

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, September 24, 1992

VOLUME 1, ISSUE NO. 18

BY CINDY BASSETT

Old Noah's enormous folly

People came to mock Noah from the very first day he started building his big boat. He and his family had always been an oddity anyway. Old Noah made it a point to always try to do the right thing even when it didn't make much sense to anyone else.

But Noah's boat was downright peculiar. Why would he build a boat when there wasn't a lake for miles? There wasn't even a puddle anywhere to float a tiny canoe.

They called the boat Noah's folly when he kept working on it day after day. After Noah ran out of forest wood for building, he tore down his barns. When he started breaking up his own house for still more wood, they nicknamed the boat Noah's Big Folly. Tour groups came from all over the world to see Noah's Big Folly.

Meanwhile, Noah was so busy with his building that he didn't seem to take notice of their insults. There was something else that the Lord had told him that he couldn't get out of his head for a second.

"Noah, I'm so grieved by the evil ways of people that my heart is broken," the Lord had said. "I'm sorry that I ever made the world and I'm going to destroy it."

Noah thought that if he told peo-

ple about God's broken heart, they might change before it was too late. But when he told them, all they did was sneer at him.

It wasn't until the day that Noah and his family and a pair of every animal in the world climb aboard that the laughter stopped abruptly. People got real serious when they saw the big door on the boat close all by itself.

The mighty rains began with lots of thunderstorms and lightning cracks tearing through the sky. It was scary watching from the skylights that Noah had built all around the top deck of the boat. But after awhile, there was nothing but a steady, soaking downpour. The darkness was as pitch black as it had been in the very beginning of time before God created light.

The boat drifted alone on a great sea that covered the peaks of the highest mountains in the world. After 40 days, the rain finally stopped. It was silent outside except for the huge waves lapping up against the side of the boat.

One sunny day, Noah opened a window and released a dove. The bird found no dry place to land and returned. A few days later, when Noah let it go again, the dove came flying back with a fresh green sprig



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

in its beak. And the last time Noah sent the dove away, it never came back.

The first thing that Noah did after he let down the huge gangplank to release everyone was to give thanks to God for the promise fulfilled: "I'll never forget you, Noah, and I'll be with you in the storm."

Afterward, Noah looked up and saw the first rainbow, a sign to him that God was pleased. It was time for the world to begin again.

Read More About It: Genesis, Chapter 6-9:17.

Q & A

1. How did Noah deal with his "peer pressure"?
2. What did God promise Noah and is that promise true today?

The Bible Times

A.D. 1989

Mt. Ararat — An American expedition team has found timber remnants believed to be from the great ark constructed by Noah, a Hebrew Patriarch in ancient times.

The wood was discovered in a remote section of the mountains in Turkey, near the Iranian border.

According to a biblical account, God, deeply grieved by the wickedness that existed everywhere, decided to destroy the world except for Noah, his family and a pair of every animal.

Noah took 120 years to build the huge wooden vessel, which was as long as 1 1/2 football fields and as high as a five-story building.

The story in the Book of Genesis records that the great deluge lasted 40 days. According to the biblical account, after 150 days the water went down, and on the 17th day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat, in western Turkey.

Further testing is planned on the timber samples before a conclusive report will be issued.

Talking to God

Dear God,
Thank you for being with me always and especially during the storms in my life.

"God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

We won't be afraid even if the earth gives way
and the mountains fall into the sea!"

Psalm 46:1-2

King Solomon's Wisdom



"Don't be afraid of sudden disaster or of the ruin that comes to wicked people, for God will be with you and keep you safe."

Proverbs 3:25-26.

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NUMBERS! NUMBERS! NUMBERS!

The answer to each of the questions below is a number and can be found in Genesis, Chapters 6-9. After you've completed all questions, add up the numbers to find the total number of golden coins found in the pot at the end of the rainbow. Answers on page 2.

1. How many sons did Noah have? _____
2. Noah and his entire family were the only people in the whole world who escaped the flood. How many people does that make? _____
3. How long did it rain when the flood came? _____
4. How long did it take the time that Noah and everyone entered the ark until the flood started? _____
5. How many pairs of clean animals did Noah take with him into the ark? _____
6. How many days did the waters flood the earth before they finally started to go down? _____
7. How many times did Noah release the dove after the rain stopped? _____
8. How many days did Noah wait before he released the dove from the ark for the last time? _____
9. How old was Noah when the flood water finally dried up? _____

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Bible Trivia

Noah was a very old man by today's standards when he started building the ark, but he was not the oldest person in the Bible. Who was the oldest and how old was that person?

Send answers to *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name and address with your entry.

All entries must be received by Oct. 8, 1992. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and receive a gift, courtesy of The Olive Branch.

Last month's winner was Nathan Galt, who correctly named Balaam as Paul's friend who took him to meet the apostles.

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