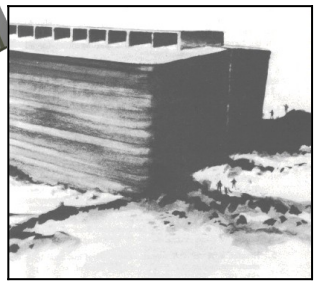
Noah and the Ark



Genesis 6:13-8:2
1/11/98

Introduction:

**** Noah was saved from God's judgment, which fell upon the entire world!***

Learn some vital lessons from his example:

Noah had…

I. Faith to believe

that God would do precisely what He said He would do.
(6:13-21)

Noah had…

II. Obedience to do

exactly what God told him to do
(6:22-7:5)

Noah had…

III. Grace to live

and survive the flood, just as God promised he would
(7:6-23)

Noah had…

IV. Patience to wait

upon God and not move out until God allowed him to
(7:24-8:19)

Noah had…

V. A Heart to worship

God with a sacrifice well pleasing to Him
(8:20-22)

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Introduction:

To deny that the flood occurred is to deny one of the clearest, most well-documented declarations of Scripture.

To deny it is to deny the validity of the host of other Scriptures which refer to it (Job 12:15, 22:16; Ps. 29:10, 104:6-9; Is. 54:9), including the Words of Jesus Christ (Mt. 24:37-39; Lk. 17:26-27) and several other New Testament writers (Heb . 11:7; I Pet. 3:20; II Pet. 2:5, 3:5-6).

(There are over 270 flood stories told in cultures all over the earth. [MacArthur note])

**** Noah was saved from God's judgment, which fell upon the entire world!***

Learn some vital lessons from his example:

Noah had…

I. <u>Faith</u> to <u>believe</u>

that God would do precisely what He said He would do.
(6:13-21)

Although Noah had never experienced rain before (not even a passing shower), and although the word "flood" was foreign to his vocabulary, he believed God.

Heb. 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

We too walk by faith, not sight.

6:14
"An <u>ark</u>" – A barge; a rectangular-shaped (shoe-box shaped) floating ocean vessel.

"Gopher wood" – "Probably cypress or cedar" wood (Ryrie note).

"Rooms" – various-sized compartments or sections to accommodate the diverse animals, to store food, to provide living quarters for Noah and his family.

"Pitch it" – Cover it; coat it inside and outside. The "pitch" would fill in the spaces and cracks between the lumber, making it completely waterproof.

"Pitch" – *kopher* from *kaphar*, which literally means a covering. This "pitch", also translated "slime" (Gen. 11:3) was a bitumen (in its soft state), like a thick black tar which would harden into a rubber type sealer.

This pitch was often used as a sealant (Ex. 2:3 – Jochabed daubed the "ark of bulrushes" with it); was very flammable in its unhardened state (Is. 34:9); and could be found in pits near the Dead Sea (Gen. 14:10).

6:15
A **"cubit"** was typically the measurement from the fingertip to the elbow, which later measured at 18 inches.

The ark's dimensions:

Length:" 300 cubits = 450 feet
Width: 50 cubits = 75 feet
Height: 30 cubits = 45 feet

Imagine a barge the size of 1½ football fields!

Was the ark big enough to hold the number of animals required?

The total available floor space on the ark would have been over 100,000 square feet, which would be more floor space than in 20 standard-sized basketball courts. The total cubic volume would have been 1,518,000 cubic feet --that would be equal to the capacity of 569 modern railroad stock cars.
Remember there are really only a few very large animals, such as the dinosaur or the elephant, and these could be represented by young ones. Assuming the average animal to be about the size of a sheep and using a railroad car for comparison, we note that the average double-deck stock car can accommodate 240 sheep. Thus, three trains hauling 69 cars each would have ample space to carry the 50,000 animals, filling only 37% of the ark. This would leave an additional 361 cars or enough to make 5 trains of 72 cars each to carry all of the food and baggage plus Noah's family of eight people. The Ark had plenty of space.

