

THE GREAT FLOOD

Lesson Aim: Be convinced that God's wrath abides on those that love wickedness.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson and insert the following questions where they fit the lesson for class discussion.

God saw that the wickedness of man was irredeemable, so he spared the godly family of Noah and destroyed all the ungodly people on earth by a worldwide flood. God is love, but woe to those that love their sin. "He that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him" (Jn 3:36).

What wicked sins were the people committing that stirred the wrath of God? (Gen 6:1-5)

The sons of God were taking the beautiful daughters of men as wives. The "daughters of men" may refer to the daughters of the ungodly line from Cain to Lamech (Gen 4:16-24) and the "sons of God" to the sons of the godly line from Shem to Noah (Gen 4:25-5:32). The sin would be the lack of separation by the godly line of men. They married godless women and who taught their children to be ungodly, working mighty deeds of wickedness. It is possible that these children were possessed by demons, which gave them supernatural powers, like the maniac of Gadara (Mk 5:2-9).

Why did God destroy all the people on earth except Noah and his family? (Gen 6:6-13)

The people had become very corrupt and violent under the influence of Satan. Only Noah and his family remained true to God. God gave them 120 years to repent under the preaching of Noah while he built the ark (1 Pet 3:20; 2 Pet 2:5), but no one turned from their wickedness to God. When people love their sin and refuse to come to God, He hates them with a holy hatred and will destroy them with their violent and corrupt lifestyle (Ps 5:5; 11:5; Prov 6:16-19). They have chosen the wrath of God (Jn 3:36).

On what day did the rain stop? (Gen 8:11-12)

To have the right answer, we have to know that a month in the Bible is 30 days. The rain started on the 2nd month and the 17th day and it rained 40 days. So it rained 14 days in the 2nd month and 26 days in the third month. A 30-day month means a 360-day year. The Jews added an extra month every sixth or seventh year. However, the 360-day year must be considered in interpreting Daniel's prophecy of 490 years, which includes the seven years of Tribulation. How many days shorter is the Tribulation?

How did Noah show his faith in God? (Gen 6:14-22)

God told him to make an ark, a huge barge-like boat, for him and his family and two of every kind of animals, creeping things and birds, because he was going to send a flood to destroy all living creatures on the earth. He was also to bring food into the ark for them to eat. Even though Noah had never heard of a flood to cover the earth, he showed his faith in God by doing all that He commanded him (6:22).

Why was Noah told to bring seven pairs of clean animals into the ark? (Gen 7:2; 8:20)

After the flood when Noah and all the living creatures had left the ark, Noah built an altar (first mention of an altar in the Bible) and offered sacrifices to God from the clean animals to consecrate him and his family and to thank God for preserving them. He needed extra clean animals for these sacrifices.

What promises did God give to Noah and future generations? (Gen 8:21-22)

He would not curse the ground again even though man is evil in his thoughts from his youth; neither would He kill every living thing as He had done (this shows His grace). The seasons would not be changed so there would be a time for planting and a time for harvesting.

What change in the people's diet did God authorize? (Gen 9:3-4)

He let them eat, in addition to every green thing, the flesh of every living thing, but not the blood.

What law did God give that established the dispensation of human government? (Gen 9:5-6)

God required (judicial term) man to shed the blood of a person that willfully shed the blood of another person, because humans were made in the image of God. Capital punishment is the responsibility of government. Murderers would now be executed by the government. This law is a part of the everlasting covenant (9:12, 16) between God and man and it is still valid with the rainbow as its sign (9:12-16).

How is Shem's blessing a prophecy of Christ? Gen 9:26

Shem was blessed because he would be the forefather of Abraham, who was promised an everlasting covenant with God that would bless all nations. This was fulfilled in his descendant, Jesus Christ.