

# Before We Begin

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# Before We Begin

- For those of you who missed it, yesterday was Judgment Day 😊

Judgment Day

**May 21, 2011**

*THE BIBLE GUARANTEES IT!*




DAYS LEFT



# Before We Begin

- Last time checked, the server was having some technical difficulties



 **The connection has timed out**

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The server at [www.familyradio.com](http://www.familyradio.com) is taking too long to respond.

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- The site could be temporarily unavailable or too busy. Try again in a few moments.
- If you are unable to load any pages, check your computer's network connection.
- If your computer or network is protected by a firewall or proxy, make sure that Firefox is permitted to access the Web.

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# Before We Begin

- For more information, click here or visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/STKnoxille>



## Sermon Series

# Power of Promise

1. Love is a Promise (Feb 13)
2. Promise Presents Choice (Mar 13)
3. Promises Must Be Shared (Apr 10)
4. Promise Precedes Consequence



# Promises Precedes Consequence

- Noah
- Great Flood
- Ark full of animals





# Noah: Who Was He?





# Noah: Who Was He?

- Descendant of Adam (10th generation)



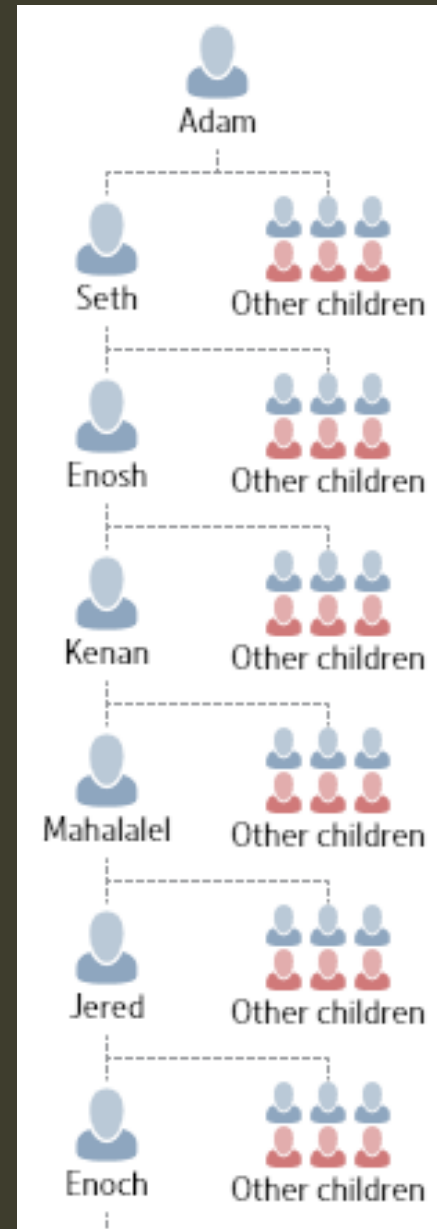
# Noah: Who Was He?

- Descendant of Adam (10th generation)
  - 1 Chronicles 1:1-4



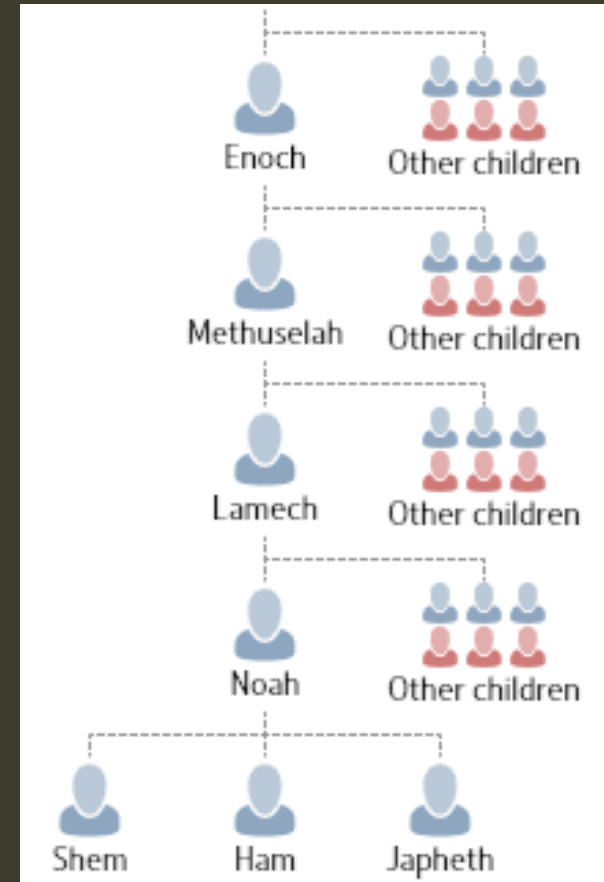
# 1 Chronicles 1:1-4 (NRSV)

- 1 Adam, Seth, Enosh;
- 2 Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared;
- 3 Enoch, ...



# 1 Chronicles 1:1-4 (NRSV)

3 ... Methuselah, Lamech;  
4 Noah, Shem, Ham, and  
Japheth.



