

Noah and the Flood

GENESIS 6–9

1. Skim chapter 5 of Genesis, reading verses 28–32 more carefully. What is the pattern repeated in this account of the descendants of Adam?

They each lived X number of years and then died.

2. What does the name Lamech gave to his son, Noah, indicate about his hopes for this child?

Noah's name meant "rest" or "comfort." Lamech hopes that Noah will be the promised Seed who will break the curse that has made the ground so difficult to cultivate and has brought death to every generation.

3. Read Genesis 6:1–7. There are numerous speculations on what exactly the "sons of God" having children with the "daughters of man" means and who the Nephilim were, and it is difficult to determine definitively from the biblical text. But we do know that the "sons of God" are those who by faith walk with God. So why is it a problem that these "sons of God" are marrying the "daughters of man" who do not by faith walk with God?

The sons of God should marry daughters of God to preserve the godly line and grow into a faithful, covenant family dominating the earth. Instead, they are choosing women to marry not on the basis of faith but on the basis of outward appearance—women who will lead them into sin and away from God.

4. Remembering that God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life (Gen. 2:7), what does he mean when he says, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever" (Gen. 6:3)?

God is going to take back the breath of life that he gave to man at creation. While the 120 years may mean that the lifespan of human beings will no longer

exceed 120 years, more likely it means that mankind has only 120 more years to live before being destroyed by the flood.

5. What does Genesis 6:5–6 reveal about the heart of man and the heart of God?

Man’s heart—wicked, every intention of the thoughts of his heart are only evil. He never has a pure motive or pure thought.

God’s heart—sorry, regretful, grieved

Man’s heart has no love for God that would change his own, no thoughts toward God that would inform his own, no recognition of his sin so that his heart might be broken like God’s. God is not just a cold Creator, but a loving Father. His heart is broken over a world that has utterly rejected him and has chosen only evil.

6. How does the picture presented in Genesis 6:5–7 differ from or serve as a contrast to that of Genesis 1 and 2? (See especially 1:21–31.) Note the contrast in the second column of the chart below.

<p>“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” (Gen. 1:31)</p>	<p>Gen. 6:5 <i>The Lord saw wickedness.</i></p>
<p>“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.’” (Gen. 1:26)</p>	<p>Gen. 6:6–7a <i>I will blot out man.</i></p>
<p>“So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.” (Gen. 1:21)</p>	<p>Gen. 6:7 <i>I will blot out animals, creeping things, birds.</i></p>

7. God is so grieved by what he sees in the heart of man that he wants to uncreate what he created. What reason can you think of that he cannot destroy all of humanity?

God made a promise that the offspring of the woman will bruise the head of the serpent. God cannot and will not go back on his promise. From before the

foundations of the world, it has been his plan to display his glory through Christ, the promised Seed, and man's sin cannot frustrate that plan.

8. In this bleak and seemingly hopeless scene, there is still hope. How would you describe the hope in Genesis 6:8?

The grace or favor of God, which he bestows on undeserving sinners to accomplish his good and gracious purposes, is still present. Because God granted favor to Noah, he and his family will be the faithful remnant of humanity to establish a new humanity in a world washed clean by the flood.

9. In Genesis 6:9, we learn that Noah was "a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God." Which came first: the favor or grace of God, or Noah's righteousness, and why does this matter?

The favor or grace came first, which enabled and empowered Noah to live a righteous life, embracing the covenant of God from the heart. This grace gave him a taste for holiness so that while he was not sinless, he did not pursue a life of sin, which made him "blameless." Only grace given by God inclines a sinner to walk with God.

10. In contrast to Noah, who was righteous, Genesis 6:11 says that all people and the whole earth were corrupt and that God had determined to destroy them. God gave Noah instructions to build an ark that would hold Noah and his family and two of every living thing. What does this signal about God's intentions in the flood and after the flood, and what does God state about his intentions in regard to Noah?

God intends to destroy all living things outside the ark, but to preserve the life of those in the ark. The human and animal life preserved inside the ark will emerge after the flood to "be fruitful and multiply" and thereby repopulate the earth. Noah will be like a new Adam, the father of a new humanity.

11. Read Genesis 6:11–8:19. What are two or three details from these verses about the flood and Noah’s experience that stand out to you as significant. Why?

- † *Noah’s complete obedience.*
- † *Waters from above and below, which had been separated at Creation converged.*
- † *Only those on the ark were saved.*
- † *Judgment still fell on Noah, but he was protected in it.*
- † *“God remembered Noah” repeats biblical language indicating God acted on his behalf.*
- † *“God made a wind blow over the earth” similar to the Spirit hovering in Genesis 1:2, and wind that turned back the Red Sea and the Jordan River, as well as the Spirit that makes us alive.*
- † *This is a picture of resurrected life to a new heaven and new earth.*

12. Recognizing that the day is coming when the world and all that are in it will once again fall under God’s judgment, what can we learn from this story about (1) the nature of that judgment; (2) who and what will be destroyed by it; (3) who will be preserved in it; and (4) what we can expect after it?

- † *Just as God promised judgment and then it came, so will the future judgment God has promised surely come.*
- † *Judgment falls on all, but some are protected and hidden in Christ.*
- † *All who have not hidden themselves in Christ will perish.*
- † *Those preserved are only those who obey God by entering into the ark of Christ.*
- † *Judgment has not only a punishing purpose but also a cleansing purpose. After judgment we can expect to live in a cleansed creation where we will have a life of fruitfulness.*

13. Using the chart below, compare and contrast God’s blessing and instructions to Noah with those God gave to Adam at creation.

