

# Genesis

**Memorize the TRUTH!**

Lesson 4  
The Result of Rebellion-Part 2  
Genesis 6:5-9:29

I have set my rainbow in the clouds,  
and it will be the sign of the covenant  
between me and the earth.  
Genesis 9:13

## Noah — Genesis 6:5-10

### Day 1

1. What was the condition of mankind at the time of the Flood?
2. What do you learn about God from these verses?
3. Read Isaiah 46:10. How do we know that man's sin didn't surprise God?
4. Why did God spare Noah and his family?

## Learn the TRUTH!



As society continues to deteriorate, God determines that He must pass judgment on the rebellion. But He saves Noah, a righteous man who was unafraid to speak out for God in a wicked world. This week, ask God to help you speak up for His truth and against the sin that permeates our world.

## Building an Ark — Genesis 6:11-22

### Day 2

5. Read Genesis 2:5-6. Why would God's words in Genesis 6:17 require faith to believe?
6. What evidence of faith does God see in you?
7. a. What challenges do you think Noah may have faced in building the ark?  
  
b. When have you faced challenges in your efforts to obey God?

**The Great Flood**  
**Genesis 7:1-8:14**

**Day 3**

8. a. What did God tell Noah to do when the ark was completed?
- b. How was Noah able to accomplish such a task?
- c. How could this encourage you when God asks you to do something that seems impossible?
9. What details does this passage give us about the Flood and its consequences?
10. Do you think the Flood was global? Why or why not?

**Covenant With Noah**  
**Genesis 8:15-9:6**

**Day 4**

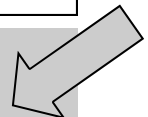
11. What were God's instructions to Noah after the flood waters dried up?
12. a. What was the first thing Noah did after he and his family left the ark?
- b. What does this tell you about Noah?
13. How did the relationship between man and animals change at this time?
14. How do God's instructions in Genesis 9:5-6 show the value He places on human life?

**Signs of the Covenant**  
**Genesis 9:7-29**

**Day 5**

15. What does Genesis 8:21 reveal about humanity?
16. a. Describe the covenant that God made with Noah after the Flood.
- b. What did God say would be the sign of this covenant?
- c. Why is this meaningful to you?

**Live the TRUTH!**



**As Noah's society deteriorated, God finally said, "Enough is enough," and He judged: "My Spirit will not contend with man forever" (Genesis 6:3). How different is that from today? Wickedness is rampant; people "call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20). At what point will God again say, "Enough is enough"? What can we do? God tells us, "If my people ... will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).**

# Commentary Genesis Lesson 4

Mankind is steadily decaying. Moses cites both the excessive wickedness of man and God's knowledge of his inner makeup. God "was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain" (6:6). God resolves to destroy human beings and most of the animal creation. The notable exception is Noah, a man who finds favor with God because of his personal godliness (Genesis 6:8-9). Noah's perfection lay not in sinlessness, but in his faith (Hebrews 11:7). Noah "walked with God." Therefore, God orders Noah to prepare for the coming judgment by building an ark. Only Noah, his family, and a large number of animals would be aboard this vessel.

The Genesis Flood was of global proportion, not a regional catastrophe. Several things point to this fact: (1) "All people" (6:13) were to be destroyed; (2) the waters would rise higher than the mountains; (3) the Flood lasted for over a year (compare 7:6 and 8:13); (4) an ark was required to preserve life, which would have been unnecessary for a local flood; (5) the New Testament affirms that the Genesis Flood was global (2 Peter 3:3-7); (6) the size of the ark makes possible an animal population large enough to repopulate the earth after the destruction. God gives careful dimensions for the ark in Genesis 6:15.

The enormous ark requires a great deal of time and effort to construct. Eventually, God commands Noah to "go into the ark" (Genesis 7:1). The Hebrew text suggests that the translation ought to read, "Come into the ark." God is not a detached observer, but He would endure the experience along with Noah and his family.

