

# Lessons From the Life of Noah

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We know in Genesis 1:1 that it talks about the recreation of God our Father's creation. From the time of the recreation to the first coming of Jesus and living as a human being on this earth, covers approximately 4000 years. For much of those 4000 years, that history recorded in the Bible, only the highlights are given. In fact, Genesis 1-5 covers the first 1650 years—in five chapters. Beginning with Adam and Eve and ending with Noah being 500 years old. You can get that approximate total of 1650 by counting the genealogy in chapter 5.

The first 5 chapters cover roughly 35% of human history. Talk about a Reader's Digest version—that's it. The first 5 chapters are accomplished by only covering the high points. But then, after the first 5 chapters, something extraordinary happened. The next 4 chapters are dedicated to one event. 1650 years in 5 chapters and then 4 chapters for one event. It's described comparatively in minute detail. That one event is the biggest single disaster in human history. By way of introduction, let's look at that event in Genesis 6 and read verses 13-15 and then 17-19 and then verse 22. You might want to place a marker here and as usual, unless otherwise noted I'll be reading from the King James.

**Genesis 6:13** *And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

14) *Make thee an ark of [notice He gives the details] gopherwood [He tells what to make it of]; [then he tells him how to make it] rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. (KJV)*

The Hebrew word for *pitch* means “asphalt”—a sealant. I'm certain God gave Noah very detailed plans for the Ark. He had to have done so; how to lay the keel, how to shape the wood, the angles of the wood and the formers that attach to the keel and all of that. All of the proper dimensions He gave to Noah.

15) *And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. (KJV)*

How long is a cubit? It's impossible to say for a certainty because you have the long and short Hebrew cubit, the Babylonian cubit and the long and short Egyptian cubit. They all vary between 17½ inches and 20½ inches. Just for discussion's sake, we'll take the middle of that of 19 inches and call it 19 inches. If that is the case, the Ark was approximately 450 feet long and 80 feet wide. Which means it's about 1½ times the length of a football field and about half as wide as a football field. No small boat—a big undertaking for four men, when you think about that.

17) *And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.*

18) *But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.*

19) *And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. (KJV)*

Verse 22.

22) *Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he. (KJV)*

Very submissive, very obedient—I'm sure he was very detail oriented and followed Yehovah's instructions to the minutest of details. If Yehovah divinely inspired almost as much attention on this one event as He did to the prior 1650 years, there has to be lessons for us to learn from this one event, since it takes up so much space in God's word. There have to be lessons for us to learn because there are great parallels, as we're going to find out, between Noah's day and Noah's world and our world today.

So, the title of the sermon is:

### Lessons From the Life of Noah

We'll look at it with 4 points. We're going to do two things; first, before we get into those 4 points, we're going to look at the account of Noah and the Ark and then get into the 4 lessons we can learn from this cataclysmic event that occurred to Noah and the world. So, let's look at the account of Noah and the Ark and re-familiarize ourselves with it. I know we are all familiar with the general story.

First what we want to do is get some facts about ocean waves and currents and shipwrecks to give us an idea of what Noah and his family were going to go through. The largest wave that has ever been recorded, since they began recording those things, in any ocean is roughly 100 feet high. That's as high as a 10-story building. Think about a wave that high. The Smithsonian Institute, on their website, says: An earthquake followed by a landslide in 1958 in Alaska's Lituya Bay generated a wave 100 feet high. The tallest Tsunami ever documented. When the wave ran ashore it snapped trees 1700 feet up slope. So well over ¼ mile up the slope, it was snapping trees in half. That is a tsunami wave.

