

Noah and the Great Flood

God loves everything he has made. To human beings, God has given something special: He has entered into a covenant of love with them. Would you like to know more about the biblical origin of the word "covenant"? Then read the following story about Noah and the great flood. Then you can colour in the rainbow - the sign of the first covenant between God and humanity - in the right colours.



Read-aloud story:

The Lord saw how wicked the people of the earth were. Only Noah was pleasing to God. God said to Noah: "I see that the end of all living things has come. Make thee a great ship, an ark of gofer wood. Make thyself an ark of gofer wood! Fill it with rooms and seal it inside and out with pitch. Behold, I will bring the flood, the water, upon the earth. Everything on earth shall die. But with you I will make a covenant. Go into the ark, you, your sons, your wife and your sons' wives! Of every living thing bring two into the ark, that they may live with you; one male and one female. Of every kind of bird, of every kind of cattle, of every kind of creeping thing that creeps on the ground, two each shall come to thee, that they may live. Take with thee of every eatable thing, and lay up a store for thee. It shall be food for you and for them. Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him. (Gen 6:14-22)

And the LORD said unto Noah, Yet seven days, and it shall rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and all that I have made shall be destroyed. Noah did everything exactly as the Lord had commanded him. When the seven days were over, the waters of the flood came upon the earth. On that day, all the springs of the mighty flood burst open and the floodgates of heaven opened. The rain poured down on the earth for forty days and forty nights. The water rose and lifted the ark higher and higher above the earth. The water swelled and rose higher and higher on the earth, but the ark floated on the water. The water had swollen enormously on the earth and covered all the high mountains that are under the whole sky. Everything that breathed on the earth and everything that lived on dry land died. Only Noah and what was with him in the ark remained. (Cf. Gen 7:4-23)

Then God remembered Noah and all the animals that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to blow over the earth, so the water subsided and the ark touched down on Mount Ararat. Soon the mountain peaks were visible. Noah opened the window of the ark and let out a dove to see if the water on the ground had decreased. The dove returned to him in the ark because there was still water over the whole earth. Noah reached out his hand and took it back to him in the ark. Then he waited another seven days and again let the dove out of the ark. Towards evening, the dove came back to him with a fresh olive branch in its beak. Then Noah knew that the water on the earth had decreased. He waited another seven days and let the dove out. Now it did not return to him. Then God said to Noah: "Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons and your sons' wives! Bring out with you every living thing that is there of birds, and of cattle, and of all creeping things. The earth shall be teeming with them. So Noah came out, he, his sons, his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals, all the creeping things and all the birds, everything that moves on the earth, came out of the ark after their families. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and offered a burnt offering. The LORD smelt it and said in his heart, "I will never again curse the earth because of the wickedness of man. Never, as long as the earth endures, shall sowing and reaping, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night cease. (Cf. Gen 8:1-21)

Then God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them: Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth. Everything that grows and lives shall be your food. All this I give to you as the green plants. But you must never shed the blood of a human being. For God made man in his own image. And God said to Noah and his sons: I am. And I make a covenant with you men, with your descendants, and with all living creatures that have come out of the ark. Never again shall a flood come and destroy the earth. And for this, said God, I give you a sign, the rainbow. I will set my bow in the clouds; it shall be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When the bow is in the clouds, I will look upon it and think of the covenant for ever between God and all living creatures, all creatures of flesh on the earth. The rainbow shall be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. (Cf. Gen 9:1-16)

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The rainbow is a sign of the covenant that God has made with us humans. It is visible when the sun shines in the rain. The colours of the rainbow - they always appear in the same order - are: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet. Colour the rainbow below in the correct colours. If you like, you can also cut it out and place it in a place you visit often. It should remind you: God is faithful - whatever happens, HE is with you!

