

Genesis 7:1-6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The Flood

7 Then the LORD said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you *alone* I have seen *to be* righteous before Me in this [a]time. 2 You shall take [b]with you of every clean animal [c]by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female; 3 also of the birds of the [d]sky, [e]by sevens, male and female, to keep [f]offspring alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made.” 5 Noah did according to all that the LORD had commanded him.

6 Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water [g]came upon the earth.

Genesis 7:17-24 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

17 Then the flood [a]came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. 18 The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark [b]floated on the [c]surface of the water. 19 The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains [d]everywhere under the heavens were covered. 20 The water prevailed fifteen [e]cubits higher, and the mountains were covered. 21 All flesh that [f]moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; 22 of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. 23 Thus He blotted out [g]every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the [h]sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark. 24 The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.

ENTER IN
THE WAITING PERIOD
RISE ABOVE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

ENTER IN

There is something beautiful and surreal about entering the protection of the Lord. It is not just an entering into his protection, it is also an entering into his presence.

Noah entered in to the ark but he was already living in the presence of the Lord.

How do we live in the presence of the Lord? Here is the clue to Noah's success.

Noah lived in the presence of God through his obedience to the Word of God. All too often people want to have God's presence and/or God's protection but they are not willing to give up the one thing that separates them from the Lord, their disobedience.

He Knows What Is Best

A Persian legend runs that a certain king needed a faithful servant, and two men were candidates for the office. He took both at fixed wages, and his first order was to fill a basket with water from a neighboring well, saying that he would come in the evening and see their work. After putting in one or two bucketful's, one man said, "What is the good of doing this useless work? As soon as we put the water in one side it runs out the other." The other answered, "But we have our wages, haven't we? The use is the master's business, not ours." "I am not going to do such fool's work," replied the other. Throwing down his bucket, he went away. The other man continued until he had exhausted the well; looking down into it he saw something shining—a diamond ring. "Now I see the use of pouring water into a basket," he cried. "If the bucket had brought up the ring before the well was emptied, it would have been found in the basket. Our work was not useless." Christians must believe that their divine Master knows what is best, and obey His commands, and in due time they will know and understand. — *Christian Herald*.

1 Samuel 15:22-24 ²² But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. ²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king

3 Reasons Why Obedience to God Is Important

1. Jesus Calls Us to Obedience

In Jesus Christ we find the perfect model of obedience. As his disciples, we follow Christ's example as well as his commands. Our motivation for obedience is love:

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (John 14:15)

2. Obedience Is an Act of Worship

For the believer obedience flows from a heart of gratitude for the grace we have received from the Lord:

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

The Psalmist also wrote that God inhabits the praises of His people...Your act of worship calls to your Father as you enter into his presence with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise.

3. God Rewards Obedience

In the scripture we read that God blesses and rewards obedience:

Luke 11:28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Noah had every opportunity known to man kind to do his will, however Noah chose the will of God. Noah did not understand the will, or the plans of God. He had no understanding of rain, no understanding of the animals of creation, no understanding of total destruction, Noah had only the need to lean into the understanding of God.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Noah's trust and obedience brought him into the presence of God... In verse 6:22 scripture reads; **"And Noah did all the Lord commanded him to do".**

7:5 ⁵Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him.

Noah was in the presence of God because he was in obedience to God.

Sometimes obedience may feel like we are pouring water in a basket, however we never know what treasure we will find in obeying God...What soul will we find at the bottom of the well needing a drink of living water... I am sure Noah felt like he was pouring water in a basket...

500 Years old, building for 100 years and entering the ark at 600 years of age...

The ark not only was the biggest ship build up at that time, it would be the largest sailing vessel man would construct until around the 1800s. God told Noah to make a ship that would have over 101,000 square feet of floor space.

Did you know the average size of a mansion in Manhattan is 5000 sq feet. Noah built 20 mansions to float in water that did not exist. That is faith, that is obedience....

The ark not only was the biggest ship build up at that time, it would be the largest sailing vessel man would construct until around the 1800s. God told Noah to make a ship that would have over 101,000 square feet of floor space. Because of the way it was built it would be almost impossible to turn the ship over.

The ship was designed by God and not by man.

All too often we design these vessels by our hands, by our will and not by the hand of God and we capsize, we take on water and we find ourselves drowning in a world of hurt and trouble.

Obedience brings us into his presence and His perfect will.

THE WAITING PERIOD

I find the scripture interesting that God sealed the door and then they waited for

For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth....

How difficult was the waiting period? We live in a society of instant gratification. Credit cards purchase items before we earn the money. Microwaves cook instant meals. Watches on our arms instantly connect us to family and friends hundreds of miles away. We are learning not to wait. We are learning not to wait on God. There is trust in the waiting. There is faith in the waiting. There is strength in the waiting.

Isaiah 40:31, “But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint”.

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks?

The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come.

When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it.

The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

Before you soar with the eagle, before you rise above the storm, a just person will wait upon the Lord.

The waiting is that place where God seals the door, it is the place where he surrounds you with his grace. It is in the stillness and in the silence that we hear the voice of God.

RISE ABOVE THE STORM

When the storms of life come upon us, like the eagle, we can rise above them and ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure, and disappointment into our lives.

Noah teaches us that we can rise above the storms of this world. I know bad things happen to good people. It rains on the just and the unjust. The rains fell on Noah that day. They fell hard for 40 days and 40 nights. Noah was a just man.

The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark [b]floated on the [c]surface of the water. ¹⁹ The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains [d]everywhere under the heavens were covered. ²⁰ The water prevailed fifteen [e]cubits higher, and the mountains were covered.

The rains fell hard on the unjust as well.

²¹ All flesh that [f]moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; ²² of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died

Do you know what is different between the just and the unjust? An unjust person will do things their own way. The unjust will not seek God. An unjust person does not reflect the image of God. **Isaiah 10: 2** the unjust deprive the poor of fair treatment and withhold justice from the oppressed of My people, to make widows their spoil and plunder the fatherless.

The just walk humbly and love mercy and are trustworthy. A just person waits upon the Lord.

A just person will mount up with the wings of an eagle and soar.

I don't want to be blotted out. I don't want the spirit of life taken from me. And I don't do it perfect, but my God is a God of grace. Sometimes we create our own storms by not being in the will of God. When I stumble and fall and I seek his face, he is just to forgive me and lift me above the storms of this life.

Any of those people for 100-120 years could have grabbed a hammer and turn toward the face of God they would have found safety from the storm.

They continued to seek their own will, their own desires and not the will of the Father. They had plenty of time, plenty of warning.

Noah teaches us how to rise above the storm. Noah teaches us that we have a work to do. We are not just building a church. We are building a relationship with the Father. And during our time before the flood we are to share the word with others around us.

Noah teaches us that the impossible becomes possible with God. That we can do all things through him who strengthens us.

Noah teaches us that we can enter in to the presence of God
That we find peace and strength in the waiting period
And that we can truly rise above our circumstances

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