Now let's look at the sinking of a ship—one I'm very familiar with. I've followed it and read history about it. It's the bulk carrier, the Edmund Fitzgerald. That event was memorialized in song by Gordon Lightfoot back in the 1970's. The reason I have had an affinity for that is I was stationed in Sioux St. Marie which is at the east end of Lake Superior which is where the Sioux St. Marie locks are to get you into the next lake. You have to drop down and the "Mighty Fitz" was heading to Sioux St. Marie Locks when the

wreck occurred. The “Mighty Fitz” as it was called, was launched in 1958 and it was 729 feet long. It’s beam—the width—was 75 feet. Its gross tonnage was over 13,600 gross tons. So, it was the same width as the Ark roughly, but much longer than the Ark. It was the largest ship on the great lakes until 1971. The Edmund Fitzgerald was powered by a 7000-horsepower steam turbine. For years it held the record load of iron ore at 27,400 tons of iron ore, in one sailing. On November 9, 1975, the Edmund Fitzgerald left Superior, Wisconsin near Duluth, Minnesota at the west end of Lake Superior. It was heading east to the locks at the east end of Lake Superior in Sioux St. Marie. I’ve toured the locks, watched the boats come and go, when I was in the Air Force. For a guy coming from the desert of West Texas it was kind of revelation to see all of this occur. As they were loading up, the weather started changing. By the time they were ready to sail, a fullblown November gale had developed. The winds that day—before that day was over—were at 85 mph and the waves were at 55 feet. That’s five stories. So he decided to sail on the northern shore of Lake Superior—the Canadian shore—and the least side of the winds, since the wind was coming from the Northwest, to get some shelter from that storm. They sank the next evening with the loss of all 29 crew members on board. After years they finally found it and went down and explored it and the wreckage revealed that the boat was broken in half. There are various theories as to how that happened, but the fact is the weather, the wind, and the waves were so great that whatever the cause, it eventually broke in half. This is a boat made of metal, not wood.

A more recent wreckage occurred in the Atlantic on October 5, 2015—790 ft cargo carrier El Farro—went down during hurricane “Juaquin” that was just a category 4 but it had wind speeds of 155 mph and that boat could not survive those winds and waves. The Ark God commanded Noah to build was roughly 75% of the length of these two ships and about as wide and made of not metal, but wood. These metal ships sank in normal, earthly weather. When you think about our Father—Yehovah—bringing something special, in that regard, I think we can understand that the waves and the weather would be much greater than a hurricane in the Atlantic or a storm on Lake Superior.

Now let’s look at the wind and weather that Noah might have encountered. Let’s go to Genesis 7 and read verses 11-12 and then 17-24.

**Genesis 7:11** *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. (KJV)*

This is something more than just a hurricane or a tsunami or something like that. This is a world shattering—literally—earth shattering event. Let me read from the website, The Institution for Creation Research, about this:

*As the deep in scripture usually refers to the ocean, so the great deep which was broken up evidently speaks of great subterranean chambers deep inside the earth, all of which spewed their contents at the same time. The reference to*

*“broken up” merits attention for it implies a wrenching of the earth’s crust; a great tectonic event.*

You can see that God Almighty just tore the earth’s crust to have these fountains of the deep come up and then, of course, the tremendous rain from the sky. The same word is used in Numbers 16 to describe the supernatural opening of the great pit into which the rebellious Korah and his followers and their families fell, through a tearing of the earth’s crust. Any such breaching of the earth’s crust results in earthquakes and if occurring under water results in devastating tsunami’s traveling through the water at speeds approaching the speed of sound. When you think about that and think about water coming from the sky and from tears of the crust of the earth, can you imagine the horror that people faced when this event started.

*12) And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. (KJV)*

*Continuing in Verse 17) ...*

*17) And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.*

*18) And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.*

*19) And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. (KJV)*

The entire earth was covered.

*20) Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. (KJV)*

So, whatever the highest point on earth was at that time—my guess at that time they didn’t have the mountains that we have today, but that’s just speculation—the waters covered the earth by over 24 ft. So, everything was covered.

*21) And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:*

*22) All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.*

*23) And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.*

*24) And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days. (KJV)*

There’s no mention of sea creatures. That’s interesting because we can speculate that nothing changed with the sea creatures. But the Bible doesn’t say. Now let’s go to Genesis 8:2.