Noah takes matched pairs of most animals into the ark. Once aboard, "the Lord shut him in" (7:16). The waters of the Flood begin to collect. Genesis 7:11 indicates that probably most of the waters came from the breaking up of underground reservoirs — "all the springs of the great deep." Nonstop rain for 40 days added to the supply, but the underground water sources may have continued flooding for as much as 150 days — nearly four months after the rains stopped (Genesis 7:24). Eventually, "every living thing" (7:21) perishes. The totality of the devastation is emphasized time and again.

The Flood continues for five months before the waters begin to recede. The ark touches dry land seven months after the rain first began to fall. For two-and-a-half additional months, the ark rests near the mountaintops while the waters continue to drop. Noah determines the proper time for leaving the ark by sending out birds. On its third try the dove does not return. "Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth" (8:11). Noah and his family are on the ark for about one year. At that point, God directs Noah, his family, and the animals, to "Come out of the ark" (8:15-19).

Once the ark is emptied, Noah builds an altar and sacrifices clean animals on it as thanksgiving. God declares to never again destroy all living creatures with a flood. God's promise to never again bring such a destructive flood on the earth demands that Noah's Flood be universal. If the biblical Flood were merely local, God has violated the promise of Genesis 8:21 countless times.

## **Check It Out:**

When God told Noah to build an ark because a great flood was coming to punish the world's population for their wickedness, Noah obediently began building it according to God's specifications, even though he had never seen rain.

Apparently he talked as he worked because we are told he was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). No one heeded his warnings or acknowledged their need for salvation from the judgment to come. Was Noah discouraged? Perhaps, but he is listed in Hebrews 11 as a hero of the faith. We are called to speak up for righteousness like Noah.

God now permits human beings to kill animals and eat their meat (9:3). The blood must be drained from any meat that is to be eaten to display respect for life. If a human being takes the life of another human, the guilty person must pay with his own life. Opponents of capital punishment sometimes argue that human life is too precious to remove via execution. From God's point of view, human blood must be shed because the life of the murder victim is too precious to go unpaid. In the Noahic covenant (9:8-17), He makes a promise and seals it with the sign of the rainbow (Hebrew, *bow*). What men use for killing, God displays in the heavens as a symbol of peace. Whenever God sees it, He will be reminded of the promise He made to Noah.

The repopulation of the globe comes entirely from Noah's three sons. Shem would become the father of the Shemitic (or Semitic) peoples, including the Jews; Ham, the father of peoples that include the Egyptians, the Babylonians, and the Canaanites. The descendants of Japheth would spread into central Asia and Europe.

Noah gets drunk and lies uncovered inside his tent. The Bible says, "Ham saw his father's nakedness" (9:22), suggesting that Ham delights in viewing his father's shame and makes it a conversational topic with his brothers. Shem and Japheth respectfully cover him. The seriousness of Ham's actions merits a curse from his father: Ham will be wounded by the depravity of his youngest son, Canaan. Noah's curse is specifically against Canaan and his branch of the family, not Ham. The curse is against wickedness and is important to Israelite history because God is revealing the seeds of sin which brought His command for Israel to destroy Canaan's wicked descendants when Israel entered the Promised Land. Noah's respectful sons, Shem and Japheth, will be blessed. From Shem will come Abraham, the children of Israel, and ultimately, the Messiah. The Japhethites, who will later fill the area north of the Mediterranean, will expand greatly and benefit from Shem's spiritual heritage.



**Noah must have encountered criticism and ridicule as he built a big ship. God has promised He will never leave us or forsake us – a promise made in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 31:6) and repeated in the New Testament (Hebrews 13:5).**

**Have you thought that God has overestimated your ability to handle pain, stress, or problems? Remember that God is there with you; the Holy Spirit comforts; and the Lord Jesus walks with us through the fires and the floods that afflict us. With Him beside you, you can handle what you thought you couldn't handle and be victorious at the end.**

**He may not change the situation, but He will change you!**



**What is humanity's condition as described in Isaiah 5:20?**

**What is the remedy as described in 2 Chronicles 7:14?**