

HELP WANTED

...a study in the Life of Noah



Message Series

Student Impact Ministries

...the High School Ministry of Canton Baptist Temple

HELP WANTED

Week 1: A World in Desperate Need

Series

Week 1: A World in Desperate Need (Situation)

Week 2: A Man Willing to Believe (Solution)

Week 3: A Flood of Harsh Reality (Storm)

Week 4: A God Who Delivers (Salvation)

Summary

It had only been about 1600 years since God had created Adam and Eve (who chose to live independent of Him) until people began to totally remove God from their thinking. The entire universe had gone from complete perfection to complete perversion in a matter of years and God was getting fed up with mankind ignoring His ways. Everywhere He turned, evil was present and no one seemed interested in changing the way they were living.

Finally, man's sin pushed God to the edge and He gave mankind 120 years (evidences God's patience) to "clean up their act." However, there was one man who knew and obeyed God because he loved Him. This man, Noah, chose to live God's way even when all those around him were choosing the world's way and living their life in direct violation to God's law.

God honored Noah's obedience and spared him the punishment of being destroyed in a world-wide flood that would kill every living thing. God spoke to Noah and asked him to build an ark that would protect him, his family, and certain animals against the devastation of the flood. During this series we will look at the evil world in desperate need of righteousness, a man who was willing to believe God, the events surrounding the flood, and God's rescue of Noah and his family from the ark.

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Introduction

Because of the life span of people during this time was very long (hundreds of years according to Genesis 5) people were obviously having a lot of children. In fact, we have record of some people within the genealogy of chapter 5 living until they were over 900 years old. At the conclusion of Genesis 5, we are introduced to a man named Noah who was 500 years old before he had Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Let's look at some facts about Noah:

- His father was Lamech and his grandfather was Methuselah (the oldest man in recorded history – 969)
- His occupation was a farmer, builder, and prophet
- He seemed to be the only one following God during his generation
- He is the second father of mankind

Scripture:

Genesis 6:1-12

Study:

→ Evil happens when people simply ignore God (6:1-5, 11-12)

- The world was full of people (v.1)
- The world was full of immorality and perversion, indicating that they had no respect for marriage (vv.2-4)
 - ✓ There are different views on the identity of the *sons of God* (v.2)
 - Sons of Seth who lived with the daughters of Cain
 - Human kings who wanted to build harems
 - Fallen angels who possessed men (probably the best view)
 - ✓ These demon possessed men continued to take many wives (disobeying God's plan for marriage) which produced ungodly children.
 - ✓ God became frustrated with man's disobedience, so He gave them 120 years to repent – evidencing His patience with man's disobedience (v.3)
- The world was full of evil thinking (v.5)
 - ✓ God was fully aware that the earth had become a wicked place
 - ✓ He was most concerned that every thought that they had was evil
 - Jeremiah 17:9** *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*
- The world was full of violence, indicating that they had no respect for life (vv.11-12)

Conclusion: Evil is a matter of the heart and when a heart is corrupt, it causes man to ignore God and pursue his own selfish desires.

→ Since God loves people, it disappoints Him when they pursue sinful pleasures (6:6-7)

- God is patient when we do wrong
 - Genesis 6:3** *And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*
 - ✓ God was still reaching out to people

1 Peter 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

- ✓ However, He could not allow them to get away with evil so He gave them 120 years to repent
- God regretted that He had made man because He was disappointed with their choices (v.6)
- God decides what the punishment will be (v.7)

Conclusion: God loves us no matter what choices we make and He is even willing to be patient with us when we are running from Him; however, if you continue to disobey Him, He will be forced to judge you.

→ **God is looking for people who are willing to stand against the evil of their culture (6:8-10)**

- Noah humbled himself before God recognizing that God was the Creator and Savior from sin (v.8)
 - ✓ Humility causes us to understand that life cannot be lived without God
 - ✓ Humility causes us to look to God during the good and bad times
- Noah was continually growing in his relationship with God (vv.9-10)
 - ✓ Noah lived by God's standards (*just*)
 - ✓ Noah ignored what everyone else was doing in order to listen to the voice of God (*perfect*)
 - ✓ Noah took his directions from God (*walked*)

Conclusion: Like Noah, we are called by God to stand up for Him in a culture that does not follow His ways.

