

**Introduction:** The story of Noah is the longest story in pre-Abraham Genesis. It tells many truths about God (His righteousness, judgment, grace and covenant nature) and people (inclination to corruption, violence and evil). It makes a good launching pad for our new church year. \*\*\* In my early notes I found seven words to summarize the four Noah chapters: corrupt violence, flood, promise, covenant rainbow sign. \*\*\* I summarized the story of how Jesus responded to a storm that frightened His disciples with eight words: Jesus calms the storm, the men were amazed. Together, these fifteen words tell us much about God and about us. \*\*\* Now we will dig into the details to better understand what is behind these fifteen words. \*\*\* We will discover an awesome, righteous God of judgment who balances His judgment with His gracious covenant words of promise.

**I. Because the earth was corrupt God was about to destroy all flesh and He commanded Noah to make an ark; and, after Noah went in the flood came.** (*Genesis 6:9-14; 7:6-12*)

- A. Because the earth was corrupt and filled with violence, God told Noah He was about to destroy all flesh and commanded Noah to make an ark. (*Genesis 6:9-14*)
1. These generations of Noah, righteous and blameless in his generation; he walked with God and had three sons. (*Verses 9-10*)  
**These generations:** ‘These (are) the generations’ occurs ten times in Genesis. It indicates a narrative change to a new story. Some are long (Jacob – 14 chapters) and two are less than a chapter long. (See back of Bulletin for all ten,)  
**Noah’s character:** Noah (*nō-āk*) means to rest securely in a place. Notice he is righteous and blameless only compared to his peers, not God. A variation of his name (*m<sup>2</sup>-noo-khāh*) is used to describe the kind of waters to which The Covenant God (Yahweh) leads David (*Psalms 23:2*).  
**Sons:** Japheth, Ham and Shem were ‘fathers’ of the seventy nations (*Genesis 10*) which refilled the earth. The ‘sons’ of Japheth went to sea and spread far and wide. Shem ‘fathered’ the Hebrews.
  2. Then the earth was corrupted before God and filled with violence; He saw all flesh corrupted its way on earth. (*Verses 11-12*)  
**Earth corrupt:** One definition of corrupt is ‘spoiled to rottenness’. People were rotting.  
**Violence:** The violence is cruel injustice. The word went unchanged into Arabic: *khā-mās*.  
**All flesh:** Flesh means both humans and animals. People were to have dominion (authority) over all animals (*Genesis 1:26-28*). When people are corrupt and violent this affects animals too.
  3. God said to Noah: End of all flesh is coming before Me because the earth is filled with violence from them; behold, I am destroying them and the earth. (*Verse 13*)  
**Destroy:** Destroy has the sense of corruption, ruin and perversion. So, the punishment fits the crime.
  4. Make yourself an ark of squared wood and waterproof it. (*Verse 14*)  
**Ark:** Specific details follow to describe a large vessel to keep representatives of all creatures alive during a life-destroying flood. Noah did everything God commanded (*verse 22*).
- B. After Noah, his family and the animals entered the ark, the fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven opened, and rain was on the earth forty days. (*Genesis 7:6-12*)
1. Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters came upon the earth; then the whole family went into the ark. (*Verses 6-7*)  
**Age:** He was five hundred years old when his first son, Shem, was born (*Genesis 5:32*).  
**Family in ark:** Peter says only eight people were saved in the ark (*1 Peter 3:20*).
  2. Male and female animals, birds and all creeping on the ground went with Noah into the ark as God commanded. (*Verses 8-9*)  
**Animals:** Both clean and unclean, for eating, animals. Yahweh later gave Moses detailed lists of both (*Leviticus 11:1-23; Deuteronomy 14:1-20*).  
**Birds:** Many birds, or fowl of the air, were unclean to eat.  
**Ground creepers:** These are small animals like lizards and insects. Insects that crept and flew were unclean, but locusts, crickets and grasshoppers were acceptable to eat.  
**Water creatures:** Notice no creatures at home in water needed to be on the ark of God’s grace which saved eight people and representatives of all land creatures from God’s flood judgment.
  3. Then it was, after seven days, the waters of flood came upon the earth; all the fountains of the deep burst forth and the windows of heavens were opened. (*Verses 10-11*)  
**Waters of flood:** They all waited in the ark for seven days before the flood started.  
**Date:** The flood began on the seventeenth day of the second month in Noah’s six hundredth year.  
**Deep and sky:** The flood began with water God stored beneath the earth and above the atmosphere.
  4. Then rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. (*Verse 12*)  
**Rain:** When the cumulative rain of forty days was added to the water of the deep and the heavens, the effect was devastating destruction of all people and land creatures.

**II. After the earth dried, Noah offered to Yahweh, who promised regular seasons; then, He made an eternal covenant to not destroy the earth with a flood.** (*Genesis 8:14, 18-22; 9:11-17*)

- A. The earth dried in a year and Noah’s family and the creatures left the ark; Noah built an altar for burnt offerings to Yahweh, who said man’s heart is evil but seasons will remain. (*Genesis 8:14, 18-22*)
1. On the twenty seventh day of the second month, the earth was dry. (*Verse 14*)  
**Solar year:** It is a full solar year (*verse 13*) since the flood began.  
**Dry:** It took a full year for the earth to dry from the flood because the waters of judgment were severe. But God graciously restored the earth to its pre-flood state.

**Even after severe discipline, God shows grace.**

2. Then Noah went out, and his sons, and his wife, and the wives of his sons with him. (*Verse 18*)  
**Family:** The entire family of eight had been saved from the judgment flood to live again.