**Genesis 8:2** *The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained; (KJV)*

It appears that not only did it rain for 40 days and nights, but also the underground aquifers and gigantic lakes of water underground—the fountains of the deep—ruptured for 40 days. The rupturing occurred for 40 days; the rain occurred for 40 days. It could be because the earth's crust was breaking up, with the resulting tsunamis and the wave action, because the crust is tearing open and heaving upward, that the earth's crust was totally restructured afterwards. It could be that during that event the mountains—if there were tall mountains—they came down some. We just don't know. It could be possible there were no great mountains before the flood. The weight of the waters pressing on the earth during the flood could have forced up parts of the crust to form mountains. Someday we'll find out about that. It could have forced Mount Ararat where the Ark settled. Mount Ararat is 3000 feet taller than Mount Rainier. It's 17,750 feet so it's no small mountain. But most certainly, this was the most violent storm in all of history. If rain and wind and tides today can produce 100-foot waves that sink metal ships, much larger than Noah's Ark, how big were the waves that occurred during the flood? Were they twice as big, say 200 feet? Maybe they were 1000 feet— $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile high. We just don't know. 1000 feet is the equivalent of a 100-story building. The Empire State building is 102 stories. There could well have been waves as tall as the Empire State building.

All of this went on for nearly 6 weeks, not just a day or two. This cataclysmic event went on for nearly 6 weeks. So, the earth was totally shaken. All human life perished. It's interesting to speculate on how many people died during Noah's flood. I did some research and there are various institutes that track human populations as far back as they can go. I looked at a number of websites with a low estimate during Noah's day of 750 million world population. Of course we have billions today, but that was the low estimate. The high estimate was over 10 billion, which is higher than the population of the earth today. So, if we take the average of 4 billion—roughly half of the world's population today—and without doubt this was the biggest catastrophe in the history of mankind. God Almighty devotes 4 chapters to this catastrophe so there must be some powerful, powerful lessons that the Father wants us to learn from this relatively detailed account of this tremendous event.

We're going to spend the rest of the time looking at four lessons from the example of Noah that apply to us today. As we know, we live very similar to the days of Noah. This can help us going forward in looking at world events.

### **1. Jehovah gave Noah a part to play in his own salvation.**

He didn't just sit around and put his feet up in the recliner and wait for salvation to occur. He had a part to play in it. As we have seen, the Father gave Noah special instructions on how exactly he wanted this boat built. Which seems to be strange at first glance. He gave instructions on how to build this boat, but if no boat would be strong

enough to endure the wind and waves of the Noachian flood, there's no boat that can humanly be built that could withstand that, especially just out of wood. The fact is, it's interesting that the Father would go into such detail. This is especially true if Yehovah was going to save Noah miraculously. Why didn't He say build whatever you want and I'll take care of the rest. Just provide a boat big enough for you and your family and I'll take care of the animals and take care of other things. You just build any old boat you want. But the Most High didn't do it that way. He told Noah exactly what to do and how to do it. So Yehovah gave Noah a part to play in his own salvation. With the instructions on how to build the boat and then our Father just patiently waited to see what Noah would do with the instructions. As we see, when you look at the narrative, it's obvious Noah was very conscientious; he was very detail-oriented and did exactly what his Father told him to do.

So, what's the lesson for us? We too have a part to play in our own salvation, just as Noah did in his. Let's go to Matthew 19:16-17. A man is coming to Jesus and asking Him a question. A very familiar part of scripture.

**Matthew 19:16** *And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?*  
17) *And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. (KJV)*

He goes on to innumerate those commandments, but the fact is, Jesus said, "*Just give your heart to the Lord and that's all you have to do?*" No! He said I have commandments that I'm giving you and redefining in some cases, from physical to spiritual, and I want you to obey the commandments that I give you. That's your job, the part you have to play. Let's go to Ephesians 4:22-24. This is our part to play.

