

Lesson 6 - “Noah ... Prepared an Ark to the Saving of His House”

Purpose: To help class members desire to live worthily and avoid the evils of the world.

My lessons take a different path than the Gospel Doctrine lesson manual. The lesson outline looks closer at the doctrinal topics included in the lesson purpose and scripture block. The lessons are designed to challenge mature, active Latter-Day Saints who have a solid Gospel foundation and are looking for insights into the scriptures that will broaden their faith and understanding.

If you are interested in downloading the Powerpoint file, links to source material or reading posts about improving Gospel Doctrine class preparation, delivery and engagement, you can join my Facebook Group and have full access to the content posted there. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188904648521022/>

Generations of the Ancient Patriarchs

- 1 - Adam (generation 1) is created.[1]
- 130 - Adam and Eve receive a son, Seth (generation 2)
- 235 - Enosh is born (generation 3)
- 325 - Kenan is born (generation 4)
- 395 - Mahalaleel is born (generation 5)
- 460 - Jared is born (generation 6)
- 622 - Enoch is born (generation 7)
- 687 - Methuselah is born (generation 8).
- 874 - Lamech is born (generation 9)
- 930 - Adam dies, aged 930
- 987 - Enoch taken up by God, aged 365
- 1042 - Seth dies, aged 912
- 1056 - Noah is born (generation 10)**
- 1140 - Enosh dies, aged 905
- 1235 - Kenan dies, aged 910
- 1290 - Mahalaleel dies, aged 895
- 1422 - Jared dies, aged 962
- 1556 - Noah has three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth (generation 11)**
- 1651 - Lamech (Noah's father) dies, aged 777
- 1656 - Methuselah dies the same year as the flood comes, aged 969**

Wikipedia: Timeline of Genesis patriarchs – This is not a LDS source; care should be used to clarify the source and is used as a general reference of relative time.

Did you know that a full scale replica of Noah's Ark has been built in Kentucky? - The Ark Encounter, Williamstown, KY



Questions for Thought

Why did Jehovah chose a flood to destroy humankind except Noah and his family?

What is the symbolism of Noah and the flood?



How wicked was the world in Noah's time?

Genesis 6: 5-12

5 ¶ And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

9 ¶ These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

Moses 8:22, 26-30

22 And God saw that the wickedness of men had become great in the earth; and every man was lifted up in the imagination of the thoughts of his heart, being only evil continually.

26 And the Lord said: I will destroy man whom I have created, from the face of the earth, both man and beast, and the creeping things, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth Noah that I have created them, and that I have made them; and he hath called upon me; for they have sought his life.

27 And thus Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord; for Noah was a just man, and perfect in his generation; and he walked with God, as did also his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

28 The earth was corrupt before God, and it was filled with violence.

29 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth.

30 And God said unto Noah: The end of all flesh is come before me, for the earth is filled with violence, and behold I will destroy all flesh from off the earth.

How Could the Lord, Being Perfect, Repent? - Genesis 6:6–7

The Prophet Joseph Smith stated: “I believe the Bible as it read when it came from the pen of the original writers. Ignorant translators, careless transcribers, or designing and corrupt priests have committed many errors. As it read [Genesis 6:6], ‘It repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth’; also [Numbers 23:19], ‘God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the Son of man, that he should repent’; which I do not believe. But it ought to read, ‘It repented Noah that God made man.’” (Teachings, p. 327.)

“Genesis 4–11: The Patriarchs,” Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel (1980), 50–59

Jehovah's Ark Building Specifications

Genesis 6:14-16

14 ¶ Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

What was gopher wood?

No one today knows what “gopher wood” is. Many modern scholars consider “gopher wood” to be cypress because cypress wood is extremely durable. The Smith Bible Dictionary defines gopher as “any trees of the resinous kind, such as pine, fir, or cypress.” A weakness of the “cypress” translation is that the word for “cypress” or “fir” in biblical Hebrew is berosh, not gopher. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/gopher-wood.html>)

What is a cubit?

The ordinary unit of length among the Hebrews; originally the distance from the elbow to the tip of the fingers. It varied in length, from 17½ inches in the 8th century B.C. to 21½ inches in the time of our Lord.

(<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bd/cubit?lang=eng>)

What Were Jehovah's Instructions to Noah?

