

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday Bible Class - April/May 2024**

**Part One - The World Before the Flood (continued)**

7) Evaluate Noah's role as a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5) during the 120 years of grace that preceded the Flood.

- Was Noah a failure because the world did not repent?
- What other characteristics and qualities do we learn about Noah from the Genesis account? (see Genesis 6:8-9) What do the words "Noah found favor ...was righteous, blameless ... walked with God" mean about him?

Note: The KJV (King James Version) uses these words: "Noah found grace ... was just and perfect ... walked with God."

- Do we have "preachers of righteousness" like Noah in our world today? What similarities are there when we compare them to Noah?

8) The Flood is a good reminder to Christians today. We need to learn the lessons of history or we will doom ourselves to repeat the errors of the past.

- See 2 Peter chapter 2 for a detailed evaluation of God's judgment on the consequences of unbelief and Peter's warning to those who "turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them" (v. 21).
- Note Peter's comparison of the Flood to "the Day of the Lord" (2 Peter 3:1-8).
- What assurances do we have about the Last Day? (2 Peter 3: 9-10)
- What is Peter's advice to God's people today as we await the second coming of Jesus? (see 2 Peter 3:11-15).
- Do we have "preachers of righteousness" like Noah in our world today?
- What words does Peter use to describe our heavenly Father, who is much more than an angry judge who will punish the wicked with terrible vengeance? (2 Peter 3:15).
- What two great teachings does Peter include in this message as well as several other great sermons recorded in the New Testament? (Hint: See Acts 2:13-24, Acts 3:11-26, Acts 4:8-12, Acts 5:29-32, and Acts 10:34-48)

9) How do we know that the Flood was an act of God, planned by God, and not just a coincidental, natural disaster?

- God declared his plans to Noah (Genesis 6:13)
- Genesis uses the Hebrew word *mabbul* in Genesis 6:17 to describe God's description of his plans to Noah; in Psalm 29:10 David used the same word to describe the almighty Lord who "sits enthroned over the flood."

**Building the Ark**

10) Noah obeyed God's instructions and built the ark. What was the ark like?

- The Hebrew word for ark is used only twice in the Bible (Rehwinkle, p. 58): see Genesis 6:14 and Exodus 2:3-5 (NIV translation calls it a “papyrus basket”). These two arks are obviously of very different sizes; therefore, Rehwinkle says it means a “floating vessel.”
- What size was the vessel God commanded Noah to build? What other features would it have? (Genesis 6:15-16)
- The Bible describes the measurements of the ark in cubits, a common unit of measurement for the Babylonians, Egyptians, and Hebrews. How long was a cubit? (Rehwinkle’s opinion, p. 59)

The ark was a minimum of 450 feet long and 75 feet wide. It could have been as large as 600 feet by 100 feet with a height of 60 feet (per Rehwinkle). For the sake of comparison, the WW2 battleship *Oregon* was 348 by 69 feet (the same approximate proportion in length and width as the ark). The *Titanic* was 893 by 93 feet with a displacement of 46,000 tons. Marine experts have estimated that, using the ark’s given dimensions, it would have had a displacement of 43,000 tons, nearly equal to that of the *Titanic*. The ark was a **very large boat!**

- Other specifications for the ark’s structure included the type of wood, instructions for making it watertight, provisions for ventilation and access doors, and storage areas for food (Genesis 6:14-16).

11) What did God reveal to Noah about the magnitude and destructive power of the flood that God would send (Genesis 6:17)?

12) What was the “covenant” that God promised to establish with Noah and his family? Was this a new covenant (Genesis 6:18)?

13) What were God’s instructions to Noah regarding the animals (see Genesis 6:19-21 and 7:2-3)? What interesting fact has been recorded in Genesis 3:8?

14) Why are the words of Genesis 6:22 so wonderful?

- Consider how Noah was expected to believe the impossible, and that he did believe it.
- How was the “impossible” task of building the ark made possible? Were there people (believing or unbelieving) who assisted with the ark’s construction? Are there people today who assist in the building of the Christian Church and yet themselves are lost?
- Consider the opposition and ridicule that Noah certainly had to bear from the masses of people. Were there some observers who were believers that would be destroyed in the Flood?
- How was Noah able to do “all that the Lord commanded him” (see Hebrews 11:7)?

Other questions for consideration:

- Were some observers of the ark’s construction who were aware of God’s warning changed (moved to repent) or were they all hardened in their unbelief and condemned to perish not only in the Flood but also for eternity?
- Were there believers among those destroyed in the Flood?