselves "IN CHRIST".
- The Lord used water to destroy sin, but save Noah. The Bible says that Noah and his family were saved by water.
 - 1 Peter 3:20-21 (NLT)
²⁰Those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. ²¹And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- The water destroyed the wickedness around Noah, it separated him from the evil that surrounded him. Noah "found grace" with God. God "saved" Noah by separating him from the sin and destroying the sin that would have eventually destroyed and corrupted Noah. God's grace was at work by taking away the sin of the world and saving Noah by water.
- The Bible compares this with baptism, illustrating how our sins are destroyed in water baptism.

- 1 Peter 3:21 (NKJV)
²¹There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- Mark 16:16 (NKJV)
¹⁶He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
- Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:8-12



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- How is the ark like Jesus Christ?

- How could the water save Noah?

- Are we saved by baptism? How is this possible?

God promised never to destroy the Earth again with water. Here again, we see a judgment and a promise. God uses the rainbow as a sign of the covenant he makes with Noah.

- Genesis 9:9-16
⁹“And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that *is* with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. ¹¹Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”
¹²And God said: “This *is* the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that *is* with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵and I will remember My covenant which *is* between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that *is* on the earth.”



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- What did Abel, Seth, Enoch, and Noah all have in common?

Obedient Faith

- What is the relationship between faith and obedience?
 - 1 Samuel 15:21-23 (NLT)
²²But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. ²³Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshipping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."
 - Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)
¹Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.
 - John 14:15 (NLT)
¹⁵"If you love me, obey my commandments."
 - Acts 5:29 (NLT)
²⁹But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority."
 - Romans 16:26 (NLT)
²⁶But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him.

If we truly believe God we will believe His Word. If we truly believe His word we will act upon it. Only he who believes is obedient and only he who is obedient believes. Faith is only real in the act of obedience

- Romans 6:17 (NLT)
¹⁷Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you.
- Hebrew 5:9 (NLT)
⁹...and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8 (NLT)
⁸In flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus.

- Mankind Judged

- Matthew 24:37-44 (NLT)

³⁷ "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. ³⁸ In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. ³⁹ People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. ⁴⁰ "Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. ⁴² "So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

Judgment is coming upon the wicked and ungodly. And though the agent God uses will not be water, it will be just as devastating on those who have refused to obey God.

- Acts 22:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.

- Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

- Romans 6:1-6 (NKJV)

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

- Colossians 2:8-12 (NKJV)

⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins^[a] of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.