<p>“God blessed them.” (Gen. 1:28)</p>	<p>Gen. 9:1 <i>God blessed Noah and his sons.</i></p>
<p>“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.” (Gen. 1:28)</p>	<p>Gen. 9:1 <i>“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” (Man retains his dominion over the animals, but the animals are no longer his willing subjects.)</i></p>
<p>“Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.” (Gen. 1:29)</p>	<p>Gen. 9:3 <i>“Every living thing that lives shall be food for you.”</i></p>

14. Read 9:8–17. How would you sum up the covenant promise God made, and why do you think he made it?

If God keeps wiping out the earth because of the wickedness of men, then no one will survive—not even Noah. But God must keep his promise that the Seed of the woman will crush the serpent’s head and break the curse over all creation. The covenant promise was made with Noah and his descendants and with all the animals that God will never again destroy the earth and all living things by a flood. Noah and his sons have no more responsibility to keep this covenant than do the cattle or birds. God will keep this covenant himself. Noah and his descendants must simply believe God. Yet even those who do not believe God will benefit from this promise of grace.

15. Read the following verses in which God’s “bow” is described:

If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow; he has prepared for him his deadly weapons, making his arrows fiery shafts. (Ps. 7:12–13)

He has bent his bow like an enemy, with his right hand set like a foe. he has poured out his fury like fire. (Lam. 2:4)

Then the Lord will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning. (Zech. 9:14)

How might these verses offer insight into the imagery God used when he said to Noah, “I have set my bow in the cloud” as a sign of his covenant promise not to destroy the earth and all flesh again?

God has hung up his “bow”—his weapon of judgment. He is no longer at war with the earth. The only reason he can do this is that he will pour out his wrathful fury on his own son. Jesus will receive the fatal arrows we deserve.

16. When Adam sinned, his shameful nakedness had to be covered in a provision from God, and Noah’s shameful nakedness must also ultimately be covered by a provision from God. Go back to Genesis 6:8. What has God provided to cover Noah’s shameful nakedness?

Grace. God has taken great care to cover our sin through the atoning work of Christ, which is applied to us through his work of grace. “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered” (Ps. 32:1, cf. Rom. 4:7).

17. How does Noah point to Christ? Look up the verses in the second column of the chart below and write a statement that relates to the statement about Noah in the first column.

Noah	Christ
Noah’s name means “rest.” (Gen. 5:28–29)	Isa. 11:10; Matt. 11:28 <i>Jesus is our rest. He is the one who provides rest for our souls.</i>
“Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” (Gen. 6:8)	Matt. 3:17

	<i>Jesus found favor in his Father's eyes. He was the one with whom God was "well-pleased."</i>
"Noah was a righteous man." (Gen. 6:9)	Luke 23:47 <i>Jesus is the only truly righteous man who has ever lived.</i>
Noah was "blameless in his generation." (Gen. 6:9)	Luke 1:35 <i>Jesus was blameless in his generation—perfectly holy.</i>
Noah "walked with God." (Gen. 6:9)	Luke 2:52; 4:4; 6:12 <i>Jesus lived day by day in close connection with God by feeding on his word, through prayer, and obedience.</i>
Noah was given work to do by God—to build an ark that will provide protection from judgment. (Gen. 6:14–21)	John 17:4 <i>Jesus was given work to do by God—to provide protection from judgment through the work of the cross.</i>
Noah's work resulted in the "saving of his household" and "every living thing." (Gen. 8:17; Heb. 11:7)	Heb. 3:6; Rom. 8:21 <i>Christ's work resulted in the saving of all of those given to him by the Father, and it will come to completion in the restoration of the entire created order.</i>
Noah did "all that God commanded him." (Gen. 6:22; 7:5)	John 15:10; Phil. 2:8 <i>Jesus gladly did everything his God told him to do, going as far as to submit to a cruel and shameful death on the cross.</i>
Noah brought his whole family and every living creature out of the ark with him. (Gen. 8:18–19)	Isa. 11:6–7; John 18:9 <i>Jesus will bring all of those the Father entrusted to him safely into eternity with him.</i>

18. How does the ark point to Christ? Look up the verses in the second column of the chart below to write a statement about Christ that relates to the statement about the ark in the first column.

Ark	Christ
The ark was a divine provision of grace. (Gen. 6:13–14)	John 3:16; Rev. 13:8 <i>Christ is a divine provision of grace.</i>
The ark was a refuge from divine judgment. (Gen. 6:17–18)	Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:9–10 <i>Christ is the only refuge for sinners, who deserve divine judgment. We enter into him and are saved.</i>
God invited Noah and his family to come into the ark. (Gen. 7:1)	Matt. 11:28; Acts 16:31 <i>Christ invites all to come to him to find rest, a salvation that is not just individual but a covenant of grace for families.</i>
The ark was a place of absolute security. (Gen. 6:14; 7:16; 8:18–19)	John 10:28; 18:9; Col. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5 <i>The believer’s life is hidden in Christ, and secured there by the power of God so that nothing can harm him.</i>
The ark bore the judgment of God in the form of the flood. (Gen. 7:17–18)	John 12:32–33; 1 Pet. 2:24 <i>Jesus bore the judgment of God that we deserve. It all fell on him.</i>
All of those outside the ark perished. (Gen. 7:21–23)	Acts 13:40–41 <i>All of those who are outside of Christ will endure the judgment of God and will perish eternally.</i>