

Noah, A Preacher of Righteousness

But [God] protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others, when he brought the flood on the world of the ungodly (2 Peter 2:5, CSB)

The toledoth (Hb.) (generations) of Noah begins in Genesis 6:9, and his story ends in 9:29. Along with Adam, he is one of the two central characters of Genesis 1-11. Noah is described as righteous, blameless, and a man who walked with God, yet he is still a sinner in need of God's grace. Noah's story is one of extraordinary faith in and obedience to God.

- Noah is the son of Lamech, a descendent of Seth, the third son of Eve, the wife of Adam
- There are ten generations between Adam and Noah
- Methuselah, the oldest man in the Bible, was Noah's grandfather
- Enoch, the man God took to heaven without dying, was Noah's great-grandfather
- The name of Noah's wife is not recorded in the Bible; his three sons were Shem, Ham, and Japheth
- Jesus affirms the historicity of Noah and the global flood in Mat 24:37-38 and Luke 17:26-27
- Ezekiel compares Noah to Daniel and Job; Peter references Noah in 1 & 2 Peter
- It is impossible to conceive of the ridicule Noah experienced, building an ark in the middle of dry ground
- Noah believed God when He told him to build an ark for the salvation of his family from a global flood
- The flood was God's judgment against human wickedness such that every inclination of man was evil all the time
- Yahweh (the LORD) declared that He would wipe humanity and all animals off the face of the earth
- God regretted that He had made humans, but Noah found favor (grace) with Yahweh (6:8)
- We can assume Noah's sons were very involved in the building process
- The Ark was 450 ft long, 75 ft wide, and 45 ft high, made of gopher (or cypress) wood and covered in pitch
- Genesis does not record how long it took Noah to construct the Ark
- God saved the lives of Noah, his wife, their 3 sons, and their wives along with some animals
 - 7 pairs, male and female, of the clean animals; 2 of the animals that were not clean, male and female
 - God instructed Noah to store food in the Ark for his family and the animals
- Twice the narrative records that Noah did all that God commanded him (6:22, 7:5)
- God told Noah to enter the Ark, and God shut the door of the Ark
- The flood was caused by continuous rain for 40 days and 40 nights
- Noah was 600 years old when the flood covered the earth and was in the Ark for approx. 370 days
- Eventually, the Ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat in modern-day Turkey (8:4)
- When Noah thought the flood was over, he sent out a raven and then used a dove to confirm it was safe
- The dove returns with an olive leaf in its beak;
- From this text, the image of a dove with an olive branch has become a universal symbol of peace
- After the flood was over, Noah built an altar and offered clean animals and birds as a burnt offering to Yahweh
- God guarantees that seasons, day and night, cold and heat, will continue for as long as the earth does
- Yahweh now permits eating meat without blood in it and reissues the mandate to be fruitful and multiply
- Yahweh institutes capital punishment and God reminds all that humans are made in His image
- God promises never again to destroy all life through a flood
- The rainbow is the sign of this everlasting covenant with Noah and humanity (9:16)
- After the flood, Noah got drunk and lay naked; thus, sin entered the post-flood world all over again
- Ham, the father of the Canaanites, saw the nakedness and then dishonored Noah by reporting it to his brothers
- Shem and Japheth covered the nakedness without seeing it and were blessed for their actions
- The descendants of Ham, the Canaanites, were cursed
- Noah died at 950 years old (9:29)

Noah's Ark is a picture of salvation in Christ Jesus. The flood represents God's judgment against sin. Those outside the Ark were not saved from God's wrath. Those who believed the Ark could save them from death during the flood got into the Ark. Noah believed God concerning the promise of impending judgment, built the Ark, got into it, and waited for God to shut the door. And Noah remained in the Ark until he knew it was safe. Faith without works is dead (Jam 2:17). Noah proved his faith was genuine through his actions. Those whose faith is in Christ as their Savior will also be saved from the wrath of God and will be characterized as having both a life of obedience to God and faith, like Noah.