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Lesson - 1

Noah, The Preacher of Righteousness

(Genesis Chap. 6-8, 2 Peter 2:3)

You have heard about Enoch, who walked with God for 300 years. How long did he live on earth? 365 years. Then what happened? God took him away. He had a great, great grandson who was also very godly. He was Noah.

Lesson :

In the days of Noah, people were very wicked. We know that God hates sin. He cannot but punish sin because He is righteous. He decided to destroy the whole mankind by a flood. In the midst of all this, God found one man righteous and that was Noah. It is said, "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD." (Gen 6:8). It is also said about Noah, "By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith." (Hebrews 11:7).

God spoke to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself and ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out." God also gave Noah the measurements of the ark that was to be built. It was to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. The ark was to have lower, middle and upper decks with a window and a door.

Noah did exactly as God had told him. It took Noah at least 100 years to build the ark and all the time he preached to the people warning them about the imminent flood so that they might escape from destruction by entering the ark. However, nobody believed.

Noah had a wife and three sons who were married. When the ark was ready and the right time came, God told Noah to enter the ark with his family and to take in two of every kind of birds and animals. Clean animals that were used for sacrifice went in by sevens.

When they all went inside. God himself closed the door. A week later, it began to rain. Till then, rain was unknown to them. There went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. It went on raining for forty days and forty nights until the whole earth was covered by water. All the creatures that moved on land, died. The ark, however, floated safely on the water. All those who were in the ark, were safe. The flood water staid on the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

God remembered Noah and the creatures in it. The flood waters began to recede. Finally God told Noah to come out of the ark. He came out with his wife and three sons and their wives and he brought out all the birds and animals. With a thankful heart Noah offered a sacrifice to God.

Application :

Although there were thousands of families on earth, God saved only one family because they were the only ones who believed God's words. There is no salvation without faith and obedience. The ark is a type of Christ. It was the only way of salvation. So also Christ. Remember, the ark had only one door. "I am the door" said the Lord Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse :

Joshua 24:15. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Questions :

1. Why did God send the flood?
2. How many people were there in the ark?
3. Why did the other people perish?
4. What do we learn from 'One door'?
5. How can we be saved from the judgement that is to come?

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Lesson - 2

Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

How many human beings were there when the flood was over? Only eight! Just imagine, those far off days when the world population was in single digit! Noah's sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth. However, children, grand children and great grand children were born to them so that the population increased into hundreds of thousands.

Lesson :

Noah's three sons became three nations and they spread rapidly. They spoke the same language. As the people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar^x and they settled there. They learned to make bricks and to build houses and walls and even towers. Then they had a great idea. "Let us build a city with a tower", they said, "That reaches to the heavens so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered all over the world."

They began to build in the plain of Shinar and God came down to see what they were doing. When He saw them trying to reach heaven in their own way, He was sad. The people were thinking of themselves. They had become proud of what they could do and forgot God. This is true even now. Many people forget God because of their self confidence and pride.

God decided to confuse their language so that they may not understand what they spoke one to another. When He did that they could not get on with their work and they had to stop building. As a result of that they moved away from one another and went to live in various parts of the world. God had told Noah that he and his children were to increase in number and fill the earth, but they did not obey Him until He mixed up their language. There was such a babble of different voices that they called the place Babel. It means *confusion*.

^x In Iraq, between Euphrates and Tigris

Application :

Whenever we work for our own glory, God will stop us. We must always do what God tell us. Then He will bless us. God hates pride and selfishness. If we honour Him, He will bless us.

Memory Verse :

Psalms 127:1. Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it;

Except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Questions :

1. Why did the people want to build a tower?
2. Why could they not finish it?
3. What is the meaning of Babel?
4. What can we learn from this story?

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Lesson - 3

Call of Abraham

Genesis 12:1-9, Acts 7:2

About ten generations after Noah, in the family of Noah's son Shem, there was a man whose name was Abraham. He lived in Ur or the Chaldees (Modern Iraq.)

Lesson :

One day the God of Glory appeared to Abraham and said, "Leave your country and your people, and go to the land I will show you."

Ur was place where people worshipped idols. When Abraham heard God's call, he believed and did what he was told to do. God gave many promises also to Abraham. "I will bless you", He said, "I will make you into a great nation, I will make your name great and make you a blessing to all nations."

It might have seemed foolish for Abraham and his wife to leave their home without knowing what place they were to go to. Abraham, however, believed God, without asking any question, and set off. His father Terah and his brother's son Lot with his family also accompanied him. They reached the place called Haran where Terah died after some time.

After Terah's death, Abraham took Sarah his wife and went on to Canaan obeying God's call. His nephew Lot went with him too. At each place where Abraham stayed, he built an altar to offer sacrifices to God. When he came to Canaan, God said, "This is the land that I shall give to your children."

Application :

God's blessing depends on complete obedience to God. He is faithful and He keeps His promises. Abraham believed God and so He is called "The father of the faithful." Abraham's faith in God is an example to us.