

NOAH

(Genesis 5:28-9:29)

Genesis 4-5 records a number of generations after Adam. In the beginning of chapter 6 we learn that as population increased, so did the prevalence of sin---so much so that God was deeply grieved and was inclined to destroy them all.

But there was one man who was righteous---Noah, a man who pleased God. The Lord decided to save Noah and his family while destroying the wicked generation of that time.

Noah was told to build a huge boat (ark) 450 feet long, 45 feet high, and 75 feet wide. God was to bring a great flood upon the earth. He would bring all kinds of animals for Noah to put in the ark.

After years of work the ark was finished. Noah, his wife, 3 sons (Ham, Shem, and Japheth) and their wives---along with all the animals---entered the ark. Rain fell for 40 days and night. Water erupted from deep springs in the earth. The earth was covered. All animal life died.

After 150 days the waters receded. Noah sent out a raven and it soon returned. Later a dove was sent out and also returned. Later the dove was sent out again and returned carrying an olive leaf. Still later the dove was sent out once more, but did not return.

Finally Noah and his family along with the animals left the ark. Noah built an altar and offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord. God began anew to replenish the earth.

God made a covenant with Noah, promising never again to destroy the earth by water. That sign was the rainbow---which we see to this day.

