

## Noah and the Ark

**AIM:** To teach my pupils the story of Noah and the ark and Noah's safety in the ark.

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Why not have a little contest to see if anyone in the class knows the size of the ark. You might have each person guess, awarding a prize to the person who guesses the closest. The ark was approximately 450 feet by 75 feet, or more accurately 300 cubits by 50 cubits, a cubit being the distance between the bend of the arm and the tip of the finger (in other words, the distance between the elbow and the end of the finger). This is usually about 18 inches. It also might be interesting for the point of contact to bring a ruler or a tape measure to class and see what a cubit is on the arms of different pupils.

**INTRODUCTION:** We plan to discuss for the lesson the reason for the flood, those who were spared from the flood, the ark itself, and Noah's sin following the flood. Let us notice these facts.

### I. THE REASON FOR THE FLOOD.

1. Wrong marriage. Read Genesis 6:2. You will notice the words, "they chose." They chose their own wives. This was one of the reasons for the wrath of God being poured out upon the world. We have no right to choose our own mates. We are to marry the one of God's choice. (Teacher, spend a while explaining the importance of marrying only Christian people and only dedicated Christian people. Also explain the importance of marrying someone who has much in common with the mate.)
2. Open sin. Read Genesis 6:5a.
3. Evil thoughts and evil minds. See Genesis 6:5b.
4. The above points seem to imply that these folks had much knowledge, much formal education, much human wisdom, etc. It was, however, without God and would certainly apply to this generation also.
5. They were corrupt. Notice Genesis 6:11 a. The word "corrupt" seems to imply "rotten." In other words, this probably includes immorality, sex sin, and all forms of lewdness and corruption.
6. Violence. See Genesis 6:5. Compare this with our day.

### II. THOSE SPARED FROM THE FLOOD.

1. Enoch. Though Enoch was not alive when the flood came (that is, he was not on earth when the flood came), nevertheless, he was spared from the flood. It was said about Noah that he walked with God, and it was said about Enoch that he walked with God. Isn't it interesting that the only two spared from the flood were those who walked with God? Enoch was raptured, translated, carried across, if you please. In other words, he did not die. He was called out from the world before the flood.
2. Enoch's son, Methuselah. It is a very interesting thing that he was spared. God not only seems to spare people who live righteous lives themselves, but He also seems to favor their children. The word "Methuselah" means "when he is gone, it shall be sent." Not only did God bless Enoch because he walked with Him, but He blessed his son, Methuselah. Methuselah did not see the flood. As long as he lived, the flood did not take place. The flood had to wait until after he died. This was because his daddy walked with God. It is interesting also to note that Enoch started walking with God after his son, Methuselah, was born. Genesis 5:22a, "And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah." Certainly if a person ever needs to walk with God, it is as a parent.
3. Noah. Just as Enoch was spared from the flood by being called out, Noah was spared by being preserved through the flood. This is a type of the Rapture. The flood typifies the Great Tribulation period. Enoch typifies the Christian called out before the Tribulation. Noah typifies the Jewish nation, preserved through the Tribulation period. Noah was spared from the flood because he walked with God.
4. Noah's family. As has been said before, it pays to have a Christian dad and mom. The greatest gift one can give his children is a Christian heritage. It is noteworthy that Noah's three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth, fathered the people of the world. Shem is the father of the Jewish race; Japheth, the white Gentile race; and Ham, the dark race. All peoples of the world came from one of these three sons.

### III. THE ARK.

Keep in mind as we make this study that the ark represents Jesus Christ. Let us notice the comparisons between the ark (which was the safety for Noah and his family) and Christ (our safety).

1. It was made of wood. See Genesis 6:14a. Our safety also comes from wood—that is, the cross.
2. It was pitched with pitch. Study Genesis 6:14b. The word "pitch" means "the blood of a tree." This word is also translated "atonement" in other places in the Bible. Just as the ark was kept together by the blood of a tree, even so you and I are kept secure by the blood of the tree—that is, the blood of Calvary.
3. Notice the size of the ark in verse 15. Once again, explain the meaning of the cubit and lead the class to discover the exact size.
4. You will notice there was only one window in the ark, and it was at the top. God did not want the people to look down; He wanted them to look up. Ah, what a blessed picture this is for us! There is always optimism by looking up and pessimism by looking down. If one looks down to sorrow, heartaches, burden, temptation, and trials of this world, he will become discouraged. If one looks up through God's window to the heavens and keeps his eyes upon Christ, he will be encouraged.
5. You will notice there was only one door. Examine Genesis 6:16b. There is only one door to our ark, and that is the cross. When a person puts his faith in Christ, he is saved.
6. Notice the door was in the side. See Genesis 6:16. There was a wound in the side of the ark. The wounded side of Christ opened the way for you and me to be saved.
7. There were three stories to the ark. Read Genesis 6:16c. There are three stories to our salvation. God is a triune God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
8. Notice that Noah had to choose to enter the ark. God did not force him in. See Genesis 7:1, 7. It was a matter of the will. Noah walked in; God invited him, but He did not force him.
9. God shut him in. Notice Genesis 7:16. Here we have security. It was Noah's own will that brought him in. God provided the security; God invited Noah in. Noah entered on his own volition, and then God shut him in. There is the security of the believer. You will notice that God did not put eight nails on the outside of the ark and say, "Hold on for 140 days, and I will spare you." No, God simply said, "Come in, and I will protect you."

### IV. NOAH'S SIN.

Read Genesis 9:20-23 to the class, and teach them the following truths:

1. The best Christian had better watch out! Noah was the greatest Christian in the whole world. He was righteous enough to be spared from the flood, and yet he fell into sin.
2. People from the best Christian homes had better watch out! Noah's son fell into sin. His dad was the greatest man in the world, and yet he fell into sin. It does not matter what kind of homes we are from; we must be careful all the time and lean upon God for help and strength and deliverance from temptation.
3. We can fall into sin at the best times. Noah had just been spared from a terrible catastrophe. He had just stood the test. No doubt he let his guard down, and sin came!
4. Sin often comes after our greatest victories. We need to be very careful lest we, at times of great victory, are tempted. Our weakest moments sometimes are immediately following our greatest moments.