

CHAPTER 2

A FLOOD AND A RAINBOW: THE GOD WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISES



GENESIS 6-9

One day God spoke to Noah in a clear and unmistakable voice, “I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth.” Noah froze. He looked up at the sky and down at the dry land around him. “How will anyone be saved, Lord?” he asked. God answered, “Build a large boat from cypress wood... Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives.” Noah’s heart pounded. It was a massive task. But he trusted God. He nodded and said, “I’ll do everything You command.”

For years, Noah and his family worked hard. The sound of saws and hammers rang out across the land as they shaped the wood. They covered the ark with pitch to make it waterproof. Day after day, under the hot sun, they built. People came to see what was happening. At first, they were curious. Then they started to laugh. “What are you doing, Noah?” He explained, “A flood is coming. Turn back to God while there’s still time.” But they only laughed harder. Noah’s sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—watched their father closely. One day, Ham asked, “Dad, why are they mocking us?” Noah paused, wiping sweat from his face. “Because they don’t understand,” he said gently. “But we listen to God, even when people laugh at us.”

At last, the ark was finished. It stood tall with three huge levels; ready to carry animals of every kind. Noah stepped back and whispered, “It’s ready.” Then something amazing happened. From every direction, animals began to arrive—two by two. Lions padded forward with slow, steady steps. Elephants lumbered in, their trunks swaying. Rhinos snorted as they stomped through the dust. Zebras trotted side by side, and tall giraffes stretched their necks toward the sky. Birds flew in—bright hoopoes and laughing Kookaburras. Even baby dinosaurs made their way into the ark.

“Where are they coming from?” Shem asked, wide-eyed. “God is bringing them,” Noah said with a smile. “Just like He promised.” The family guided the animals inside, helping each one find a place to rest. Soon, the ark was alive with roars, chirps, hoots, and rustling hooves. Then clouds rolled in. Thunder cracked. The sky turned dark. As the last animal entered, God shut the massive door. Raindrops fell; slowly at first. Then faster. A heavy downpour soaked the earth. Wind howled. Rivers overflowed. Water surged across the land.

Outside, the people who had laughed now cried out. “Let us in!” they screamed, pounding on the ark. But it was too late. The door was shut, and the waters rose. Inside the ark, rain beat against the roof like a drum. The storm raged for forty days and nights. The ark rocked gently as it floated over the floodwaters. Shem looked out a small window. “All I can see is water.” “Do you think it’ll ever stop?” Ham asked, his voice low. Noah placed a firm hand on his son’s shoulder. “God promised to save us. We can trust Him.” Months passed. Then one day, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Noah released a raven and later a dove. When the dove returned with an olive leaf in its beak, Noah’s heart lifted. “The earth is drying,” he said, smiling.

Finally, God spoke again, “Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. Release all the animals so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth.” Noah stepped onto dry land and breathed deeply. The air was fresh and cool. Everything looked clean and new. Grateful, he built an altar and offered a sacrifice to God. As the sweet smell rose to heaven, God made a promise and set a rainbow across the sky, bright and full of colour. “I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth.” Noah looked up at the rainbow and whispered, “God always keeps His promises.”

What does this story reveal about Jesus?

Noah didn't build the ark just to save animals. He built it because God was going to judge the world for its wickedness through a massive flood. People had turned away from God and stopped loving one another. The world was full of violence, corruption, and sin. But God, in His mercy, provided a way of escape. The ark was His rescue plan—a place of safety from the coming judgment. It was a chance for anyone willing to repent and believe God's warning to be saved. It likely took Noah about 100 years to build the ark (Genesis 5:32; 7:6). That's a long time—more than enough for people to listen, turn from their sin, and obey God. But sadly, only eight people chose to get on board.

In the future God will judge the world again. The next judgment won't come through a flood of water but through fire (2 Peter 3:7–10). It is important to remember that God is holy. Therefore, He cannot wink at sin. This is why He sent Jesus: to show that He is just and that He must punish sin. But instead of punishing sinners, He punished Jesus in our place for our sins (Romans 5:8). Because Jesus has paid our debt with His own blood and satisfied God's wrath against our sin, God can now forgive anyone who trusts in what Jesus has done (Romans 3:25–26). Jesus is a “spiritual ark” for anyone who would take refuge in Him (Psalm 34:22). Just like the ark had only one door, there is only one way to be saved, and that's through Jesus (John 14:6). He said, “I am the door” (John 10:9). When we trust in Him, God promises to rescue us from His coming wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

Jesus said that His return would be just like the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37–39). In those days, people were eating, drinking, marrying, and living life as usual—completely unaware that judgment was near. They weren't prepared for the flood, and when it came, it was too late. In the same way, Jesus warns that many will be caught off guard when He comes again. Preoccupied with the routines of everyday life, they will miss the signs and fail to respond. That's why Jesus calls us to stay awake, be alert, and live ready. Like in Noah's time, God is being patient, giving people time to repent and to trust in Him before it's too late (2 Peter 3:9). God's patience is a gift but it will not last forever. The

door of the ark was shut, and one day, the door of salvation will close as well. So don't delay. Now is the time to believe in Jesus and prepare for His return (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Do the Word

People thought Noah was a fool for building an ark in the middle of dry land. But Noah didn't care what others thought. He believed what God said and he obeyed Him (Hebrews 11:7). True faith means trusting God and doing what He says, even when it's not easy or whether other people understand. This week, try one (or both) of these ways to live out your faith in Jesus:

1. Do what's right, even when no one else is. Maybe someone at school is always left out or picked on. Instead of ignoring them, go sit with them or invite them to play. If others are gossiping, teasing, or being unkind, choose to show love instead. Doing the right thing can feel hard and even lonely sometimes. Ask God to give you courage to stand strong and stay faithful, no matter what others say or do.

2. Tell someone about Jesus. Think of a friend, cousin, or neighbour who doesn't know Jesus. Tell them the story of Noah and explain how Jesus is our spiritual ark today. One day, Jesus will come again to judge the world. But the good news is that anyone who trusts in Jesus will be safe.

Memory Verse

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.”—Hebrews 11:7