

## NOAH AND THE ARK

*(Genesis 6:5 – 9:17)*

**Purpose:** To show the folly of ignoring God.

In the book of Genesis, in the Old Testament of the Bible, we read of a time when the wickedness of man was very great indeed.

The world had become a place where the people lived as though there were no God. And as a result of this, there wasn't any such thing as decency or respect.

Might was right. And the people even killed each other and thought nothing of it.

When God looked down on this bloodshed and wickedness, He knew that before long...

...man would destroy not only his own body, but his soul.

In all the world, there was only one man, and his family, who were living the way God wanted them to. That man was Noah.

Noah believed in God, and he was thankful for whatever God gave him. And the faith of this man caused him to find favour in the sight of the Lord.

One day God told Noah to go and warn the sinful people of the world that unless they lived differently, they were going to be punished.

Noah did as God had told him to do. He told the people what God had said, and he pleaded with them to get on their knees and to ask for God's forgiveness.

But the people of the world just laughed at Noah. So what if there was a God? God never did anything to anyone.

But Noah rebuked the people. God had given Noah a job to do, and Noah knew that if God was with him, no man could stand against him. So he spoke out, bravely and earnestly, to the people of the world.

But the reaction of the people was always the same. No one was going to tell them what to do ... not even the God that made them.

One day Noah heard God say that the time had come for the earth to be destroyed. Every living thing was to perish except Noah and his family, and a certain number of the animals that were living upon the earth.

A huge boat was to be built. God had told Noah exactly how to build it. And since Noah and his sons believed in God...

...they lost no time in doing what they had been told to do.

Now the building of the ark was no secret, and the framework of the huge vessel attracted a lot of attention.

The people began to be curious. What was this crazy old man up to this time?

When Noah told them there was a flood coming to destroy every living thing on earth, except those that were in the ark...

...the unbelieving people were certain the old man had lost his mind. And there was nothing Noah could say that made any difference.

The people of the world refused to listen. And they went back to their sinful ways of living.

Well, the day finally came when the ark was completed. And then Noah set about doing the other things God had told him to do.

The pairs of all the different kinds of animals were taken into the ark.

And food and other supplies were taken aboard, enough to last for a long, long time. When all of this was done...

...Noah, his sons and their wives, all went into the ark. We read in the seventh chapter of Genesis:

*"The Lord shut them in."*

The people of the world paid little or no attention to Noah and his ark. They were too busy pursuing their own ways to even think about the matter anymore.

The days went by ...one ...two ...three ...four ...and all this time,

Noah and his family simply waited on the Lord.

Five days went by ...then six ...and still nothing happened. But on that seventh day...

...the thing that Noah had warned the people of for 120 years came to pass.

Rain poured from the sky. Flood waters rose higher and higher.

The Bible says the windows of heaven were opened...

...and the fountains of the great deep were broken up.

The people knew not until the flood came and took them away. According to the Word of God, it rained for forty days and forty nights.

And when it finally stopped raining, water was 22½ feet [almost 7 metres] above the top of the highest mountain, and the people and the animals outside the ark had perished.

Week after week went by ...even months...

...and the water remained upon the earth. Then one day...

...God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters began to go down.

The ark began to settle, somewhere high among the mountains of Ararat.

And not long after that, Noah sent forth a raven and a dove.

The dove returned, so Noah knew that the waters were not yet gone.

Seven days went by and Noah sent forth the dove the second time.

This time she returned with an olive twig and Noah knew that before long he and his family could leave the ark, and live once more upon the earth.

Sure enough, shortly after that God told Noah to take his family...

...and all the living things that were in the ark, and live once more upon the earth.

Noah and his family were thankful to God for saving them. And God was pleased with their thanksgiving.

God set a rainbow in the clouds as a promise that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. But the Bible tells us, because of the sinfulness of man, there is another judgment which none can escape.

*“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”* There are folks today who are laughing at God, just as they did back in Noah’s time. But the fact remains,

*“All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*

*“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* So you see, we have a place of refuge the same as Noah did ...but we too must believe.

*“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”* (John 3:36)