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6:16
"Window" – An opening for light, ventilation, and the accumulation of rain water (to drink) located 18 inches (a "cubit") from the top edge of the ark.

The one door to the ark was evidently located on the second level, right in the middle of the side of the 350 foot long vessel.

The three floors no doubt had ramps, one ramp leading down to the lower level and one ramp leading up to the upper level.

6:17
"I, even I" – It would be no freak of "Mother Nature," nor a weather-related accident, but a sovereignly determined, direct act of God which caused the flood. So the Day of the Lord and the Battle of Armageddon will be by divine intervention and not by human mishap (not atomic bombs) or environmental accident (not global warming).

"Breath of life" – every creature which relied upon air to breath would perish.

God is a God of love, but He is also a God of righteous judgment. He destroyed a world of wicked people at the time of the flood, and He will do it again. He patiently waits for now, giving people time to repent and be saved (II Pet. 3:9-15).

6:18
"My covenant" – My binding promise. This promise included Noah's safety, but has special reference to God's promise never again to destroy the world by a flood. The sign of this promise would be the rainbow (Gen. 9:9-16).

Note: God kept His promise then and He still does today!

6:20
Male and female of every species of bird, mammal, reptile, and insect would be saved by Noah and his ark.

6:19-20
When Noah took the animals on board, he didn't have to take pairs of full-grown animals; some larger creatures (EX: elephants, dinosaurs) may have come on as young animals, making it easier (for that year plus) to feed and care for them.

6:20
"Two of every sort shall come unto thee" – Noah didn't have to roam the world searching for and gathering the animals; they automatically "came" to him.

Just as God built migrant instincts into certain birds (to fly south before the cold of winter, for example), so He caused the animals to instinctively come to Noah to save the species.

It is important to note that there was no fear of man in animals before the flood. This dread of and avoidance of man would not be instinctively part of the animals

realm until after the flood. Prior to the flood, everyone was a vegetarian (perhaps this was one reason why people lived so long). After the flood, God allows man to utilize animal meat for food (Gen. 9:3). It was due to this alteration that animals would now have a fear of man (Gen. 9:2).

6:21
Noah would have plenty of room to stockpile over a year's worth of grains, dried fruits, and vegetables, nuts, etc. for his family and the animals.

> Once aboard, many have suggested that Noah's problems really began, with only 8 people to feed and water, to provide fresh air and sanitation for the huge menagerie of animals for a total of 371 days. However, a number of scientists have suggested that the animals may have gone into a type of dormancy. It has been said that in nearly all groups of animals there is at least an indication of a latent ability to hibernate or aestivate. Perhaps these abilities were supernaturally intensified during this period. With their bodily functions reduced to a minimum, the burden of their care would have been greatly lightened.
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Noah had…

II. <u>Obedience</u> to <u>do</u>

exactly what God told him to do
(6:22-7:5)

6:22
--Noah obeyed God <u>exactly</u> – **"Thus Noah did"**

--Noah obeyed God <u>completely</u> – **"All that God commanded him"**

Had Noah not obeyed, you and I would not be here today.

Your obedience to God today will impact people in the future (your family, friends, and neighbors will be affected by whether you decide to obey or disobey God)

7:1
"Come thou" – Noah would enter the ark seven days later (cp. v. 7, 12-13).

God's invitation has always been "come" (Is. 55:1; Mt. 25:34; Rev. 22:17).

"For thee I have seen righteous" – Noah was unique in his day, a peculiar man, a just man in an unjust generation, a straight man in a crooked world, a morally pure man in a morally corrupt society, a shining light in the midst of darkness.

7:2

"Clean beast. . . by <u>sevens</u>" – Through revelation known to Noah, a distinction had been made between the clean and the unclean animals.

The clean would be gathered in sevens, so that they could be later used as:
1) food & 2) sacrifices (8:20)

7:4
Noah would have 7 days to gather the animals and birds in.