Genesis 6:17-22

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

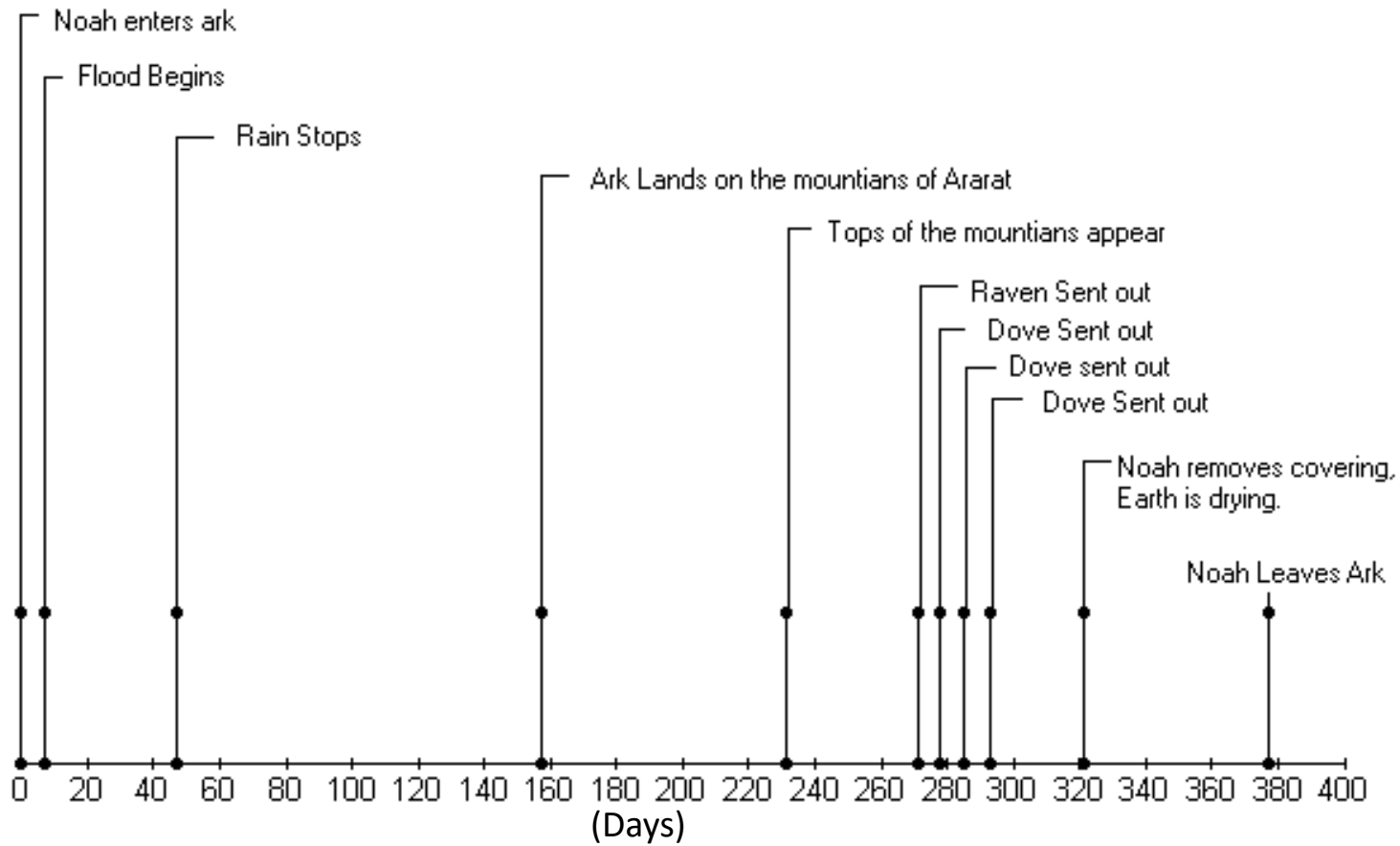
19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Estimate of the Time Noah and Family Were on the Ark



<http://nwcreation.net/noahsark.html>

This is not a LDS source; care should be used to clarify the source and is used as a general reference of relative time.

If God is loving, why did He
destroy His children by a
flood?

God has a plan for our salvation. He created the earth so we could experience a life where we could prove ourselves to Him and prepare for eternal life. God gave us our agency to learn how to choose between good and evil. Because the people in Noah's day were doing "only evil continually," the children had no chance to learn good from evil. Thus, God's plan went unfulfilled and He determined to start again.

<https://www.lds.org/topics/noah?lang=eng>

Questions for Thought

Why did Jehovah chose a flood to destroy humankind except Noah and his family?

What is the symbolism of Noah and the flood?



God uses symbols to teach gospel truths.

First, in the New Testament, Peter explained that the flood was a “like figure” or symbol of baptism.

1 Peter 3:20–21

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Second, just as the earth was immersed in water, so we must be baptized by water and by the Spirit before we can enter the celestial kingdom. Also, Noah himself was a symbol of Christ. It was necessary for any living creature who wished to be saved to come “unto Noah into the ark” (Genesis 7:9, 15).

<https://www.lds.org/topics/noah?lang=eng>

This Week's Lesson Challenge

What can we learn from the life of Noah? Practically speaking, Noah is an example of a life of faith. Hebrews 11:7 says *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”* Noah didn't need to “test” Jehovah before going into action; Jehovah commanded, and he obeyed. This was typical of Noah's life.

What steps can we take in our lives to have faith more like Noah? Look for the instances in your life where the Lord, the scriptures or his living prophets ask you live by faith without a test on our part.

The Tower of Babel: Fact or Fiction

The Tower of Babel, presented in Genesis 11:1–9, is an account of some of Noah’s descendants who set aside true temple worship and built a “pagan temple,” or “counterfeit temple,” in the form of a great tower. Two statements hint at an attempt to build a temple: “Let us build ... a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven” recalls one of the purposes of temples: to serve as places where God and man can meet. “Let us make us a name” recalls another purpose of temples: to serve as holy places where individuals take upon themselves the name of Jesus Christ. But the rebellious people under the leadership of King Nimrod lacked real priesthood keys and the authority to build temples; they lacked the divine power to make sacred covenants in the Lord’s name. Other parallels have been made between the tower of Babel and the Lord’s temple, both in antiquity and in our times, helping Latter-day Saints, more than any other people on earth, to understand what those in Babel were vainly attempting to duplicate.

<https://www.lds.org/ensign/1998/01/the-flood-and-the-tower-of-babel?lang=eng>

