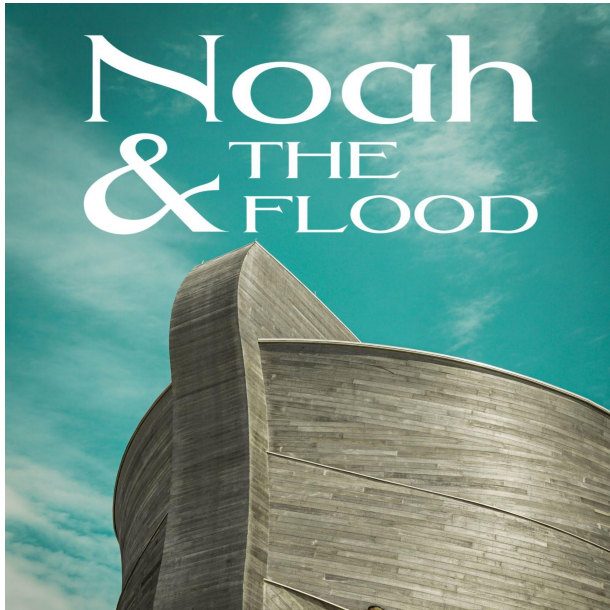


BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL: Noah & The Flood

October 2, 2022

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Genesis 6:9-14,17-22; 7:24; 8:14-19; 9:12-16

These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. And God said to Noah, 'I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence

because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them.' Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him. And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred and fifty days. In

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the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, 'Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.' So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families. God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and

remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.'

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REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Why might this *NOT* be a children's story? What do you find difficult or disturbing about this story?
3. "The bow" is not just a rainbow, it's also a symbol of war (the bow as a weapon). What do you make of God "hanging up the bow"? What do you think this story is meant to reveal about who God really is?
4. In other flood stories in the ancient world, the gods flood and destroy the world for quite trivial reasons (like humans being "too noisy"). Why does God intervene in the Noah story? What do you make of this difference?
5. The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah were conquered by Assyria and Babylonia, and many were killed, enslaved, and exiled from their land.

They experienced a destruction of their homes, lives, and loved ones. How might this story have resonated with "the remnant" who survived and later returned to their land after exile? How might Noah's story bring them hope?

6. How does the story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection carry on the covenant God made with Noah (not to deal with creation through destruction and punishment)?

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