3. All that live, all creepers, all birds and all creeping on the earth, by their families went out of the ark. (*Verse 19*)  
**Living things:** Living things is substituted for animals (*Genesis 7:8*). Creeping creatures are named and described acting.
4. Noah built an altar to Yahweh, took from every clean animal and bird, then he offered burnt offerings on the altar. (*Verse 20*)  
**Altar:** Noah built an altar to worship Yahweh. On it he totally consecrated himself to Yahweh by burnt offerings. We must consecrate ourselves to Jesus as Noah consecrated himself.
5. Yahweh smelled the soothing smell and said in His heart, I will not curse the ground again on man's account because the imagination of his heart is evil from youth; I will not again destroy all that live, as I have done. (*Verse 21*)  
**Word:** This word of promise is to not curse the 'ground', and not destroy all living creatures by the waters of flood.  
**Hard truth:** He attacks human pride, saying the imagination of our hearts is evil from our youth! We must acknowledge and confess before God the inclination to evil in our hearts.
6. Still, all the days of the earth / seedtime and harvest / and cold and heat / and summer and winter / and day and night / these will not cease. (*Verse 22*)

**Poetic promise:** This is a poetic promise that seasons will not cease ('*shah-bāth*', or rest). **Flood and promise**

B. God established a covenant with Noah that never again would all flesh be cut off by a flood, and gave the sign of the 'bow'; it is an everlasting covenant between God and every living creature. (*Genesis 9:11-17*)

1. I will establish My covenant that a flood will never destroy the earth. (*Verse 11*)  
**My covenant:** God initiates and keeps covenants. He strongly says all flesh will never again be cut off.
2. God said to Noah (*verse 8*) the sign of this eternal covenant will be His 'bow'. (*Verses 12-13*)  
**Sign:** This '(rain)bow' is a covenant sign given by God to the earth in the cloud.

**Truth:** The '(rain)bow' is God's sign He will not destroy the earth with a flood

3. When I bring clouds on the earth and see the 'bow', I will remember and waters of flood will never again destroy all flesh. (*Verses 14-15*)  
**See:** When God sees the '(rain)bow' He will keep His eternal covenant promise. **Flood and promise**
4. This '(rain)bow' is the sign of the covenant I have established. (*Verses 16-17*)  
**Established:** It is a covenant God has set to stand forever. He will not send a flood to destroy all flesh! We must thank God often for His covenant promise to never again destroy all flesh by a flood.

**Homiletical Idea: Flood and promise. (#3)**

**III. A storm at sea frightens men to arouse The Lord, He calls them 'little faiths', rebukes the storm to calm, and they are amazed. (Matthew 8:24-27)**

A. A great storm covers the ship with waves as Jesus continues a long sleep; they rouse Him demanding salvation, and He calls them cowardly, then He rebukes the storm. (*Verses 24-26*)

1. Behold! A great storm was in the sea so that the boat was to be covered by waves. (*Verses 24a-b*)  
**Great storm:** This was a tempest as devastating as a small earthquake on land.  
**Ship:** This was a commercial fishing boat large enough to hold thirteen people (*verse 23*).
2. But He was still sleeping. (*Verse 24c*)  
**Sleeping from the shore:** Jesus led them (*verse 23*), and slept knowing they would safely cross the sea.
3. Having come to Him, His disciples roused Him, saying, Lord! Save! We are perishing. (*Verse 25*)  
**Roused Him:** They were upset Jesus was in a deep sleep and woke Him harshly!  
**Save:** Calling Him Lord, they implore Him to save.  
**Perishing:** They finally state the reason for their fear: We are perishing (because of this tempest).
4. And He is saying to them, Why cowardly are you being 'little faiths'. (*Verse 26a*)  
**Cowardly:** By a question, He tells them they are acting as cowards.

5. Then, having been roused, He rebuked the winds and the sea, and it was great calm. (*Verses 26b-c*)  
**Rebuked winds and sea:** Awakened, He speaks to the cause of danger, and the response of the sea.  
**Great calm:** And there was great 'calm of sea', a fuller translation of the word He spoke. *Jesus calms the storm*

B. But the men were amazed that the winds and the sea responded to hearing Him. (*Verse 27*)

1. But the men marveled, saying, of what sort is this? (*Verse 27a*)  
**Amazed:** They were truly astounded at the power displayed by The Holy God's Son, Jesus, in the miracle He did. May we never pray 'hallowed be Thy Name' casually again. Instead, every time we pray this may we recall the amazement of His disciples when they were eyewitnesses of Jesus' amazing power over one of the most violent weather events on earth!  
**Who he?:** The miracle they saw could only be wrought by one who is more than a prophet. They are wondering if He might be divine. (*John 9:16-18, 33-38*)
2. And that the winds and the sea to Him are hearing. (*Verse 27b*)  
**Hearing:** They declare that inanimate creation responds to His words as if it had the human capacity to understand His words and submit to the words it is hearing. The best explanation of this is that *Jesus calms the storm*.

**Conclusion:** Because the earth was corrupt, God thought to destroy all flesh. He commanded Noah to make an ark for his family and animals. When they entered the ark, waters burst forth and rain came. After the earth dried Noah gave burnt offerings, God promised regular seasons and made an everlasting covenant to never destroy all flesh by a flood. Over 3,000 years later a great storm arose over Galilee while Jesus was sleeping in a boat. After being roused, He called His disciples cowards before calming the sea.

**After the flood, the promise**