**Ephesians 4:22** *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*  
23) *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*  
24) *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (KJV)*

The part we have to play is to change from the old self to a new self—to a new person, a new creature. What is that? We're told in Philippians 2:5. We'll read verse 5 and then also verse 12. Paul is writing here. He's telling us, you have to convert from one person to a new person and here's the new person I want you to convert to—that our Father wants you to convert to.

**Philippians 2:5** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (KJV)*

The same mind He had when He walked this earth. Follow in His footsteps, obey Him, and follow His example. Verse 12.

*12) Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (KJV)*

We have a part to play, to work out our own salvation by making the change from the carnal human being to a human being that is in the image of the very Son of God. As with Noah, Yehovah gives us a specific part to play. He commands us to build not a physical Ark, but our own spiritual Ark, in that sense, according to the instructions. He gave Noah a physical set of instructions and He gives us a spiritual set of instructions. He says *“I want you to reform yourself—[not build a boat this time]—and reform yourself into the image of My Son”*. Noah, we see, was perfectly obedient as far as we’re told. Not once did he disobey and he followed every detail. We must be as obedient as Noah.

The second lesson we can learn:

## **2. Noah was motivated by what he could not see.**

What motivated Noah was something he could not see. In other words, he was not motivated by what was visible with his two eyes. He was motivated by something totally different. We don’t know how long Noah worked on the Ark but the Bible gives us a hint of how long he might have taken to build the Ark. Let’s go back to Genesis 5:32, to discover how long it might have taken him to build the Ark—him and his boys.

**Genesis 5:32** *And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (KJV)*

So, there’s a benchmark that around 500 years of age, he begat his three sons. The next chapter, Genesis 6, we’ll read verses 10-13.

**Genesis 6:10** *And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (KJV)*

Notice the next verse.

*11) The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. (KV)*

In a time sequence, it got really bad after the birth of Noah’s three sons.

*12) And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. (KJV)*

Verse 13 we read earlier.

*13) And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. (KJV)*

Then in verse 14 the simple command, “*Make you an Ark*”. Then he was given, undoubtedly, detailed instructions on how to do so. Genesis 7:6 now.

**Genesis 7:6** *And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. (KJV)*

So, we have a 100-year period of time, that within that 100-year period of time, Noah had had his three sons and Yehovah talked to him, gave him building instructions, he began to build, and at the end of the 100 years the flood came. So maybe it was 50 years, maybe 75 years, but it was probably no more than 100 years from being told to make the Ark to actually walking into the Ark and having God Almighty close the door behind him.

Let’s ask the question; let’s just pick 100 years to choose a nice round number. It took him 100 years and four men to build this Ark. The question is, how many days during those 100 years was Noah building under clear, cloudless skies? Think about that, and how many years did he experience droughts while building? It may have been most of them, or half of them. You can see people drifting by and looking at this big boat. Let’s say you’re driving from east to west across central Washington in the high desert and you get off Interstate 90 and see this boat out in the middle of a dry field and you go over ask the guy what’s going on and he says, “*I’m building a boat.*” The people say,

*“The rivers are drying up; the lakes are drying up and you’re building a boat? We haven’t had rain in 2 weeks and you’re building a boat? The nearest body of water is X number of miles away and you’re building a boat?”*

You can see what would transpire. As long as he took to build it, Noah was motivated by things he could not see. A good bit of the time, clear skies, no rain, no marshes, no lakes building up around the boat to indicate that there might be something coming. He never stopped. He was not motivated by the blue skies that he could see. He was motivated by Yehovah’s promise that a flood is coming and you better get to work.

The same should be true for us today. If we base our spiritual sense of urgency—in other words how hard we work on building our spiritual Ark—on what we see in the world, we could likely give up. Or we could see the world is getting worse, but it’s not as bad now as it was in the time of Noah, where everything was violent and perverted. There are still some good spots occasionally; increasingly less so. But we could say we have some time. Let’s go to 2 Peter 3:3-4.

