

How Noah Obeyed God

Adam and Eve had another child, Seth, and many grand-children and great-grandchildren, and these again had children until there were many, many people living on the earth. God did not forget His people and he continued to care for them. He taught them to be good and to live according to His laws. But people disobeyed God and didn't listen to Him.

Many years after Adam and Eve had left the Garden of Eden, the people on earth became wicked. They forgot all about God. Now God saw that He would have to wash away the wicked world and start new life on earth all over again.

There was only one man who remained good and whose whole family was also good. This man's name was Noah. He loved God and tried to obey Him. One day, God said to Noah:

"The earth is wicked indeed, and I shall wash away; with a flood of waters, all that is wicked. Every living thing will perish, but I shall save you and all your family and those who will be with you, for you have obeyed My laws."

Then God told Noah to build a huge covered boat that He called an ark.

People laughed at Noah as he began to build his boat in the middle of dry land, and they teased him and interfered with his work. But Noah knew that he had to do what God told him. He and his sons worked for a long time even though they did not know exactly what God's plan was.

Then God told Noah to take into his boat two of every kind of animal that lived on earth. Noah did as God told him to do. Again men laughed and teased him and his sons.

At last all was ready. There was food stored away for many months in the ark. Noah and his wife, his sons and their wives all entered the ark and all the animals with them.

After seven days the rain began to fall. It rained for forty days and forty nights without stopping. All the fields and woods and even the mountains were covered with water. Nothing remained alive on the earth. For a long time water was everywhere. All alone on the face of the water there floated the ark of Noah.

At last it stopped raining. The winds began to blow; once again dry land began to appear. During the seventh month after the beginning of the flood, Noah's ark came to rest on a mountain. Day after day the water slowly went down. The time came when Noah decided to open the window of his ark. He took a dove and let it fly out of the open window. The dove flew around, but it could find no place where it might rest, so it returned to the ark.

He waited for another seven days and again let the dove out. This time the dove did not come back until evening. When it returned, it carried a green olive leaf in its beak. Noah knew then that there were green trees again and plants were

growing on the earth. After another week had passed, the dove flew away once more. This time it did not come back, for it found a resting place and food.

Noah opened the doors of the ark and saw that everything was fresh and green on earth once more. God told Noah to leave the ark and let out all the animals that were with him. The earth was once more filled with animals, birds, and insects.

Noah was very happy and grateful. He called his family together to thank God for keeping them safe. They put together a few stones to build a fire on them as a way to say thank you to God. Suddenly there was in the sky a beautiful rainbow shining with many colors.

"This is the sign of My promise to you that never again shall there be a flood great enough to destroy all living things on the earth," God said.