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Week 2: A Man Willing to Believe

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Review (Genesis 6:1-12)

- Evil happens when people simply ignore God
 - The world was full of people
 - The world was full of immorality and perversion
 - The world was full of evil thinking
 - The world was full of violence, indicating that they had no respect for life
- Since God loves people, it disappoints Him when they pursue sinful pleasures
 - God is patient when we do wrong
 - God regretted that He had made man because He was disappointed with their choices
 - God decides what the punishment will be
- God is looking for people who are willing to stand against the evil of their culture
 - Noah humbled himself before God recognizing that God was the Creator and Savior from sin
 - Noah was continually growing in his relationship with God

Introduction

After God had given the status of the world, that it was ignoring Him and pursuing evil, God turned to Noah to reveal His plans for the future. As a result of the people's disobedience, God had to judge their sin and He decided that this judgment would have to take an extreme form. Since *every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually*, God chose to destroy the entire human race, except for Noah and his immediate family (his wife, three sons and their wives). In these verses, we will look at Noah and how he was willing to take what God told him and believe that God could use him to preserve the human race.

Scripture:

Genesis 6:13-7:9

Study:

Genesis 6:22 *Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.*

Areas where Noah evidenced his belief in God:

→ **Noah believed God would judge sin and remove mankind from the earth, so he listened to God (6:13)**

- Obviously, Noah had good communication with God because He shared His heart with Noah
 - God's patience with man had run out forcing Him to judge their continual sin
 - The judgment would be one of destruction of the human race and animal kingdom, except Noah's family and a few of every animal
 - ✓ The destruction of man did not mean annihilation of the human race
 - ✓ However, the destruction would come through the form of the flood judgment
- 2 Peter 3:6** *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

Conclusion: You should make it a habit to understand God's ways and His character in order to be in touch with His heart.

→ **Noah believed God would spare he and his family for being righteous, so he built the ark (6:14-22)**

- After revealing to Noah His plan for judgment, God gave Noah instructions to build an ark (a box designed to float on water) to protect he and his family from certain death (6:14-16)
 - ✓ The ark was to be constructed of gopherwood and covered with pitch (v.14)
 - Gopherwood was probably a hard, dense wood such as cedar or Cypress
 - Pitch was used to seal the cracks and make the ark waterproof (pitch is the Hebrew word *kopher* and is equal to the Hebrew word *kaphar*, meaning covering or atonement)
 - ✓ The ark was 450 ft. long, 75 ft. wide, and 45 ft. high (v.15)
 - ✓ The ark had one window (similar to a skylight), one door on its' side, and three levels (v.16)
- In contrast to the judgment on mankind, God told Noah that he would spare 8 members of his family - his wife, three sons and their wives (6:16-18)
- God said that He would also spare the animal kingdom by taking a male and female of every kind onto the ark (6:19-20)

- ✓ There are probably about 18,000 species living on the earth today which tells us that this number may have been doubled if we figure in extinct species
- ✓ This means that there were probably around 72,000 animals on the ark (the ark had 1.4 million cubic feet, which translates to 522 railroad box cars capable of holding 125,000 sheep)
- ✓ The animals that Noah took were not said to be full-size adults, so he probably took the young
- Noah also had food supplies for one year (v.21)
- Noah followed these plans God had given him (v.22)

Conclusion: As you begin to understand God's heart, He will use you to accomplish His will, even when it seems impossible.

→ **Noah believed God knew what He was doing, so he actually got on the ark (7:1-9)**

- Noah took the final step of faith after he had built the ark and actually got on it (7:1-3, 7-9)
- Rain would come in seven days and begin to destroy mankind (7:4-5)
 - ✓ The rain would last 40 days and 40 nights
 - ✓ The rain would cause the earth to globally flood and destroy all men and creatures living on the earth
 - ✓ Noah still listened to God
- It had taken Noah approximately 100 years to build the ark (7:6)

Genesis 5:32 *And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

Conclusion: Sometimes God's plans take time to complete, but be willing to believe that God's knows what He is doing, even when you're not sure.

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Week 3: A Flood of Harsh Reality

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Conclusion: Sometimes God's plans take time to complete, but be willing to believe that God's knows what He is doing, even when you're not sure.