**2 Peter 3:3** *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts ... (KJV)*



Scoffers that God exists, scoffers that the Bible is His Word. Doing what they want to do, following their own lusts.

*4) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? (KJV)*

All you Christians talk about—all I see on the channels on Sunday morning is people talking about Christ returning, but I don't see that happening. I don't see any evidence of that happening. Scoffers.

*4 continued) ... for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (KJV)*

Nothing's changed, everything is about the same. It's called the doctrine of uniformitarianism. It's a big long word and what that doctrine basically says is, "*What was yesterday will be tomorrow*". Nothing changes basically. The reason they will be scoffing is that they are walking by looking at cloudless skies. They're looking at dry land. They are not considering what might come. Let's go to Matthew 24:37-39 and I'm going to read this out of the New King James. Jesus confirms the account of Noah. Jesus believed that the Noachian flood occurred, maybe we should too.

**Matthew 24:37** *But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

*38) For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,*

*39) and did not know until the flood came and took them all away ... (KJV)*

They didn't know it, they were surprised, they were trapped.

*39 continued) ... so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (KJV)*

So, to the physical eye—the non-spiritual eye, the non-discerning eye—things are going to be kind of normal in the last days. Of course, until the dark clouds come, until the earth begins to rumble, and then in a very short period of time everything changes. We are to walk by something different other than physical sight. We won't turn there but 2 Corinthians 5:6 tells us very plainly. *We walk by faith and not by sight*. That's a lesson for us today. We have to walk by what we don't see, but have faith in. Noah's motivation was based on faith. His sense of urgency was based not on what he could see—the blue skies, the cloudless skies. He was not looking at the blue skies, he was looking at his Father's promises. We should learn from Noah's example. We are not to base how hard we work spiritually on what we physically see. If we do, we'll get trapped into slacking off. We'll get trapped into thinking we have more time. Or it's not going to occur in my lifetime. We can make all kinds of reasonings and excuses. Rather, we should work hard because of faith in our Father's promises that He and His Son will return when least expected. We always have to keep that in mind.

That leads to the third point and a big one for us today.

### 3. Noah did not let society discourage him or cause him to give up.

He didn't let the society around him discourage him or cause him to give up. In Noah's day, nearly every person, we are told, was evil. We're not there yet, but we are getting closer. In his day, it's hard to believe that nearly every person—it got so bad—was evil. Let's go to Genesis 6:5 and then 11-12.

**Genesis 6:5** *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth ... (KJV)*

We're getting close, but not there yet.

*Verse 5) continued ... and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (KJV)*

Totally rejected God Almighty. Totally carnal. Totally lustful.

*11) The earth also was corrupt before God, [everything on the earth was corrupt] and the earth was filled with violence. (KJV)*

We are getting there very fast—the *filled with violence* part. You see what is going on in our cities and the mass shootings, the tribal warfare, clan warfare, nation going against nation all over the earth.

*12) And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. (KJV)*

We see every motive, every thought, was evil continually. The earth was corrupt and filled with violence and we can see that we are approaching that. We are not totally full yet, but are approaching that. But did this evil society that surrounded Noah, cause him to compromise in any way? Slack off in any way? Did he let it wear him down? The Bible doesn't indicate that that's the case at all. Notice what happened during that 100-year period of time, during the construction of the boat. Let's go to 2 Peter 2:5. What did Noah do while he was building the boat? What was he doing and what was the motivation behind what he was doing, in addition to building the boat and pleasing his Father. We see here that earlier Christ had confirmed the account of Noah and we see here Peter confirms the account of Noah.

**2 Peter 2:5** *And [Yehovah] spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness ... (KJV)*

Why would he say that? Not only the preacher of righteousness, but the eighth one. So there must be a lineage, a plan over the centuries, to preach righteousness.

