

Genesis 6:5-22; 9:1-11
Noah: The Rest of the Story
WRCoB 9.11.22

1

Hebrews 11:7a NRSVUE

7 By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household.

Ten generations after Adam and Eve
From their third son Seth
We find the descendant, Noah.

The account states God favored Noah
Because he was a righteous person.

Noah's definitive expression of righteousness
Was in his obedience to God
By building a boat in the middle of a desert.

According to the website *The American Scientific Affiliation*
A website devoted to science with a Christian perspective
The area where Noah lived was hot and arid.

Most likely Noah lived in the region
Between the rivers Euphrates and the Tigris
In Mesopotamia in today's nation of Iraq.

These rivers are in fact named
In the description of the Garden of Eden in Gen 2.

- The Ark of the Covenant: the box that held the stone tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments.
- The ark of the bulrushes: the basket in which Moses was placed and set afloat in the Nile River of Egypt

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Noah's neighbors must have thought Noah delusional.

Not so much when it began to rain nonstop for 40 days.

All told Noah, his wife, his sons, and his sons' wives
Lived in the ark for approximately a year.

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God saved Noah and his family
And two of each living thing
From total annihilation by the flood.

The rest of the population drowned.

God explained his reasons.

4

Genesis 6:13 NIV So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

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Up to this point in history
We have seen sin spread from first man and woman

To the second generation's sibling rivalry and murder

To the time of Noah when the world was rife with evil.

God decided to send a flood upon the earth
With the intent to destroy all evil.

Excuse my irreverent question but let me ask.

5

Was the flood the solution that the problem of sin needed?

Unfortunately, no, it was not.

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Following the flood God establishes a covenant with Noah.

6

Genesis 9:11 NLT Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth.”

7

Genesis 9:13 NLT I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth.

After surviving such a traumatic and arduous ordeal
To be singled out to carry the remnant of creation
Into the future

To be unmistakably blessed by God
Must have been so faith-affirming for Noah.

For Noah, life held the promise of God's blessings.

His wife by his side
His three sons; Shem, Ham, and Japheth
Along with their three wives

They stand at the brink of a new and bright future.

He begins his new life by planting a vineyard.

He then enjoyed the harvest of its fruit.

8

Genesis 9:21 CEV One day he got drunk and was lying naked in his tent.

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Just when things were beginning to look up
Noah goes and gets drunk!

What's up with that?

After facing ridicule for building an ark
Miles from any water!

After going out and doing the exhaustive work
Of collecting all the animals
God had requested.

After being cooped up for a year on the boat
With animals and in-laws

And then God to bless him
With the hope of a promising future

Why is it that the very next scene
We see Noah drunk as a skunk
Lying naked passed-out in his tent?

Maybe the experience drained him
 Maybe he suffered from PTSD
 And couldn't let the past go.

Maybe as the rains started
 He remembered looking out from his safe refuge
 And seeing his neighbors as the flood waters rose.

Watching the neighbors' kids plead with him to save them.

Maybe it haunted him.

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Maybe those days on the ark were unbearable.

Day in and day out
 The drudgery of feeding and watering
 Cleaning out the stalls of all those animals

Maybe it was the close proximity of his sons
 And the daughters-in-law
 What with all the bickering going on

Where could he to go to get away
 From all the incessant demands?

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Maybe it wasn't the past that bothered Noah.
 Maybe it was the present.

Perhaps in the crisis Noah was at his best
 Everyone looked to him at such a critical time.

But now his life paled in comparison.

Life was good, maybe too good

His waist size expanded from a 34 to a 38.

Maybe Noah got bored.

Where was the excitement?

The adrenalin?

That tremendous sense of purpose?

Maybe Noah got drunk because the thrill was gone.

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Maybe it wasn't the past or the present

Maybe it was the future?

As long as the focus was on the great event

As long as he was active in the affairs of God

He was singular in purpose.

Maybe building towards the future

Looked long, arduous and difficult.

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Why did Noah get drunk?

Why does any leader get drunk?

Why does any great leader do things unbecoming of a hero?

The answer is as old as history.

Getting drunk, taking illicit drugs

Sexual addictions, overeating, obsessive work habits

Are all ways of escaping the pressures of reality.

There are times in anyone's life

When the stresses and anxieties get the best of us.

And we look for some way to relieve the stress

To escape from the pressures of daily living.

There are constructive ways to escape

And there are destructive ways to escape reality.

Unfortunately Noah chose a destructive way.

Unless of course, this was the first-time humankind

Experimented with the fermentation of grapes

And Noah didn't know what he was drinking?

More likely Noah drank to get away

From whatever stressors caused him anxiety.

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We won't go further on with the particulars of the story.

Except to say, when Noah awoke

And discovered that his son, Ham

Had seen him drunk and naked

And went out broadcasting the news to everyone

Noah cursed him.

Cursed Ham before the others.

And then blessed the other two, Shem and Japheth.

A sad ending to a bright future.

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With God saving Noah from mass genocide

You'd think Noah would have handled things differently.

Lesson learned!

The flood did not curb the spread of sin.

It didn't even skip a generation.

The man whom God favored

Whom God deemed as righteous

He too fell from grace and from the wagon.

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But then came Jesus

I know I'm jumping 5000 years here.

But that's who we are . . . Christians

Picked up, brushed off, forgiven, saved

Blessed, empowered and sent.

We know we can't overcome sin on our own.

Noah couldn't . . . neither can we.

It takes Jesus

We find a refuge in Him, the Ark of a New Covenant.

This new covenant is not based on OUR righteousness

This new covenant is based on Jesus' righteousness

Who by design became human

To show us the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Yes, sin still crouches at our door

Its desire is still to rule over us.

But living a life in Christ

We can overcome our weaknesses

And find strength and purpose in God.

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And so what is the lesson found in the story of Noah?

First, we need to find ways

To handle stress in positive ways.

There are constructive ways to relieve anxiety.

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Secondly, following God is both a public and private affair.

What one does in the privacy of their homes

Is just as important as what one does in public.

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Thirdly, sin affects not only the person sinning

But also, all the people around them.

Sin has the distinct capability

Of affecting future generations.

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Fourthly, God uses faithful ordinary people
In extraordinary ways in spite of their sin.

Our greatest heroes are not perfect.

That all of us stand in the judgement of God
And stand in need of his grace, love, and mercy.

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Fifthly, through the sign of the rainbow
We learn God's intent is not to destroy
But to lift up
Not to condemn
But to save .

And finally we learn the evidence of God's grace
Is made most visible
Not in the rainbow
But in Jesus Christ
The Ark of the New Covenant.

Jesus becomes our rainbow.

9

Ezekiel 1:28a CEV as colorful as a rainbow that appears after a storm. I realized I was seeing the brightness of the Lord's glory! So I bowed with my face to the ground .

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