"I have made. . . I [will] destroy" – The sovereign Creator has every right to dispose of His creation any time and in any way He chooses.

7:5
Noah's exact and complete obedience is again reiterated (cp. 6:22).

Noah had…

III. <u>Grace</u> to <u>live</u>

and survive the flood, just as God promised he would
(7:6-23)

7:7
"Noah went in. . . because of the waters" – Because of the impending waters that would come from above and before the earth's surface, Noah the same day entered the ark.

The Church, too, because of the wrath of God to fall upon the earth, will go into Heaven and be with Christ.

7:11
The flood waters would come from two directions: underneath and above.

"The fountains (springs) **of the great deep" –** All of the subterranean waters would be brought up by global quakes.

The sequence of this verse indicates that the earth's crust breaks up first, then the heavens drop their water. This is interesting because the volcanic explosions due to the fractured earth would have sent <u>magma</u> and <u>dust</u> into the atmosphere, along with gigantic sprays of water, gas, and air – all <u>penetrating the canopy</u> and triggering its downpour (MacArthur note).

"The windows of heaven" – God here paints a picture of the sky being, as it were, closed up in a vast store of moisture and now (for the first time in history),

the canopy unleashes its H20 as the windows open up and the rain comes pouring through.

> Dr. Joseph Dillow has calculated how much water vapor it would be physically possible to suspend above the atmosphere as a blanket around the earth. He has suggested that it would be the water vapor equivalent of about 12 meters (40 feet) thickness of liquid water. He calculated that such a quantity of water would be sufficient to generate 40 days and 40 nights of torrential rainfall; whereas if these waters above had been clouds, then the moisture in the current atmosphere, if precipitated to earth as rainfall, would be only the equivalent of less than five centimeters (two inches) thickness of liquid water hardly enough to sustain 40 days and 40 nights of rainfall at the time of the Flood.
> Therefore, it seems clear that the reference in Genesis 7:11 to the "windows of heaven being opened" is a reference to the collapse of this water vapor canopy, which somehow became unstable and fell as rain, the eyewitnesses describing the event as the "windows of heaven being opened". Some have suggested that when the fountains of the great deep broke open, presumably as volcanic eruptions, the dust generated by these eruptions would have spread up into the water vapor canopy, causing the water vapor to nucleate with dust particles and form water droplets that then fell as rain.
>
> Excerpt from The Answers Book, Revised Edition, by Ken Ham, Andrew Snelling and Carl Wieland, published by Master Books, 1992.
> Supplied by Answers in Genesis

7:13
"Three wives" – No polygamy in this family!

7:16
"And the Lord shut him in" – God Himself closed the door and sealed it water tight.

The Bible speaks of another door, which God will shut in the future.

Mt. 25:10-13 - And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.
11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.
12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.
13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

7:19
"All the high hills. . . were covered" – a universal flood

Note: Since several mountains today rise over 20 thousand feet above seal level, it is evident that these mountains did not emerge until during and/or after the flood came. Perhaps those mountains were formed when God shook the earth and broke up the depths (7:11).

7:20
The water emerged 22 ½ feet above the tops of the highest mountains.

7:21-23
Note **<u>one</u>** single air-breathing living organism survived the flood.

7:23
The flood washed the earth clean, so that not a trace of the wicked or their wickedness would be found (A. Ross, p. 190).

Have you ever seen the catastrophic effects of merely a small local flood? (ILLUS: the washed-out road in the desert of Israel in 1996).

Noah had…

IV. <u>Patience</u> to <u>wait</u>

upon God and not move out until God allowed him to
(7:24-8:19)

7:24
For 150 days not one blade of grass was visible. The waters covered everything for 150 days.

8:1
"The waters assuaged" – the waters subsided.

