
BIBLICAL BIOGRAPHY OF NOAH

Genesis 6-9

Can you remember feeling really embarrassed? Have you been teased and laughed at? That is what happened to me as I started building a boat miles away from the sea, and why, because God told me to do so. My name is Noah, which means comfort. I have 3 sons called Shem Ham and Japheth (Gen 5:32) and I was 600 years old when I started building this boat, or ark.

Why did God want me to build such a thing? Well He was grieved, or really sad, that he had made men and women because they had become very wicked and all they thought about was how to plan to do more evil (Gen 6:5) so he planned to wipe them off the earth with a huge flood (Gen 6:17) but wonderfully for me and my family, God made a covenant/agreement with me and my family that we were to be saved by building an ark.

It was a huge boat 140 metres long 23 metres wide and 13.5 metres deep, with 3 decks. But it was tough because every day people asked why we were building this boat so far from the sea, and all we could say is that God had told us to do so. They didn't believe that God would carry out his threat to flood the earth, and they carried on sinning. How sad when God had created such a perfect world, with people God enjoyed spending time with, but sin had cut them off from God.

God told us to get on board with 7 pairs of clean animals and birds, and 2 pairs of unclean animals and birds. With me was my wife, our 3 boys and their wives (Gen 7:13)

On the 17th February the rain started and went on for 40 days and 40 nights until even the mountains were covered by 7 metres of water, then the drumming rain stopped, what a relief. 5 months after the rain started, middle of July, the boat landed on a mountain which we found out later was Ararat, but it wasn't until the end of November that I released a raven to see if he came back-he did. A week later I released a dove and to my huge relief and joy it came back with an olive branch in its beak. The end was in sight! But it was still too muddy and wet to leave the ark, and we didn't do that until the first of January, at last we were able to leave our very smelly boat- 11 and a half months shut up in a boat-imagine what it meant to us!!

The first thing I did was to make an altar to make a sacrifice of thanks to God for having saved us as a family along with countless animals and birds (Gen 8:20). God was pleased with this sacrifice and made this wonderful promise: "never again will I destroy all living creatures. As long as the earth survives, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease" What a wonderful promise, and God then sent us off to go and multiply.

To make sure we had understood how important this promise/covenant was God gave us this very obvious sign- a rainbow. God said "whenever the rainbow appears I will see it and remember the everlasting-everlasting covenant between God, and all living creatures of every kind on the earth (Gen 9: 16)

Wow, what an incredible 2 years I had had. Building a boat, never done that before. Been laughed at, realised how seriously God takes sin, being in a living zoo for nearly a year, being freed after a year, and then God making His amazing promise to protect us humans and animals as long as the earth survives.

I lived for another 350 years and died aged 950. What a life and what a wonderful God!