

Noah and the flood

Based on Genesis 5-8 | New International Version

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Noah had three sons.

Now, the Earth was morally bad in God's sight and was full of violence. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the Earth is filled with violence because of them. So make yourself an ark of wood; make rooms in it and make it waterproof inside and out. I am going to bring floodwaters on the Earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. But I will establish my covenant with you and you will enter the ark — you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

God then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Seven days from now I will send rain on the Earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the Earth every living creature I have made."

And Noah did all that God commanded him.

Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Pairs of animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the Earth. For forty days the flood kept coming on the Earth and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the Earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the Earth and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the Earth and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. Every living thing on the face of the Earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the Earth. Only Noah was left and those with him in the ark.

The waters flooded the Earth for a hundred and fifty days.

Glossary

righteous: Morally correct; good and honest.

blameless: Not responsible for anything bad.

covenant: A promise or agreement.

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the farm animals that were with him in the ark and he sent a wind over the Earth and the waters went back down.

After forty days, Noah opened a window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the Earth. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had gone back down. But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the Earth so it returned to Noah in the ark. He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had gone back down. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again but this time it did not return to him.

Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you — the birds, the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground — so they can reproduce and grow in number."

So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds — everything that moves on land — came out of the ark, one kind after another.

Then Noah built an altar to God and he sacrificed offerings on it. God smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though they may have evil thoughts and in to temptation. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done."