

GENESIS 6-9 — NOAH & THE FLOOD

Many ancient traditions include stories about how the gods tried to destroy humankind with a great flood, for example, the Enuma Elish myth and the Gilgamesh epic, both from Mesopotamia c. 2000 BCE. The Bible's version is carefully structured to show a movement from judgment to grace.

Genesis

5:32 Genealogy, Part 1 _____

6:1-4 Prefix _____

A Movement toward Chaos

6:5-8 Introduction _____

6:9-12 Violence in the world _____

6:13-22 God's 1st Speech _____

7:1-5 God's 2nd Speech _____

7:6-10, 11-16 The Flood Begins _____

7:17-24 The Waters Rise _____

A Movement toward a New Creation

8:1-5 The Waters Recede _____

8:6-14 The Earth Dries Up _____

8:15-19 God's 3rd Speech _____

8:20-22 Renewed Order _____

9:1-17 God's 4th Speech _____

9:18-19 Conclusion _____

9:20-27 Appendix _____

9:28-29 Genealogy, Part 2 _____

1. & 2. The events in this story are summarized on the back side of this sheet. Number each group in their proper order, and place those numbers on the lines above.
3. Do you notice any discrepancies or patterns? Some paragraphs talk about "the Lord," others about "God," for example. Some have pairs of all animals; some have 7 pairs of "clean" animals. Some say that "all breathing things" die; others, "all flesh" dies. Scholars assume the biblical narrative is a conflation of two different sources. What do you think? Does it make a difference?

1. Number the events in the first half of the story from 1 to 18.

- _____ Geysers of water spurted up and rain fell down for 40 days and 40 nights.
- _____ God promised to make a covenant with Noah and save his family.
- _____ God told Noah he would send a flood to drown all flesh with the breath of life.
- _____ The Lord limited the peoples' days to 120 years.
- _____ All flesh on earth died, everything with the breath of life in its nostrils.
- _____ God told Noah he would make an end to all flesh.
- _____ The Lord was sorry he had human beings and decided to blot them out.
- _____ Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord.
- _____ God told Noah to make an ark of Cyprus wood, 300 x 50 x 30 cubits in size.
- _____ God told Noah to take along one pair of every kind of animal and bird plus food for them.
- _____ The Lord told Noah to take seven pairs of all clean animals and birds into the ark.
- _____ Noah's family, wild and domestic animals, creeping things and birds entered the ark.
- _____ Noah was a righteous man, who walked with God.
- _____ The "sons of God" married the "daughters of men," and the nephilim were on the earth.
- _____ For 40 days the flood waters rose, and even covered the mountains by 15 cubits.
- _____ The flood waters lasted 150 days.
- _____ Noah was 500 years old when Shem, Ham and Japheth were born.
- _____ Noah was 600 years old when the flood came; his wife, son and daughters-in-law entered the ark, along with one pair of all clean and unclean animals.

2. Number the events in the second half of the story from 19-36.

- _____ God told Noah's family they could eat animals, but not blood.
- _____ Noah built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed one of every clean animal and bird.
- _____ After 40 days Noah sent out a raven, which never returned.
- _____ Noah lived another 350 years and died at the age of 950.
- _____ God told Noah and his son to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth again.
- _____ God said that a rainbow would remind him of the covenant he made with Noah.
- _____ A week later Noah sent the dove, which came back with an olive branch.
- _____ Noah cursed Canaan, and blessed Shem and Japheth.
- _____ A month later the earth was dry, and God told Noah's family to leave the ark.
- _____ Noah planted a vineyard, and got drunk drinking the wine, and lay around naked.
- _____ God remembered Noah, stopped the rain, and he flood waters went down.
- _____ The Lord promised never again to curse the ground and destroy all living things.
- _____ A third time Noah sent out the dove, but it did not return.
- _____ God told Noah he would make a covenant with them, never to send a flood again.
- _____ Noah's three sons and his grandson Canaan would be the ancestors of all people.
- _____ All the animals, creeping things and birds left the ark in family groupings.
- _____ Noah sent out a dove, which returned because the waters had not gone down.
- _____ Ham saw Noah's nakedness, and his brothers Shem and Japheth covered him up.