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- Descendant of Adam (10th generation)
  - 1 Chronicles 1:1-4



# Noah: Who Was He?

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  - 1 Chronicles 1:1-4
- A man who walked with God



# Noah: Who Was He?

- Descendant of Adam (10th generation)
  - 1 Chronicles 1:1-4
- A man who walked with God
  - Genesis 6:8-9



## Genesis 6:8-9 (NIV)

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.





# Noah: Who Was He?

- Descendant of Adam (10th generation)
  - 1 Chronicles 1:1-4
- A man who walked with God
  - Genesis 6:8-9



# Noah: Who Was He?

- Descendant of Adam (10th generation)
  - 1 Chronicles 1:1-4
- A man who walked with God
  - Genesis 6:8-9
- A husband and a father



# Noah: Who Was He?

- Descendant of Adam (10th generation)
  - 1 Chronicles 1:1-4
- A man who walked with God
  - Genesis 6:8-9
- A husband and a father
  - Genesis 6:18



# Genesis 6:18 (NIV)

18 But I will establish my covenant with you...you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.



# What Was Noah's World Like?



# What Was Noah's World Like?

- It is a world of violence (Cain and Abel)



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- Evil was increasing in the world (Enoch)



# What Was Noah's World Like?

- It is a world of violence (Cain and Abel)
- Evil was increasing in the world (Enoch)
- The hearts of men everywhere became so corrupt that God regretted that he had made man





# Genesis 6:6-7,11-12 (NIV)

11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence.

12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.



# Genesis 6:6-7,11-12 (NIV)

6 The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.

7 So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.”



# “Noah’s Flood” in a Nutshell

- God’s judgment was imminent
- God devised a plan of escape
- God communicated his plan to man in the form of a promise
- God’s judgment came, and those who believed the promise were saved



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# God's Judgment: A Flood

## Genesis 6:13,17-19 (NIV)

13 So God said 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...

17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish."



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# God's Plan: A Ship

## Genesis 6:14-16,20-22

- Noah would build a ship, called “the ark”
- The ark would be stocked with food
- Noah and his family would survive aboard the ark
- A mating pair of each kind of land animal and bird that God brought to Noah would also survive aboard the ark



# Genesis 6:14-16,20-22 (NIV)

14 So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

15 This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.

16 Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.





# Genesis 6:14-16,20-22 (NIV)

20 Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive.

21 You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.”

22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.



# Noah's Ark

God chose Noah to build the ark, and for his family to survive the flood and then repopulate the earth. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation.

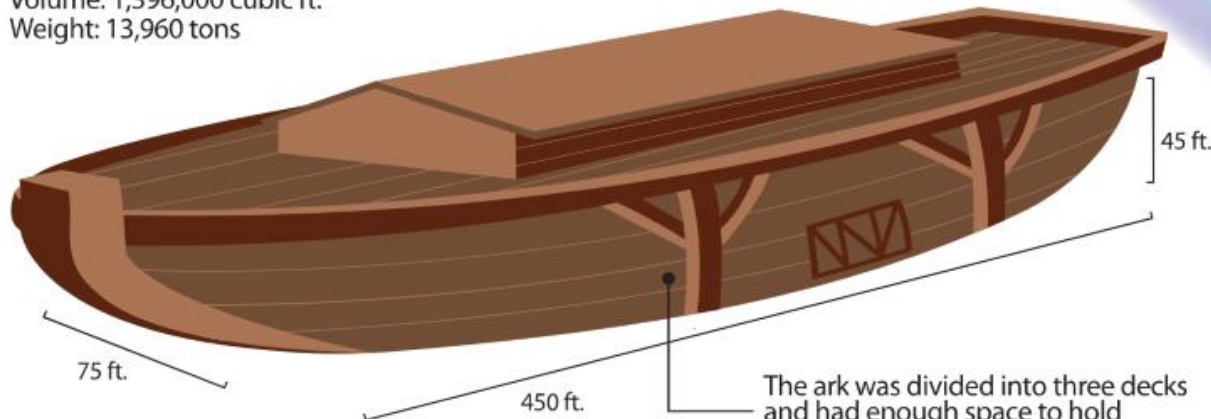
## About the Ark

Estimates for completing the ark range from 70 to 120 years.

Capacity: 522 railroad stock cars

Volume: 1,396,000 cubic ft.

Weight: 13,960 tons



The ark was divided into three decks and had enough space to hold 125,280 sheep-sized animals.

## Size Comparison

A vessel of ancient history, the ark was not much smaller than modern ocean liners.



Ark 450 ft.



Titanic 883 ft.



QE2 963 ft.

## Building Materials

Made of "gopher wood," the ark was sealed with pitch.



"Gopher wood" is likely similar to modern cypress.

## Ark Passengers

Noah's family, along with many pairs of land animals and birds of the sky stayed in the ark during the flood until the waters subsided enough for them to disembark.



