

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *April 22-27, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

From the simple children's Bible story to the Hollywood movie, the story of Noah frequently raises questions. Did it really happen? Why are there flood stories in different cultures and religions around the world? Has Noah's ark been found? Why would a loving God destroy the earth with a flood? What is the story of Noah's ark all about?

Monday: Genesis 6:17-22

The story, as an archetype, didn't cover details like how to feed carnivores or keep the food fresh. Instead, the story focused on God's compassion for all of creation, including the animals. It presented Noah and his ark as a model pointing to the human role in caring for creation. How did the flood story stress that God saw all parts of creation as worth saving? How did the tale of Noah saving the animals by bringing them onto the ark mirror the original Genesis 1 mandate?

Tuesday: Genesis 7:1-5

Verse 5 said, "Noah did everything the Lord commanded him." Do you think this was just about boat building, or was it about a broadly different approach to life with God? What does it mean, or would it mean, for you to do "everything the Lord commands" you to do in 2024? How can you better know, love and serve God today?

Wednesday: Genesis 7:6-9

The primary focus of the flood story in Genesis was: in the end, only God is a reliable source of safety and salvation. The Interpreter's Bible notes "The physical flood and the physical drowning pictured here do not recur, but there is a kind of spiritual drowning that does. So the ark has become the symbol of the church."^{*} In what ways has the church been an "ark of salvation" for you?

Thursday: Genesis 8:1-5, Romans 6:4

When Genesis 8:1 said "God sent a wind over the earth," it used the same word as Genesis 1:2. The clear idea was that God was re-creating the earth, giving life a fresh start. The New Testament writers took a cue from that, connecting the new life after the Flood with new spiritual life after baptism, as in Romans 6:4. How have you experienced "newness of life" in your own walk with God? Have you seen it in the lives of others as well?

Friday: Romans 15:2-5, 1 Peter 3:18-22

Paul and Peter, leaders of the early Christians, looked to the Hebrew Scriptures as one of the main ways God spoke to them. In today's passages, they showed that they saw the key to the Flood story (and other texts) as "What does it teach us about God and us?" As you read the story, watch for ways it portrayed God's power, grace and encouragement. How can you show those attributes of God in your dealings with other people?

MOVING FORWARD

The story of the Ark is about us listening and being willing to do what God asks. The story of the Ark is about God's concern for all creatures, not just human beings, but animals as well. And the story of the Ark is a promise that God is going to be with you through the storms.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) ark, B) everything, C) church. IIA) animals, B) righteous, IIC) treat. IIIA) rain, B) lives, C) Jesus.

^{*} *The New Interpreter's Bible: General Articles & Introduction, Commentary, & Reflections for Each Book of the Bible, Including the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books in Twelve Volumes. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 1994/2004.*