*5 continued) ... bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; (KJV)*

The Greek word for *preacher* is Strong's #2783 and means "a herald". A herald is an announcer. A herald, *that is of divine truth*, Strong's says. So, he was announcing divine truth to those who came by and watched him build this Ark and were stupefied seeing this boat coming out of nothing in the middle of a field probably. This word preacher is only used three times in the New Testament. The other two times were used by Paul saying that he was a preacher and an apostle. The inference in using this word is that Noah was not hiding. He wasn't building the Ark in secret. He wasn't building it up in the mountains in some remote valley somewhere. He was building it in plain sight. How could he not be a *preacher of righteousness*? He built it in an area where there must have been roads and crossroads and maybe an intersection of popular travel routes where people could see what was going on and he could have a chance to preach righteousness to them. In other words, he was building the Ark in plain sight. No hidden agenda here. Let's go to 1 Peter 3:18-20.

**1 Peter 3:18** *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust ...*  
(KJV)

Jesus living a perfect life and dying for us, who have certainly not lived a perfect life.

*18 continued) ... that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: (KJV)*

Verse 19 I'll read out of the New Living Translation.

*19) So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— (NLT)*

Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison. Who were these spirits in prison? The Greek word for *spirit* is *pneuma* 4151 and it means "a life". To find out who these spirits in prison were, all we have to do is look at the context—who they were. Verse 20 tells us.

*20) those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. (NLT)*

He preached to the spirits in prison—meaning they were imprisoned to Satan, to the world, to the violence, to the evil, and they would come by and watch this boat being built and Noah would warn them what was to come and why it was coming.

*20 continued) ... Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. (NLT)*

We see these spirits in prison were pre-flood humans, to whom Jesus used Noah to preach the truth and to set an example. Clark's commentary says, "*Christ preached to the ungodly world by the ministry of Noah.* Jameson, Faucet, and Brown's Commentary says, "*Before His incarnation, He preached in spirit [referring to Christ]*

We see that Noah preached upwards of 100 years. How many people can you talk to in a 100-year period of time? Let's go to Hebrews 11:7 and get some more details about Noah not being discouraged by being obedient to God. We see that Christ confirmed the account of Noah, Peter confirmed the account of Noah and we see that Paul confirms the account of Noah.

**Hebrews 11:7** *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear ... (KJV)*

Jameson, Faucet, and Brown says fear means “reverential fear”. He wasn't just saving his own life, but he had reverence towards God Almighty, wanting to please Him and obey Him.

*7 continued) ... prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. (KJV)*

The Greek word for *condemned* is Strong's #3632 and it means “to judge against” or “to sentence” or “to condemn”. So, he was preaching to and condemning them for their behavior, their thoughts, actions, violence and was saying:

“You are going to pay the consequences and the world is going to be encircled with a flood and that's why I'm building this boat.”

Of course, they would scoff and they would laugh. Noah was publicly proclaiming to the world around him, what was going to happen. He was telling them to repent before it's too late. Of course, he was met with ridicule and scorn and laughter. If we put that in a modern-day context, if he was building the boat half way between Seattle and Spokane, right off the freeway out in a dry field off the interstate, people would say,

“Hey old man what are you building?”

He would say,

“I'm building a boat.”

“Okay, but where is the water?”

That old man would say,

“It's going to come and let me tell you why it will come.”

Of course, if that happened today, the TV reporters would be out there—the newspapers, the magazines, the internet—folks would be out there and it would be all over the internet. Obviously, they didn't have those forms of communication and I believe that's one of the reasons God Almighty took 100 years to have this happen. Because of the fact that they didn't have the communications that we have today. That's why He allowed 100 years for this account, to circulate around the earth. 100 years is a

long time and depending on where he was located—he wasn't up in some remote mountain canyon somewhere, but probably at the crossroads of two major [as we would say today] highways. People were traveling back and forth and to and fro and the story of this boat would be a common thing that was passed on from people going in different directions. Over 100 years, it seems very likely that most of the world knew that there is this crazy man out in the desert building this boat and is saying the world is going to be flooded and we're all going to die. So, he's building this stupid boat. This wacko preacher of righteousness. This went on for 100 years. It took that long for the story to circle the earth.