Noah and his wife



Noah's sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, and their wives



Air and land animal pairs

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# A Few Thoughts about the Ark

- To visualize the scale, think about a space the size of Wal-Mart (100,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), but floor space divided over three decks
- Noah + 3 sons = 70-year project?
- There is nothing about the story that precludes the possibility that Noah could have hired laborers to speed construction



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# God's Promise: Genesis 6:13,17-19 (NIV)

18 “...I will establish my covenant with you,  
and you will enter the ark—you and your  
sons and your wife and your sons' wives  
with you.

19 You are to bring into the ark two of all  
living creatures, male and female, to keep  
them alive with you.”



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# God's Judgment Came: Genesis 7:1-23 (NIV)

1 The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation...

4 Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."



# God's Judgment Came: Genesis 7:1-23 (NIV)

5 And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

16 ...Then the LORD shut him in.





# God's Judgment Came: Genesis 7:1-23 (NIV)

10 And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

11 ...on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.

12 And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.



# God's Judgment Came: Genesis 7:1-23 (NIV)

18 The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water.

19 They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered.



# God's Judgment Came: Genesis 7:1-23 (NIV)

20 The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. *(about 23 feet or about 6.8 meters)*

21 Every living thing that moved on land perished...

23 Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.



# The Land Became Dry Again: Genesis 7:24—8:14 (NIV)

7:24 The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

8:13 ...Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry.

8:14 By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.



# Noah Emerged from the Ark: Genesis 8:15-19 (NIV)

15 Then God said to Noah,

16 “Come out of the ark...”

18 So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives.

19 All the animals...came out of the ark, one kind after another.



# God's Second Promise to Noah: Genesis 8:21—9:17 (NIV)

21 ...“Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”





# Finding Significance in the “Noah’s Flood” Story

- The purpose of today’s lesson is not to debate whether the story should be interpreted literally
- What did it mean to the original readers?
- What does it mean for believers today?





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# Original Readers

- Who were the original readers?
- Probably, Moses was the person who wrote the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy



# Moses: Prophet and Historian

- Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it... (Exodus 17:14)
- Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end (Deuteronomy 31:24)



# Original Readers (cont.)

- The first readers of the first five books of what today we call the Old Testament were the Hebrews of the Exodus
- These former slaves of Egypt would have seen their own story in the pages describing Noah's flood



# “The Exodus”

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# “The Exodus”

## ~~“Noah’s Flood”~~ in a Nutshell

- God’s judgment = **Plagues**
- God’s plan = **Passover**
- God communicated his plan to man in the form of a promise = **Promised Land**
- God’s judgment came, and those who believed the promise were saved = **Parting of the Red Sea (and beyond)**



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# The Baby and the Bath Water

- One man's interpretation was wrong, but there are Bible prophecies yet to unfold...

Judgment Day

**May 21, 2011**

*THE BIBLE GUARANTEES IT!*



DAYS LEFT





# Matthew 24:3-4,36-37 (NIV)

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

4 Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you.”



## Matthew 24:3-4,36-37 (NIV)

36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”



# “The Second Coming”

## ~~“Noah’s Flood”~~ in a Nutshell

- God’s judgment is imminent
- God has devised a plan of escape
- God has communicated his plan to man in the form of a promise
- God’s judgment will come, and those who believe the promise will be saved



# “The Second Coming” ~~“Noah’s Flood”~~ in a Nutshell

- God’s judgment = **Plagues**
- God’s plan = **Endure to the End**
- God has communicated his plan to man in the form of a promise = **Resurrection**
- God’s judgment will come, and those who believe the promise will be saved = **Rapture**



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# God's Judgment: Plagues

- This is not “Judgment Day”
  - It is called “The Day of the Lord”
- This is not to punish ordinary everyday sin
  - It is to avenge Christians and Jews who are killed at the hands of the Antichrist
  - The Antichrist will use the threat of death as leverage to try to persuade believers to abandon their faith in God



## Matthew 24:9-11 (NIV)

9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.



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# God's Plan: Endure to the End

- This means hold on to faith in God in the face of the Antichrist's threats of death



## Matthew 24:12-14 (NKJV)

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.



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# God's Promise: Resurrection

- Resurrection is the both the basis of salvation and the reward for a life lived in Christ's service
- Christians (of any time) who face the life-or-death choice to deny or profess their faith derive courage from this promise



# John 11:25; 14:19 (CEV)

11:25 Jesus then said, “I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die.”

14:19 ...And because I live, you will live.



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# 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NLT)

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves.

17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.



# Finding Significance in the “Noah’s Flood” Story

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## Hebrews 11:7 (NIV)

7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.



# Promise Precedes Consequence

- God's promises are motivated by some inevitable circumstance that follows; e.g.,
  - God promises “forgiveness” because human beings make mistakes and there really is a Day of Judgment
  - God promises “healing” because sickness and disease exists in the world, and at some time we will be affected by it



# Promise Precedes Consequence

- When God makes a promise, that's our cue to prepare for action
  - Noah built the ark
  - The Hebrews prepared for Passover
  - We should seek diligently for faith in Christ and the resurrection in order to be ready for “desperate times” ahead



## Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

9 ...If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.



# Coming to God

1. Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead (as he promised)
2. Diligently seek God by following the example of Christ, and tell others that you do so (“Jesus is Lord”)

Will you begin a relationship with God today?