Introduction

After nearly 100 years of preparing the ark, the time had finally come for God to bring into reality the judgment He had proposed to Noah on the human race. Now the real test of Noah and his family's faith would come as they were shut in the ark and the biggest storm in history moved across the earth.

I'm sure as Noah entered the ark there were thoughts of uncertainty as he contemplated what awaited him over the next several days and months. It reminds me of the uncertainty of life and the trials that regularly enter our own lives. Sometimes we are uncertain where life with God will take us or what the road ahead looks like; however, God promises to walk with us on our journey and provide peace in the midst of the storm.

Scripture:

Genesis 7:10-8:19

Study:

How did Noah deal with the harsh reality of the flood?

→ **Although his path was unclear, Noah trusted that God would protect he and his family (7:10-16)**

- Most likely, these last 7 days before the flood allowed Noah to make final preparations, but also for God to hold out His mercy for those who may repent (7:10)
- After the 7 days were up, the earth began to flood (7:11-15)
 - ✓ Noah was 600 years old when this happened (v.11a)
 - ✓ The flooding came from beneath the earth and from above the earth (v.11b)
 - *The fountains of the great deep were broken up* indicates that water sprang up from the earth caused by deep fountains in the earth's crust
 - *The windows of heaven* indicates that rain also fell from the canopy which surrounded the earth
 - The breaking up of the earth's crust may have caused water being released from above.
 - Therefore, the flooding resulted from water above and below the earth.
 - ✓ The rain from above continued 40 days (v.12)
 - ✓ This is just a recapping of Noah, his family, and the animals getting on the ark (vv.13-15)
- The closing of the only door to the ark brought finality to their faith (v.16)
 - ✓ All the passengers on the ark were now in God's hands
 - ✓ They were totally dependent on God to protect them from what was to come
 - ✓ God miraculously shut the door to the ark (we don't know how, but we know it happened)

Conclusion: In looking at Psalm 37, I believe we can parallel the story of Noah with Biblical principles that will guide our current day life. Here we find that

Psalm 37:1 *Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. 4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

- We should not worry when it seems that those who are doing wrong are getting away with it. Their judgment will come.
- As a Christian, your responsibility is to trust in the Lord (Hebrew *batach* meaning to attach oneself to something) and simply continue to do right (*do good*), even when it seems like everyone else is getting away with doing wrong.
- Along with trusting in the Lord and doing right, you must also do so by delighting in Him resulting in God meeting the requests of your heart

→ **Although the path was hard, Noah was committed to fulfilling God's plan (7:17-23)**

- The rain was on the earth for 40 days, flooding the earth and lifting the ark off the ground (7:17-20)
 - ✓ This flood was a global flood, not just a local one (vv.17-19)
 - ✓ The waters rose over the highest mountain at least 22.5 feet so that the ark could freely float above them (v.20)
 - The highest mountain in the area where Noah began was Mt. Ararat, which is 17,000 feet high
 - This gives further proof that this just wasn't a local flood
- Everything that was alive on the earth died, except all passengers on the ark (7:21-23)

Conclusion: Although the rain continued for 40 long days, Noah continued to be committed to God's plan

Psalm 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. 6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

- We should continue to commit to God's way (Hebrew *ghalal* meaning to turn or roll oneself upon) by continually turning ourselves over to Him, even when times get tough
- The result of turning ourselves over to God is that it will result in our righteousness being exposed

→ **Although the storm was long, Noah rested in God's timing (7:24-8:19)**

- The water rose for 150 days, including the initial 40 days of rain (7:24)
- After 150 days, the waters began to recede (8:1-3)
- The ark came to rest in the mountains of Ararat (8:4)
- The tops of the mountains became visible (8:5)
- Noah sent out a raven and a dove from the ark (8:6-12)
 - ✓ Ravens could survive on many food types and would be able to feed if any food was available outside the ark (vv.6-7)
 - ✓ Doves are more selective and when it would find food, it would also mean that Noah and his family could also survive outside the ark (vv.8-9)
 - ✓ The dove brings back an olive leaf to Noah on the ark, which indicates that Noah and his family could now survive outside the ark (vv.10-12)
- After more than a year on the ark, God commanded Noah to get off the ark (vv.13-19)
 - ✓ The earth dried up (vv.13-14)
 - ✓ God commanded all the inhabitants to get off the ark and return to the earth (vv.15-19)

Conclusion: In God's timing, all storms pass.