Put yourself in Noah's position. Can you imagine Noah, for 100 years, putting up with constant ridicule? Every day there is a new group of people passing down this highway or roadway and there is new ridicule. He's heard it all before but it happens over and over, every day for 100 years, except maybe on the Sabbath where the boat would be there and they would go off and get a Sabbath's rest from this ridicule. But can you imagine putting up with that for that long?

What about us today? What about following Noah's example for us today? We know one of Satan's greatest tactics is to allow the evil society around us to wear us down. It's almost like erosion. Dripping water can wear a hole in a rock. Given enough time, it will wear a hole in a rock. That was prophesied in Daniel 7:25. Talking about one of the kings in the resurrected Roman empire.

**Daniel 7:25** *And he shall speak great words against the most High [God Almighty], and shall wear out the saints of the most High ... (KJV)*

The Hebrew word for *wear out* is Strong's definition of "used only in a mental sense". Not a physical sense, it is used in a mental sense. The Aramaic translation of the Old Testament says, "wear out emotionally and mentally". The Complete Jewish Bible says, "exhaust the holy ones". This is not a physical exhaustion like from overwork; it's a mental and emotional exhaustion. Satan is very good at that. I think if you've been in the church for more than a few years, we all know what Satan can do to exhaust us mentally or emotionally. That's why Christ says in Matthew 24 that, *he who endures to the end shall be saved*. Noah certainly did that. Very close to 100 years under pressure that each one of us individually had yet to experience. We need to follow his example. We need to follow in that example and not let the society around us cause us to get off track, to become tired, to become disillusioned and to be worn out.

Now we come to the fourth and last lesson we can learn. This is the biggest one.

#### **4. Noah learned that Yehovah does the saving, if we will trust in Him.**

We don't save ourselves. Noah built a boat that could not save him. If normal tsunamis and normal hurricanes can destroy a boat built out of metal—no matter how perfect that boat might be, by standards today—compared to the wave action and the storms that Noah faced, no boat built by man could survive that. I don't care how perfect the boat is.

No humanly built boat then in Noah's day or now could survive the waves caused by the deep breaking open and the tsunamis and winds—there is no boat built by human hands that could survive that. It took Yehovah's divine intervention to save Noah. Yehovah had to be with Noah every minute, every second, of every day in order for Noah and his family to survive. That holds true for us in spades. Let's go to Ephesians 2:8-9. We do not save ourselves. There is only one source of salvation.

**Ephesians 2:8** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; (KJV)*

If anything, we've seen in the account of Noah is that he had faith to follow Yehovah; in building the boat, following the instructions to build the boat and enduring for roughly 100 years in building that boat.

*8 continued) ... and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:  
9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (KJV)*

As with Noah, our salvation is a gift from our Father. It's not a function of any boat we can build, physically or spiritually. It's not through our own works. In fact, God Almighty calls our works filthy rags, in Isaiah 64. We can't have enough good works to impress God Almighty that He will bow before us and say, you deserve this and I'm going to give this to you because you deserve it, you worked hard for it. That's not the way it works. It is a gift. As with Noah, we can't save ourselves. Salvation comes from our Father and His Son. Let's go to Revelation 7:9-10. I'm going to read verse 9 out of the New International Version and verse 10 out of the New Living Translation.

**Revelation 7:9** *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. (KJV)*

Verse 10 out of the New Living Translation.

*10) And they were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!" (NLT)*

Only two sources of salvation; the Father and His only begotten Son. The source is the throne of God Almighty. Satan has nothing to do with it. Our works have nothing to do with it. Our intentions have nothing to do with it. It is a gift from our heavenly Father. As the Father saved Noah, He will save us but there is always a big "if" in there somewhere. The Father saved Noah and He will save us "if" we trust in Him. It is simple as that. Noah trusted—after he was given the knowledge that,

*"I'm going to destroy all mankind except you and your family and I want you to build this boat to carry you above the waters of the flood—for 100 years."*

Good days and bad days, clear skies and rainy skies, scoffers, those who condemned him—didn't make any difference.