> So the whole earth was covered with the Flood waters, and the world that then existed was destroyed by the very waters out of which the earth had originally emerged at God's command (Genesis 1:9; II Peter 3:5,6). But where did those waters go afterwards?
> There are a number of Scripture passages that identify the Flood waters with the present-day seas (Amos 9:6 and Job 38:8-11). If the waters are still here, how is it that the highest mountains are not still covered with water, as they were in Noah's day? Psalm 104 gives us the answer. After the waters covered the mountains (verse 6), God rebuked them and they fled (verse 7); the mountains rose, the valleys sank down (verse 8) and God set a boundary so that they will never again cover the earth (verse 9). They are the same waters!
>
> Isaiah gives this same statement that the waters of Noah should never again cover the earth (Isaiah 54:9). Clearly, what the Bible is telling us is that God acted to alter the earth's topography. New continental

land-masses bearing new mountain chains of folded rock strata were uplifted from below the globe-encircling waters that had eroded and leveled the pre-Flood topography, while large deep ocean basins were formed to receive and accommodate the Flood waters that then drained off the emerging continents.

That's why the oceans are so deep, and why there are folded mountain ranges. Indeed, if the entire earth's surface was leveled by smoothing out the topography of not only the land surface but also the rock surface on the ocean floor, the waters of the ocean would cover the earth's surface to a depth of more than three kilometers (two miles). Quite clearly, then, the waters of Noah's Flood are in today's ocean basins. We need to remember that nearly 70 percent of the earth's surface is still covered by water.

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8:7
The raven, being a scavenger bird, would have no problem finding food and perching on any slimy surface, so it apparently did not return to the ark. (Ryrie)

8:8-9
The dove would not perch on any wet or muddy surface so it came back to the ark.

8:13
Noah was:
480 years old when God revealed that the world would perish in 120 years (6:3).
500 years old when he had his 3 sons (Gen. 5:32).
600 years old when the flood waters came.
601 years old when he would exit the ark.

"Noah . . . looked and behold . . ." – As Noah took his first look at the new world, he saw a completely reformatted environment. A totally different sky (without the canopy), a totally different land structure and soil composition due to the flood. A water cycle (a new system of hydrology; something never experienced before). The Four Seasons (8:22). Varied temperatures, etc.

The Noaic Flood provides solid answers to many questions involving the varied geological formations we find all over the earth today.

8:14
The duration Noah and the animals would be in the ark:

600th year, 2nd month, 17th day --- Noah enters the ark and the flood comes (7:11)

601st year, 2nd month, 27th day --- Noah exits the ark (8:14).

TOTAL: 1 year and 10 days! What a long time to be "cooped up."

Noah had…

V. A Heart to worship

God with a sacrifice well pleasing to Him
(8:20-22)

8:20
The flood is not merely a negative reminder of God's wrath against sin and sinners. It speaks of God's desire to be gracious to the world, by purging it of that which ruined life for mankind. God did in the past and will in the future "judge the wicked with severe and catastrophic judgment in order to start life over with a worshipping community" (Ross, p. 198).

No one told Noah he had to offer a sacrifice; God did not command it nor require it. Noah from a thankful and worshipful heart takes some of the extra "clean" animals and birds and offers them to God.

The end result of God's salvation (deliverance) is always actions of gratitude; a reverential worship to God will always be in the life of one who is a recipient of His mercy and grace.

8:21
The soothing aroma indicates that God had accepted Noah's sacrifice.

--Does your life please God?
--Are your sacrifices a pleasant fragrance to Him?

Analogies Between the Ark and Jesus Christ

ARK	CHRIST
One door (Gen. 6:16)	He is the one door to Heaven (Jn. 10:9)
A place of refuge (safety)	Our refuge (Heb. 6:18)
The LORD shut him in (Gen. 7:16)	The Father puts us in the Son (Jn. 6:37) and sealed us securely (Eph. 4:30)
Only those who <u>believed</u> went in the ark (I Pet. 3:20)	Only those who <u>believe</u> are in Christ (Eph. 1:1; I Jn. 5:20)
Only those in the ark were saved from God's judgment (I Pet. 3:20)	Only those in Christ are saved from His judgment (Rom. 8:1)