

# Church of God Sunday School

## NOAH AND THE ARK

Genesis 6:1 – 9:17

When God created the first man and woman (Adam and Eve), He had a special plan. God wanted to have fellowship with the people He created. He wanted them to love Him and live pleasing to Him. But it was not long before people forgot about God.

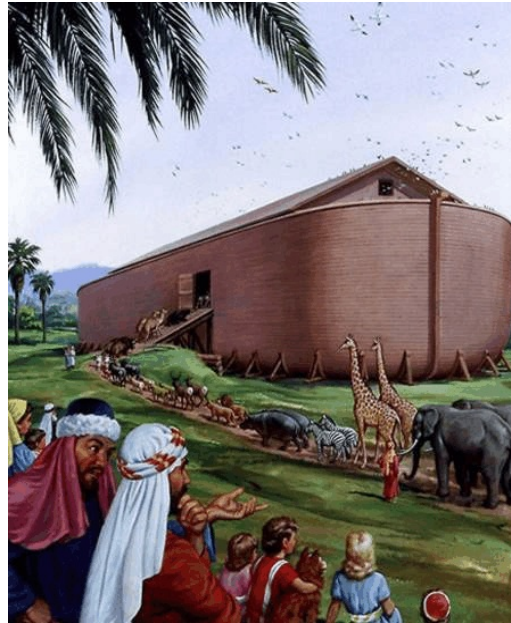
"The Lord saw that the human beings on the earth were very wicked. He also saw that their thoughts were only about evil all the time" (*International Children's Bible*).

The Lord was sorry that He had made man. He decided that He would "destroy man . . . and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air." But not everyone was wicked. There was a righteous man, named Noah, who "found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Like Enoch so many years before, Noah also "walked with God."

God warned Noah of what He was going to do. Because of the righteousness of Noah, God told Noah to build an ark (a boat). God told Noah exactly how to make the ark: the type of wood to use, the size of the ark, the number of floors, and where to locate the door and the window.

God made a promise to Noah: ". . . with thee will I establish my covenant [agreement]; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee."

God also had a plan for the animals. He told Noah to bring "of every sort [kind] . . . into the ark, to keep them alive with thee." Noah was to bring "by sevens, the male and his female" of every *clean* animal (such as sheep, cows, or goats). Some of the *clean* animals would be offered to God



as sacrifices after the Flood.

Noah was to bring "by two, the male and his female" of the *unclean* animals (such as pigs, snakes, and rabbits). These were not to be offered to God as sacrifices. Of the birds, God told Noah to take "by sevens, the male and the female."

The ark needed to be very large to hold all of these animals and birds. God knew exactly how big it should be! God also knew the animals would need food while they were on the ark. He told Noah to "gather some of every kind of food. Store it on the boat as food for you and the animals" (*International Children's*

*Bible*).

"And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him." God told Noah that He was going to destroy "every living substance . . . from off the face of the earth," and Noah believed Him. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet . . . prepared an ark to the saving of his house" (Hebrews 11:7).

What do you think Noah's friends and neighbors thought about this ark? Noah, a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5), must have warned them continually of the coming destruction of the world. Did they believe him? No! They continued living their lives as they always had, "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage" (Matthew 24:38).

When Noah was six hundred years old, he and his family went into the ark. The animals (clean and unclean) and the birds went into the ark "two and two."

When Noah and his family were



safe in the ark, "the LORD shut him in." God closed the door, and no man could open it.

After God shut the door, "the waters of the flood [that] were upon the earth. . . . all the fountains of the great deep [were] broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened." For forty days and forty nights, it rained. All the high hills and mountains were covered with water. Everything that was on the earth was destroyed—"every man, animal, crawling thing and bird of the sky" (*International Children's Bible*).

The water was on the earth for one hundred and fifty days. But God did not forget Noah, his family, and every living thing in the ark. God made a great wind to pass over the earth, and the water slowly began to go down. In time, the ark came to rest "upon the mountains of Ararat."

The water continued to go down until "the tops of the mountains" could be seen. Forty days later, Noah opened the window in the ark and sent out a raven and a dove. The raven flew back and forth until the water was gone. But the dove returned to the ark, because the water still covered the trees and the earth. There was no place for her to rest.

Seven days later, Noah sent out the dove again. She returned that evening with a freshly plucked olive leaf. Noah knew that the waters had gone down some more. After seven more days, Noah sent the dove out. She did not come back to the ark that time.

Noah looked at the earth from the ark. He could see that it was drying. Finally, when the earth was

completely dry, God said to Noah, "Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee . . . be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth."

So Noah, his family, and all the creatures came out of the ark. Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices to God "of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl." The Lord smelled the sweet smell of the sacrifices. He blessed Noah and his sons and gave them dominion over every creature of the earth.

God also established a covenant with Noah and his family and all the creatures, promising to never destroy the earth with a flood again. As a sign of this agreement between God and every living thing on the earth, God told Noah that He would set a rainbow in the clouds.

God said: "And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud. . . . and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant . . . ."

The rainbow is a reminder to all of God's promise to Noah. God said He would remember His promise, and He wants us to remember it too.

~~~~~  
**MEMORY VERSE:**  
*"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."  
—Genesis 6:8*  
~~~~~