

# The Days of Noah (Gen 6-8)



## A. Noah

1. **Noah means 'rest'**. (5:28) The pre-flood world was filled with violence and evil to the point godly people were getting weary. God was grieved and He regretted making man on the earth. (6:6) Something had to be done, and God was going to bring about a new beginning - a reset.
2. **Noah was described in three ways.** (a) Noah was a just man; he was in right relationship with God; (b) Noah was perfect in his generation; (c) Noah 'walked with God'; like Enoch of old walked with God. (6:9)
3. **Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.** (6:8)

## B. Building an Ark

God commissioned Noah to build an ark. There are three different Arks in the Old Testament.

1. **The Ark of Moses** was a mini ark - 'tebah'. It refers to a wooden box or chest. It saved baby Moses from drowning in the Nile river. It is a sign of 'redemption and salvation'.
2. **Noah's Ark** was an enormous box – another 'tebah'. This ark was a sign of salvation, provision and transition as the old world was destroyed and the new world was born.
3. **The Ark of the Covenant** 'aron' was not only the ark of redemption and salvation, but of the presence of God!

## C. Inside Noah's Ark

1. **Construction of the Ark:** (a) It took a long time to build the ark - 120 years! It was built in exact dimensions : 300 x 50 x 30 cubits according to the design given through divine revelation. It had three levels, much like the Tabernacle built by Moses in the wilderness had three compartments. (b) On the 600<sup>th</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> month, 17<sup>th</sup> day of Noah's life the flood came. (7:11) They would remember this day for a long time. (c) God warned Noah 7 days before the flood came, they had 7 days to get into the Ark. God shut him in. (7:16) There was no need to fear. The door was shut and sealed by God. Only then the flood began.

The only window was on the top of the Ark. Could it be God didn't want Noah to see the destruction taking place outside? What is going on in the outside world right now? Is covid19 from Wuhan's wet-market or from its biolab? Are the infection and fatality numbers reported real or are they much higher? Which report should we listen to? There is no doubt that much devastation is taking place right now on human lives and in the economy. But let's not just focus on the external, but pay attention to the internal.

2. **Perseverance in the Ark:** The 40 days of deluge was followed by 150 days of floating on the water. Even after the ark landed, they had to wait until the water receded in three stages. In the 601<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> month, 27<sup>th</sup> day of Noah's life, earth was finally dry and God instructed Noah to get out of the Ark. (8:13-14) 1 year and 10 days is a long time to be confined inside the Ark. Patience and perseverance was required from them to trust God.

How about our situation in Australia? We need to wait at least another four weeks before Australia can attempt a gradual return to normalcy in three stages. It seems likely our borders will remain closed until the end of the year to minimise the risk of reinfection. We are still quite a few months away from returning to complete normal.

3. **United Family inside the Ark:** Eight people were saved in the Ark - Noah and his wife, plus his three sons and their wives. They were one extended family composed of four family units and in-laws! Perhaps that's why the all wise God told Noah to construct the ark with three levels. The three sons and their wives could take one floor each, and Noah and his wife could rotate from floor to floor on a monthly basis!

How did they cook and eat? How did they deal with the inevitable daily 'waste' produced by the family and the animals? Remember God told them to build one window in the ark!

God is recovering the importance of building godly family units now. It is not easy, living confined together and dealing with the daily 'waste' product. We have to learn to throw them out the window on a daily basis. Forgive daily! The Ark of God's Presence is being prepared in godly households right now.

4. **Be still and Seek God's Face:** Slow down. I believe God waited a long time to get us to 'slow down' enough, so He can have our full attention, like right now. The pace of modern life is so driven that we get caught up in the daily grind, and fail to see the big picture. We can easily forget heaven's viewpoint.

Jesus said, "As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be... they were eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage until Noah entered the ark." (Matt 24:37ff)

The last day will be characterised by extreme driven-ness to succeed as well as the 'business as usual' attitude, so that there is no time to have a sacred 'pause' and see our lives through heaven's eyes. *Why am I on earth? What is God saying to me? Do I know where I am going when this life ends?* It all starts with asking and answering these questions. *Can I know God?* Yes, indeed we can know God and walk with Him.

Let's thank God for this interruption and ask ourselves, (a) *Do I know God?* (b) *Do I love God?* If we can answer 'yes' to these questions, then we can go on to ask, (c) *God, what are You saying right now? Do I need to make changes in my life?*

5. **There is a 'FLOOD' outside.** The world is being shaken like never before. For the first time in history, more than half of the entire global population is under 'lockdown'. There is almost zero economic activity while the coronavirus infection and fatality numbers are still trending upward. The global infection just climbed over 2.2M and global death over 150K. US death alone is 35K+. The job loss in the last four weeks effectively wiped out all the jobs created since the Great Depression. Will there be an 'international debt Jubilee', especially for the ~100 poor nations? There is now a discussion to move surveillance to the next level, using AI driven technology.

God is shaking everything. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken. Only the kingdom of God will be unshakable. What should God's people do at this time?

Build the *Ark of God's Presence* in our lives. Make sure our lives are rooted in the kingdom of God.

#### D. Internal Kingdom

1. **Have I entered into God's rest?** Noah sent out a dove from the Ark, and the dove returned to Noah because it found no 'ma-noah', i.e. resting place, outside. Is the Holy Spirit, the heavenly dove, finding a resting place in my heart that He loves returning to? Is He finding a resting place in His Church? *Or has God been 'restless' in me and in His church?*

Restlessness in our hearts and at home may be a symptom of a deeper issue. It may be that God is not finding a resting place in our hearts. *Do we desire to walk with God, like Noah walked with God?*

2. **Half Hour Silence in Heaven.** (Rev 8:1-5) What is going on in heaven during this unusual half hour silence? True incense is being offered in the heavenly temple before the throne of God, which has risen up from the prayer of the saints on earth. 30 minutes is the time usually needed to offer incense in the temple by the priests. The incense that had been gathered is mixed with fire from heaven's altar. Remember Isaiah's call? It then is thrown back down to the earth, and it results in cataclysmic shifts, leading to Christ's second coming.
- Heaven is listening to the prayers rising from our hearts in this time of pause and silence.
  - God is releasing keys to the new era and new season, i.e. the blueprint for the Ark of God's Presence.
  - When the door of the Ark reopened, Noah and his family came out to a new world. Family of 'eight' speaks of new beginning. The world is going through a 'process of reset' in the 'economy', 'politics', 'technology' etc. We will not be coming out to the exactly same world, but a different world – one beginning to look like what is depicted in the book of Revelation, and much closer to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe God will reset His Church also prior to Christ's return.
  - What was the first thing Noah and his family did when they came out to the new world? They worshipped God. "Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar." (8:20) It was holy and precious offering. Remember only seven pairs of clean animals were preserved from the old world.

We need to return to the altar of worship and offering ourselves as living sacrifice.