Psalm 37:7 *Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*

- We must rest in God's timing for our trials and wait patiently for them to pass (Hebrew *chul* meaning to be in labor during childbirth)
- Having a child is painful and oftentimes requires women to experience labor pains for a long period of time; however, the child that results from that pain brings joy
- This is the concept that we must accept – sometimes our trials are overwhelming and drag on, but after they have passed, God brings joy

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Week 4: A God Who Delivers

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Review (Genesis 7:10-8:19; Psalm 37:1-7)

How did Noah deal with the harsh reality of the flood?

- Although his path was unclear, Noah trusted that God would protect he and his family (7:10-16)
- Although the path was hard, Noah was committed to fulfilling God's plan (7:17-23)
- Although the storm was long, Noah rested in God's timing (7:24-8:19)

Introduction

After more than a year on the ark, Noah, his family, and the animals got off the ark. God began a dialogue with Noah and gave him instructions on what should happen after getting off the ark. After these instructions were given, I find that God tenderly made a covenant with Noah and the earth that was intended to bring comfort to them. Immediately following the storm, God offers His comfort to mankind because He loves them and desires them to be worshippers of Him alone.

Scripture:

Genesis 8:20-9:17

Study:

How did God demonstrate His mercy to Noah after the flood?

→ God accepted Noah's worship (8:20-22)

- Noah's first action, after leaving the ark, was to build an altar and offer burnt offerings to God (8:20)
 - ✓ For the first time Noah was aware of his new surroundings and maybe was fearful that the rain/floods would begin again.
 - ✓ So, Noah turned his thoughts immediately to God because since Eden (after sin), access to God was through animal sacrifice
Genesis 3:21 *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*
 - ✓ Noah probably offered praise for deliverance and asked for help in this new world
- God reacted to Noah's sacrifice with acceptance (8:21)
 - ✓ It is said that God *smelled a sweet savor*, meaning that He listened to and respected Noah's heart of worship
 - ✓ God calmed Noah's immediate fears by letting him know that He would not utterly destroy man as He had during the flood
 - ✓ God's mercy is clearly seen in His acknowledgment that man would continue to do evil; however, God knows that because of man's sin, they need His grace to save them.
2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
- God reestablished regular order in nature by restoring the seasons, hot/cold, and day/night (8:22).

Conclusion: God reaches out to a heart that is humbled before Him and recognizes his need for Him

→ God reminded Noah that he was valuable, along with all life (9:1-7)

- God commands Noah and his family to *be fruitful and multiply*, meaning to produce a lot of children (9:1)
Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply...*
- Animals would now fear man's presence and run from him (9:2)

- For the first time, God authorized the eating of animals, except the blood because it represented life(9:3-4)
- God reminded Noah that life itself was important to Him (9:5-7)
 - ✓ Life was so important to God that anyone who took it away from someone else would pay with their own life - man takes another man's life or animal takes a man's life (9:5-6a)
 - ✓ God reminded Noah that man is created in God's image (9:6b)
 - Genesis 1:26** *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...*
 - It is not a physical likeness to God since God is a spirit and invisible
 - John 4:24** *God is a Spirit...*
 - It is a mental likeness to God that we reflect, meaning that man has the ability to reason and think
 - It is a moral likeness to God that we reflect, meaning that man has the ability to do right
 - It is a social likeness that we reflect, meaning that we desire fellowship
 - ✓ Life is so important to God that He requested that Noah and his family create more of it through sex (9:7)

Conclusion: Even though man does not always value God, God always values man because He made man like Himself and desires man to know Him.

Romans 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

→ **God calms Noah's fears by making a promise to him, never again to destroy the earth by flood (9:8-17)**

- God calmed all of Noah's fears about the ark by establishing a covenant with him to never again destroy the earth by flood (9:8-11)
- God gave Noah and all generations to follow a visible sign of this covenant promise, the rainbow (9:12-17)

Conclusion: As Noah began to explore the earth again, God wanted to give Him a sign that would calm his fears and let him know that He still loved man.

We can be delivered from the penalty of sin by...

- **Recognizing that we have sinned before a holy God**
Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*
- **Humbling ourselves before Him in repentance**
Romans 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*
- **Looking to Jesus Christ as the only way to new life**
John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*