

Noah's Ark

August 10 | Stephanie Fehr



Simplistic version

- Noah loves and follows God, others do not
- God warns Noah there will be a flood, instructs him to make an ark, save his family
- Rainbow: God will never do this again
- Veggie Tales: "It's always best to trust in God's plans rather than our own."



Simplistic version

Ella K. Lindvall, *Read-Aloud Bible Stories*

"What did you learn?"

Noah did just what God said.

God takes care of mommies and daddies and boys and girls who do what he says.

You too."



Context of Noah

- Hold tension with violent/difficult content
- Genesis two parts:
 - Part 2: chapter 12-end: Abraham's story, his sons
 - Part 1: chapters 1-11: series of stories
 - God gives human the opportunity to do the right thing, humans keep ruining it



Context of Noah

- Other flood narratives in other cultures/religions
 - Ex: Mesopotamia, 17th century BCE - Artrahasis, humans are too noisy
 - Demonstrating how God is different than the other gods
- Scripture is interested in the “why” or “what” questions, not “how”



The story of Noah's Ark

- End of Genesis 5: introduced to Noah
- Genesis 6:1-8: reason for the flood
 - Humanity is wicked
 - “Sons of God” (v.2), human women, “the Nephilim” (v.4)
 - Disorder
- v.5: “...every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.”



The story of Noah's Ark

- v.6: “The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.”
- Not capricious but burdened
- Wipe away all humans (and animals) (v.7), but spare Noah (v.8)



The story of Noah's Ark

- v.9: "This is the account of Noah and his family"
- Three sons: Shem, Ham, Japheth and the wives
- Noah is the new Adam
- Noah's part: build an ark (vv.14-16) for animals (vv.19-20), store food (v.21)
- God's part: flood (v.17), covenant (v.18)
- Noah is obedient (v.22)



The story of Noah's Ark

- 7:1-4: clean and unclean animals, used for sacrifice
- V.5: "And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him."
- vv.6-10: they all enter the ark
- vv.11-16: builds fear, 40 days and 40 nights, God shuts the door



The story of Noah's Ark

- The reversal of Creation (Genesis 1)
- The world started with *tohu va-bohu* - wild and waste, chaos and disorder
- God brought order to disorder
- Now a return to *tohu va-bohu* - a return to chaos
- vv.17-24: the ark survives



The story of Noah's Ark

- 8:1: "God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark"
- God sends a *ruach* (wind) (v.1), creation 2.0
- vv.2-5: waters recede, dry land appears, the ark rests on a mountain
- After 40 days, Noah tests if it's ok to leave



The story of Noah's Ark

- God invites Noah and all to leave the ark (v.15)
- Be fruitful and multiply (v.17, 9:1,7)
- Noah creates an altar, sacrifice to God (v.20)



The story of Noah's Ark

- God's covenant promise: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you – the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you – every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." (vv.9-11)



The story of Noah's Ark



The story of Noah's Ark

- 9:18: Noah plants vineyard, makes wine, gets drunk, winds up naked in his tent
- Ham finds his father, tells his brothers
- The brothers care for their father
- Family rift
- Creation 2.0 is exactly the same



What is the story telling us about God?

- **Simplistic:** “if I do what God says, then God will spare me,” obedience equals blessing
- ***With: Reimagining the Way You Relate to God*** by Skye Jethani
 - “For the ancients, the universe was governed by... the wills of the gods.”
 - “we want to believe that our actions can and do affect the world around us... Live according to God’s righteous expectations, we are told, and he will bless you and answer your prayers.”



What is the story telling us about God?

- In the story of Noah’s Ark, God did change
 - God chooses mercy
 - Humans are not changed by the flood, but God is changed



Isaiah 54:9-10

“To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again. Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”



What is the story telling us about God?

The Jesus Storybook Bible:

It was a new beginning God’s world.

It wasn’t long before everything went wrong again but God wasn’t surprised, he knew this would happen. That’s why, before the beginning of time, he had another plan – a better plan. A plan not to destroy the world, but to rescue it – a plan to one day send his own Son, the Rescuer.



In closing

- **We worship the one true God who is merciful, loving, and compassionate.**
- **Through Jesus Christ, he chose to enter into this world of pain and suffering to rescue the world - out of us love for all the world.**
- **His posture toward humanity is mercy.**
- **Our posture to God - humility.**



In closing

As it says in Isaiah 54:10:

**10 Though the mountains be shaken
and the hills be removed,
yet [His] un failing love for you will not be
shaken.**

