



THE FLOOD

Lesson 4 for
April 23, 2022



The Flood left an indelible mark on human history. Many different cultures kept a record of this event: the Hindu people, the Mayans, the old inhabitants of Ireland, the North American Natives...

In Genesis 6 to 9, Moses explained why God had to destroy the world He had created, and how He did it.

The Flood was not just destruction, but also a second chance, and act of redeeming grace.



(1) China (2) Sumer (3) India



Preparing the ark



The Flood: end and beginning



“God remembered”



The covenants of the Flood:



A covenant of life



A covenant of preservation

PREPARING THE ARK

"And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.'" (Genesis 6:13)



Why did God destroy the world He had created?

Humans were going to destroy themselves. God believed that extreme measures and a new beginning were necessary (Gn. 6:5-7). He chose Noah to warn everyone and offered a means of salvation: the ark (2P. 2:5; Gn. 6:8, 13-14).

God gave detailed instructions on how to build the ark (including its exact measurements), like He did with the ark of the covenant later.



"Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did." (Gn. 6:22). God is offering His grace to us too, and He's expecting a response of faith and obedience.



THE FLOOD: END AND BEGINNING

"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened." (Genesis 7:11)

How are Creation and the Flood similar?

Creation

The waters are divided (1:6)

God created the animals according to their kind (1:21, 25)

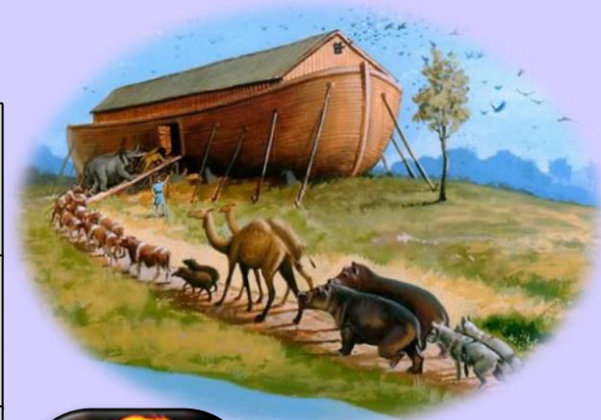
God brought the animals to Adam (2:19)

The Flood

The waters come together (7:11)

God preserves the animals according to their kind (7:14)

God destroys the animals because of humans (6:7)



God had to destroy everything He had created so humankind could have a new beginning. God will also destroy this world to make a new Creation, free of sin (Is. 65:17; Rev. 21:1).

"GOD REMEMBERED"

"Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark." (Genesis 8:1a)



Had God forgotten about Noah?

God hadn't actually lost His memory. "God remembers" means that the right time for something has come (Gn. 19:29; 30:22; Ex. 2:24; 1S. 1:19).

Once the Flood ended, Noah opened the window of the ark (Gn. 8:6). He sent some birds to study the current state of the earth (Gn. 8:7-12). He trusted God, and he also took action to confirm his faith.

Noah still waited for God's command before exiting the ark, even when the earth had already dried up (Gn. 8:15-18).





A COVENANT OF LIFE

"But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you." (Genesis 6:18)

What was God's covenant with Noah?

"Build an ark, and I will save you from the Flood." This is the same covenant God makes with us: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)

God fulfilled His covenant, and Noah responded with an act of gratitude, a burnt offering (Gn. 8:20).

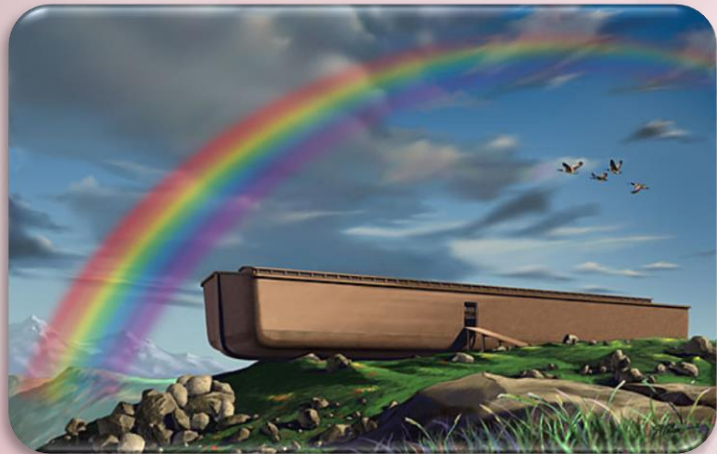
Then God told Noah about some changes in their lifestyle that were necessary in this new situation. They could eat animals from then on, but not their blood (Gn. 9:3-4).

Although Moses did not mention it in that verse, the animals that could be eaten were the clean ones (Gn. 7:2; 8:20).



A COVENANT OF PRESERVATION

**"Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."
(Genesis 9:11)**

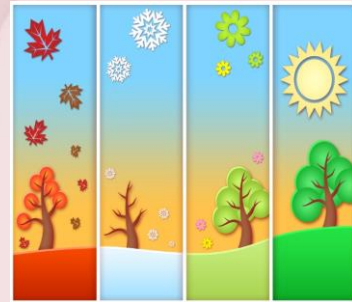


What are humans expected to do in this new covenant?

Nothing. This is a unilateral covenant. God's the one committing. It is a gift of grace for humankind that we'll remember every time we see a rainbow.

This covenant and its sign are a reminder of the end of the original Creation. God rested and gave us the Sabbath as a sign (Ex. 31:13; Ez. 20:20).

God gave humankind a second chance, a "new creation." He also committed to preserve life on Earth: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22)



“As we gaze upon the beautiful sight [the rainbow], we may be joyful in God, assured that He Himself is looking upon this token of His covenant, and that as He looks upon it He remembers the children of earth, to whom it was given. Their afflictions, perils, and trials are not hidden from Him. We may rejoice in hope, for the bow of God's covenant is over us. He never will forget the children of His care.”

E. G. W. (Our High Calling, November 4)