

Chapter Three – Noah and the Flood

The children of Adam and Eve increased on the earth but many of them did a lot of evil things and lived sinful lives. They turned away from God and worshipped idols. Violence was widespread. God was deeply troubled. He planned to start all over again by wiping out the evil population by means of a flood.

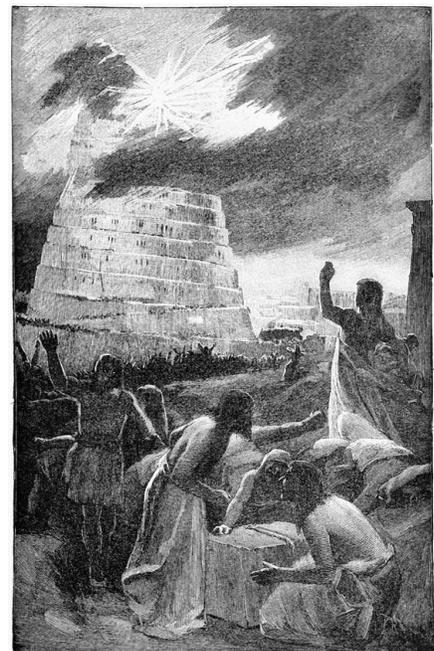
There was, however, a good man named Noah who worshipped God with his family. One day God said to him, “The time has come for me to destroy all men because they are wicked. Make an ark from planks of wood, make cabins in it and make it water-proof. You, your wife, your sons and their wives will live in the ark. You must bring into the ark a pair of each kind of living creature to save them so that they can reproduce again on the earth after the flood.”

Noah did as he was told and then the rain came down for forty days until the water rose above the mountains and all living beings were drowned. One hundred and fifty days later, the water began to go down. A dove was sent out by Noah to check if the water had gone down. However, it did not bring back anything from the land and returned to the ark. A week later, it was sent out again and this time it brought back a fresh olive leaf. Noah knew that the flood was over. He and all his family and all the creatures came out from the ark. Noah built an altar of large stones and offered a sacrifice to God to thank him.

God blessed Noah and his family and told them to have many children so that their descendants would live all over the world. He promised that he would never again destroy the world by water. As a sign of this promise, God set the rainbow in the sky.

After the flood, Noah’s family settled in a land near Babylonia and increased in number there. They enjoyed great unity as they all spoke one language. Unlike Cain who had built a city with stone and mortar, they built their city with solid bricks.

However, they became so proud of themselves that they wanted to build a tower high enough to reach heaven itself. They believed that this tower in the city of Babel would provide them with total strength and unity. What they did not realize was that they were repeating the same sin of Adam and Eve, attempting to become like God. God was displeased at their pride and vanity. He confused them by making them speak different languages so that they could not finish building the tower. The people in Babel were scattered all over the earth. Pride led to the downfall of their city.





Noah and his sons build the ark

Questions:

1. Why did God want to destroy the world?
2. Why was Noah chosen to fulfill God's plan?
3. Why did God set a rainbow in the sky?
4. Describe TWO "evil things" that exist in the world today.
5. What lesson can you learn from the story of the Tower of Babel?
6. There is an old saying that "pride comes before a fall". What do you think this means?
7. How does pride affect human relations?