

Heed God's Warning

SCRIPTURE: *Genesis 6*

Genesis 6 relates to us the story of Noah's ark and the great flood. This has been questioned by historians but facts has shown us that it really did happen. Even Jesus Himself alluded to the flood in Matthew 24:38-39.

God orchestrated the Great Flood in Genesis in order to:

1. Establish that the Bible is God's word of truth
2. Show unbelievers that He is almighty, and that He means what He says
3. Teach us to take His warnings seriously and know that with disobedience comes deadly consequences

During the time of Noah, wickedness and corruption were prevalent among the inhabitants of the Earth, as the sons of God intermingled with the daughters of man. God saw flesh's persistent evil, and He was grieved because His creations turned out differently from what He had intended (Genesis 6:6). Because of this continuing corruption, God tells Noah—a righteous and blameless man who walked with God—that He plans to rid the Earth of all flesh; at the same time, He instructs him to build an ark to house him and his family, as well as two of every kind of living animal.

Because God is both holy and just, He punishes those who disobey; but, God is also a good God who takes care of the righteous and blameless. He demonstrates this by warning and sparing Noah and his family. With His deliverance, God also establishes a covenant, (Genesis 6:17-18) and with that covenant comes instructions (Genesis 6:19-21).

Noah and his family were saved because they heeded God's warning, and had faith in His promises. Saving faith is knowing God's word (Romans 10:17) and being a doer of it (James 1:21-22) in spite of the unfavorable and adverse circumstances that surround you because of this faith (James 1:22-24). It's not just knowing God's word, but also practicing it. Genuine faith will save those who listen to God's warning.

Consider Noah's circumstances: building a boat in the middle of dry land when the concept of rain did not exist, having only a handful of men for such a big task, and having to endure a hundred years of mockery from those around him. Still, according to Genesis 6:22, ***"Noah did everything just as God commanded him."*** Just as Noah did, we are to trust God because He knows what He is doing.

God is still warning us to this day, because what happened during Noah's time is happening NOW. The Bible says in Matthew 24:38-39 that, ***"For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be."*** Ecclesiastes 1:9 also states that, ***"What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun."***

How do we heed God's warning?

1. **Trust God.** By faith, Noah obeyed God just as God instructed him to do (Hebrews 11:7). Noah had no idea of rain and flood. He was building the ark when there was no body of water at sight. Faith is never anchored on feelings, human opinion, or logic, but it is dependent on the Word of God.
2. **Read the Bible.** How would you know God's instructions to believe and obey by faith unless you read the Word of God? You can trust God's Word; every part of it is God's amazing revelation.

3. **Walk Along With God** (Genesis 6:9). Noah walked with God even when everybody else laughed at him. In the same manner, even when everybody is doing what is displeasing to God, stand to follow God and keep your purity and your integrity.
4. **Obey God.** Genuine faith will result to action. Obedience is the evidence of faith. To believe and not obey is not yet to believe. Real faith will persevere over time. Noah obeyed according to what God has commanded him to do (Genesis 2:22). Obedience is different from agreeing. Agreeing with God is doing what He asks when it is convenient. Obedience is doing what He asks even when it is inconvenient, simply because you know it is His will.

Back then, God had warned of the flood. These days, we are warned of the day of the Lord, when fire will rain down and burn everything. **“By His word, the present heavens and Earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”** (2 Peter 3:7) God urges us to repent while we still can. In 2 Peter 3:9, it says that **“The Lord not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for anyone to perish but for all to come to repentance.”** How, then, should we respond and avoid perishing? By heeding God’s warning, obeying all His commandments, and being faithful, just as Noah was faithful.

The story of Noah’s ark can be seen as a foretelling of what salvation is like in Jesus Christ. Apart from Jesus, we are lost and will perish in hell, because He alone saves (John 3:16). Acts 4:12 tells us that, **“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”** In this way, you could compare Jesus to the ark that spared Noah and his family from the flood. Similarly, we are called to become virtual “fireproof” arks where people are able to see Jesus in our lives and be saved.





Of the things that God wants us to know and obey in the Bible, the greatest of these is the Great Commission, as stated in Matthew 28:19-20. Discipleship will make us like Jesus.

We are to become virtual arks: in our Christ-like life, in our family and D-group, in our church and in our CCF discipleship making movement

How can we do this? By being faithful even if we face adverse circumstances like Noah did. Let us learn from Noah and put God above everything else. Let us heed God’s warning and at the same time share this opportunity to be saved to everyone we know.

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: Have you ever been like Noah – trusting, persevering and obeying – despite of and inspite of being ridiculed and laughed at? What kind of faith do you have? Complacent? Or do you have the faith to obey without question?</p>
	<p>Family: Talk about the story of Noah’s ark as a family. Are you, as a family, inside or outside the Ark of Salvation? Will God find your family worthy and righteous to be chosen?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: What are the warnings today that you have not paid heed to? How are you being a vessel of God’s salvation to others? Is God prompting you to share the warning to people? Who are these people?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: What are you doing to be a part of God’s saving hand? How are you using your time, talent and treasure for the glory of God?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.