

The Flood

Genesis 6–9

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth. And the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth. So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. So God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh. Make yourself an ark.¹ I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh. Everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant² with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. You shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up.” Noah did all that God commanded him.

One day, all the fountains of the great deep³ burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.⁴ Noah, his family, and all the animals entered the ark. And the LORD shut them in.

The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind.

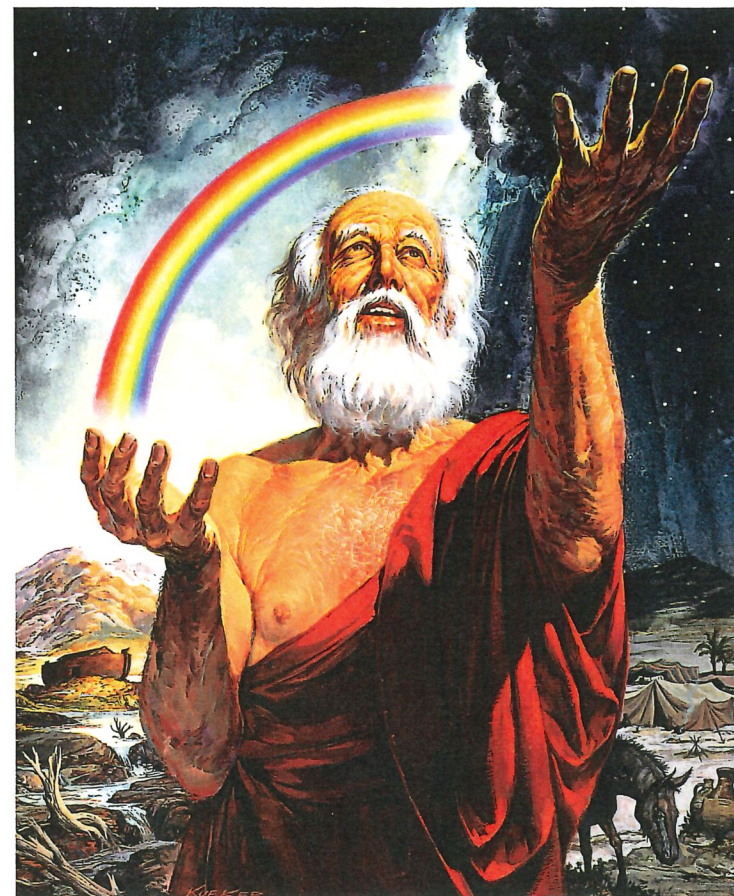
The waters prevailed on the earth 150 days. But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.

And after a time, God said to Noah, “Go out from the ark.” So Noah and his family went out. Every animal and bird went out by families from the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your offspring after you: never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. I have set My bow⁵ in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.”

Explanatory Notes

¹Boat. ²A solemn pledge or agreement, often sealed and confirmed with a sign. ³Water shut up in the earth. ⁴It rained as never before or after. ⁵Rainbow.



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For Reflection

1. What does the flood remind us about God’s attitude toward sin?
2. The rainbow reminds us that God keeps His promise. What promise came true when Jesus came to earth to live, die, and rise again?
3. How does Noah’s ark symbolize the Church?

Words to Remember

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 3:21*