

Episode: Genesis & Job Series No. 02

Narrator: Japheth

Primary Scriptures: Genesis 6-9

Story Summary: Noah, building of the ark, and the flood

Location: Not specified

Time: In the time of Noah

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Genesis 6:5, 6:22; 8:21; 9:17, 9:19

In the times of Adam and Enoch, men walked and talked with God. By the time of Noah, men had become so wicked that God regretted having created them. Knowing that Noah was the only righteous man left, God determined to wipe out mankind and start over with only Noah and his family.

By the time of Noah, the inclination of all mankind was to do only evil all the time. The Bible does not describe what kinds of evil actions mankind did during this time, but their actions seemed to have been heinous enough that God determined to wipe out all human and animal life except for a remnant he would use to start over.

God chose to destroy mankind through a flood. There is no Biblical record God had yet created rain, so Noah may have just expected the rivers and streams to overflow.

Noah was no doubt surprised when God described the size of the boat he was to make. Where would he ever get so much wood? How would he cut it and put it into place? The Bible does not give details as to how Noah made it happen, just that he did.

2 Peter 2:5 describes Noah as a preacher of righteousness. It is easy to visualize Noah preaching to the curious onlookers as he built the giant boat. Year after year, the onlookers laughed at him; year after year he pleaded with them to change their ways. Jesus said the people of Noah's time carried on their normal lives up until the time the flood came.¹

The Bible gives Noah's age at 600 years old when the flood started. God opened the springs of the great deep and the floodgates of heaven for 40 days and nights. The only things living on the earth's surface that survived were in the ark. The flood covered the earth for 150 days before the water started to recede.

After the flood was over, God promised mankind and the animals he would never again destroy the earth by flood and created rainbows as a reminder of this promise. However, God did not promise he might not destroy the earth in another manner. In fact, Peter says God will eventually destroy the earth with fire.²

¹ Matthew 24:37-39

² 2 Peter 3:10

Discussion Questions:

1. Genesis 6:1-4 is quite challenging to understand. Research these verses and then try to answer the following questions: Who are the “sons of God?” What does the Lord mean when he says his Spirit will not contend with humans forever? How important is it to understand what these verses mean?
2. Why did God once regret creating mankind?
3. Why did God choose to save Noah?
4. In what order were Noah’s sons born?
5. God gave Noah many instructions. How many of them was he able to follow?
6. From which of Noah’s sons did Jesus descend?

2. Their wickedness and evil had become great - Genesis 6:5-6. 3. He was righteous and blameless, and walked faithfully with God - Genesis 6:9. 4. According to the table of nations in Genesis 10, the order was Japheth, Ham and Shem. However, Genesis 9:24 indicates Ham is the youngest. Genesis 10:21 says, in many translations, that Japheth was the older brother of Shem; however, in other translations this verse says that Shem was the older brother of Japheth. Many people believe that the typical ordering of Shem, Ham and Japheth is meant to reflect the important fact that Shem was the ancestor of the Hebrews, the ones who wrote the Old Testament. Overall, many experts believe the birth order was Japheth, Shem, and Ham; however, others think Shem, Japheth and Ham. 5. All of them Genesis - 6:22. 6. Shem. See Genesis 11, and Luke 3:36.

Applications Questions:

1. Genesis 6:13 indicates that God spoke to Noah. How does God communicate with you?
2. According to Genesis 6:22 and 7:5, Noah did all that God commanded him to do. Do you strive to follow God that closely?
3. Describe the consequences of Noah getting drunk and being unable to control his actions.

Application Questions for Teens:

1. Do you sometimes feel restricted in your ability to be a good Christian because of your age? Since Noah was 600 years old when the flood came, do you think he ever felt too old to follow God?
2. Capital punishment is supported by many people and opposed by many others. Since Genesis 9:3-6 was given to all mankind, is it useful for you in evaluating that kind of punishment?
3. In light of Genesis 10, what does Genesis 9:19 mean?