I don't know if you have thought about this, but if you read the account of the Ark and the details about the Ark, it's the only boat I know of that was built without a rudder, when you think about it. There are no instructions that the Ark had a rudder. With all the details about the Ark—even the fact you put asphalt on the inside and outside—there is no mention of a rudder. A rudder is a flat plate hinged vertically, mounted at the stern or the rear of the boat and the rudder turns right and left and will steer the boat. On boats—certainly larger boats—the captain of the boat and his assistance have a big wheel (that's why it's called a wheelhouse) and you've seen it, where they turn the wheel and it's linked to the rudder and you can make it go left or right. Yehovah didn't command a rudder to be included on this Ark. And why? Because no human is going to save that boat. I don't care how skilled a captain Noah might be and obviously that wasn't his job, from what we're told. No matter how skilled a human might be or how well the boat was built, it was not going to survive that flood. Those waves, those winds, the breaking of the deep, tearing of the earth's crust—it wasn't going to survive. The only way it would survive was that Yehovah was in command of the boat and He doesn't need a rudder. He orders the waves and the winds and the direction of the boat in the waves according to His plan and He will save the boat. He will supernaturally save the boat and that's something we need to always keep in mind. Noah knew who was piloting the Ark and who was guiding it and protecting it, thereby saving all on board. Without a rudder, you can imagine when he was given the instructions for building the Ark, even if he wasn't a sailor, we all know about a rudder and he would wonder, aren't you leaving something out here God? How are we going to direct this boat to save our lives? Without a rudder, he dramatically knew who was in charge. Without a rudder, he dramatically knew who was going to steer that boat and it wasn't him at all. He knew that our Father would be steering that boat. The fact is, the Father was doing the saving. So the lesson for us is that we have to totally understand and totally submit to the fact that the Father is steering our boat. We don't steer it, we follow in the example of Jesus Christ, we follow the commands of God Almighty and we are to follow in those footsteps. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Father and the Son steer our boat. Noah learned that on a physical level, we need to learn that on a spiritual level.

Let's conclude now. Not only is the story of Noah and the Ark set apart in Genesis, but it was also set apart by Jesus and by Peter and by Paul. If the Father and His Son and the apostles highlighted the days of Noah and Genesis spends as much as it does, relatively speaking—compared to the previous 1650 years in human history, then clearly there are things that our Father wants us to learn from this account of Noah. One should obviously be that we should remember this account, study this account and learn from this account. Today we've examined 4 lessons that Yehovah gives us a part to play in our own salvation. That Noah was motivated by what he could not see as opposed to what he could see. Noah did not let society discourage him and cause him to quit or have a bad attitude or turn against his Father. The fourth is that Noah learned that Yehovah does the saving.

In addition to all of this, let's remember the flood as an example of our Father's love for us. Love for Noah and his family. Ultimately love for all that died in the flood because they will have their chance. Let's go to Genesis 9:11-15 in closing.

**Genesis 9:11** *And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there anymore be a flood to destroy the earth. [What a promise]*

*12) And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you [which is us today], for perpetual generations:*

*13) I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.*

*14) And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:*

*15) And I will remember my covenant [that's a promise], which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. (KJV)*

Our Father, at the end of the day, shows His love towards all of us by promising not to have another flood. But instead, what He promises, if we look at the entirety of scripture, is that He and His Son will return when conditions get as bad as they were in the days of Noah. Not only with Noah and us, He promises to not have another physical flood. But we have an even greater promise that He and His Son will come and rule this earth and we will be there as spirit beings to help Him rule this earth. Much greater promise, much greater outcome and it's eternal and not just physical. So let's all learn from the life of Noah.