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## Lesson 15 — NOAH



*“These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.”*

*[Genesis 6:9]*

By the time the LORD had resolved to flood the earth and bring judgment upon the ungodly, the human race had passed the point of no return — completely contaminated by the seed of Satan. A rebellious faction of the sons of God came down and introduced every kind of evil and immorality to mankind, while at the same time taking wives for themselves. This heinous act against God and the created order produced giant offspring called the *Nephilim*. The giants were a plague to mankind before the flood, devouring the inhabitants of the earth in an attempt to destroy the seed of the woman once and for all.

In the midst of the darkness, however, there was one remaining ray of hope. Noah was the last faithful man on the face of the earth, and he found grace in the eyes of God. The LORD sought Noah as a vessel to save the world. Not only did the survival of the human race depend upon it but also the future hope of the Messiah. God already had a master plan of salvation, and Noah was His chosen instrument. Noah’s name literally means “rest,” and his mission would bring the world much needed rest from war and wickedness.

*“The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.” [Psalm 34:15-16]*

### **Blameless and Pure**

The Bible describes Noah in a very interesting way. In Genesis 6:9, it says that Noah was “*blameless in his generation.*” It is worth giving special attention to the Hebrew word for blameless — *tamim*. The adjective *tamim* is a comprehensive word that means to be whole, sound, complete, or perfect. On the one hand it can describe spiritual characteristics like sincerity of heart and soundness of mind, but *tamim* also is used to describe one’s physical condition. *Tamim* most often means to be “*without defect or blemish.*” The Passover lamb, for example, had to be *tamim* — without physical flaw. Not only was Noah unique as a man of faith, but also he was genetically pure. Noah’s family was the last surviving remnant on the earth yet to be genetically corrupted and therefore, still bearing the image of God.

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## Mission Impossible

It is sometimes helpful to try and put oneself in the sandals of another. Imagine the weight of responsibility Noah felt after the LORD told him what was coming. Imagine how Noah tried to wrap his mind around the sobering reality that everything on the earth was going to die. The fate of the entire human race was resting squarely on Noah's shoulders.

Imagine how Noah must have felt when God asked him to partner in this extraordinary mission. As we will see in a later lesson, Noah's mission was humanly impossible without God. Noah was asked to do something that required supernatural assistance to say the least. The LORD commissioned Noah to build a massive vessel to withstand the catastrophic effects of the global flood. The ark would be a floating bomb shelter of epic proportions. Only those hidden within the ark would survive the wrath of God.

When the rest of the world had forsaken their Creator and turned away from God to Satan and his evils, Noah found favor with God and turned to Him in faith. And we are here today because of this one man's obedience.

- ❖ Read Genesis 6:8-10. What do we learn about Noah in these short verses? What stands out to the most about Noah?
  
- ❖ Read Genesis 6:18-22. What was the significance of God's covenant with Noah? What does Noah's response tell you about His character?
  
- ❖ Read 1 Peter 3:18-20 & 2 Peter 2:4-5. What details do these passages provide about Noah's ministry and mission?
  
- ❖ Read Ezekiel 14:12-19. What is the context of this passage and how is it connected to the Days of Noah? What does the LORD say about individual responsibility in the midst of national and generational wickedness?

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## Modern Day Noahs

The global flood of Noah's day serves as the primary Old Testament example of the coming Day of the LORD. As followers of Jesus living in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation, we must learn from Noah and be prepared for the difficult days ahead. Though nearly every generation of believers throughout history has desired to see the coming of the Son of Man, our generation has witnessed the prophetic word unfold like never before. It has become evident that we are living in the unique time of the end.

Using Noah's life as an example, study the following passages and answer the questions concerning our role in the last days.

- ❖ Read Hebrews 11:6-7. How essential is faith in our daily lives and how does it benefit those who believe? How did Noah respond to God's warning and what was the outcome? How should Noah's example impact the way we prepare our families in these last days?
  
- ❖ Read Luke 17:22-37. How does Jesus describe His return in verse 24? What similarities exist between our generation and those of Noah and Lot?
  
- ❖ Read Luke 21:25-36. Once again, how do we know that the return of Jesus will be a visible event for all the world to see? How will we know when His return and our redemption is very near? What does Jesus tell us to do and how does he teach us to pray in verse 36?
  
- ❖ Read 2 Peter 3:1-14. How is the coming Day of the LORD connected to Noah's day? What manner of people ought we to be in these last days? How does verse 14 remind you of the way Noah is described in Genesis 6:9?