

SIGN STUDY #2: THE NOAH AND THE ARK

Review: Sign 1 focused on Adams need for God to provide a robe of righteousness to cover his shame. This robe is a promise of a future mercy that God will send for all mankind.

The Elevations (7):59-64

(59) We sent Noah to his people. He said: "O my people! Worship Allah. You have no other God but Him. I fear for you the punishment of a dreadful day!

(60) **(1) The leaders of his people said: "Ah! We see you evidently wandering (in mind)."**

(61) He said: "O my people! No wandering is there in my (mind): on the contrary I am a messenger from the Lord and Cherisher of the worlds!

(62)" **(2) I but fulfill towards you the duties of my Lord's mission:** Sincere is my advice to you, and

(3) I know from Allah something that you know not.

(63) "Do you wonder that there has come to you a message from your Lord, **(4) through a man of your own people**, to warn you,- **(5) so that you may fear Allah and haply receive His Mercy?"**

(64) But they rejected him, and We delivered him, and those with him, in the Ark: but We overwhelmed in the flood those who rejected Our signs. They were indeed a blind people!

(1) Like many prophets, Noah was rejected by the people he brought God's message too.

(2) Even when rejected, Noah is faithful to what God tells him to do.

(3) Noah knows 4 things his own people don't:

1. There is only one true God (59)

2. Idolatry is a sin before God (59)

3. God's mercy is available to all who receive God's guidance (63)

4. All who reject God's guidance will be punished (64)

(4) God did not send a foreigner to bring a message of his Mercy, but a man from the peoples own society so he could deliver the message in a way they could easily understand. Someone from that society would also be more concerned that his own people believe the message.

(5) Notice the simplicity of the message to the people: fear God and receive His Mercy.

Hud (11):25-49

(25) We sent Noah to his people (with a mission): "I have come to you with a Clear Warning:

(26) "That you serve none but God: Surely, **(1) I do fear for you the penalty of a grievous day.**"

(27) **(2) But the chiefs of the Unbelievers among his people said: "We see (in) you nothing but a man like ourselves: Nor do we see that any follow you but the meanest among us, in judgment immature: Nor do we see in you (all) any merit above us: in fact we think you are liars!"**

(28) He said: "O my people! See you if (it be that) I have a Clear Sign from my Lord, and that He has sent Mercy unto me from His own presence, but that the Mercy has been obscured from your sight? Shall we compel you to accept it when you are averse to it?

(29) "And O my people! I ask you for no wealth in return: my reward is from none but God: **(3) But I will not drive away (in contempt) those who believe: for surely they are to meet their Lord**, and you I see are the ignorant ones!

(30) "And O my people! who would help me against God if I drove them away? Will you not then take heed?

(31) "I tell you not that with me are the treasures of God, nor do I know what is hidden, nor claim I to be an angel. Nor yet do I say, of those whom your eyes do despise that God will not grant them (all) that is good: God knows best what is in their souls: I should, if I did, indeed be a wrong-doer."

(32) They said: "O Noah! you have disputed with us, and (much) have you prolonged the dispute with us: **(4) now bring upon us what you threaten us with**, if you speak the truth!?"

(33) He said: "Truly, God will bring it on you if He wills,- and then, **(5) you will not be able to frustrate it!**

(34) "Of no profit will be my counsel to you, much as I desire to give you (good) counsel, if it be that God wills to leave you astray: He is your Lord! and to Him will you return!"

(35) Or do they say, "He has forged it"? Say: "If I had forged it, on me were my sin! and I am free of the sins of which you are guilty!"

(36) It was revealed to Noah: "None of your people will believe except those who have believed already! So grieve no longer over their (evil) deeds.

(37) "But construct an Ark under Our eyes and Our inspiration, and **(6) address Me no (further) on behalf of those who are in sin:** for they are about to be overwhelmed (in the Flood)."

(38) Forthwith he (starts) constructing the Ark: Every time that the chiefs of his people passed by him, they threw ridicule on him. He said: "If you ridicule us now, we (in our turn) can look down on you with ridicule likewise!"

(39) "But soon will you know who it is on whom will descend **(7) a penalty that will cover them with shame,**- on whom will be unloosed a penalty lasting:"

(40) At length, behold! there came Our command, and the fountains of the earth gushed forth! We said: "Embark therein, of each kind two, male and female, and your family - except those against whom the word has already gone forth,- and the Believers." but only a few believed with him.

(41) So he said: "Embark you on the Ark, In the name of God, whether it move or be at rest! For my Lord is, be sure, Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful!"

(42) So the Ark floated with them on the waves (towering) like mountains, and **(8) Noah called out to his son, who had separated himself (from the rest): "O my son! embark with us, and be not with the unbelievers!"**

(43) The son replied: "**(9) I will take myself to some mountain: it will save me from the water.**" Noah said: "This day nothing can save, from the command of God, any **(10) but those on whom He has mercy!**" And the waves came between them, and the son was among those overwhelmed in the Flood.

(44) Then the word went forth: "O earth! swallow up your water, and O sky! Withhold (your rain)!" and the water abated, and the matter was ended. The Ark rested on Mount Judi, and the word went forth: "Away with those who do wrong!"

(45) And Noah called upon his Lord, and said: "O my Lord! surely my son is of my family! and Thy promise is true, and Thou art the justest of Judges!"

(46) He said: **(11) "O Noah! He is not of your family: For his conduct is unrighteous. So ask not of Me that of which you have no knowledge! I give you counsel, lest you act like the ignorant!"**

(47) Noah said: "O my Lord! I do seek refuge with You, lest I ask You for that of which I have no knowledge. **(12) And unless thou forgive me and have Mercy on me, I should indeed be lost!"**

(48) The word came: "O Noah! Come down (from the Ark) with peace from Us, and blessing on you and on some of the peoples (who will spring) from those with you: but (there will be other) peoples to whom We shall grant their pleasures (for a time), but in the end will a grievous penalty reach them from Us."

(49) Such are some of the stories of the unseen, which We have revealed unto you: before this, neither you nor your people knew them. So persevere patiently: for the End is for those who are righteous.

(1) Noah was honestly concerned for his own people. Likewise, we should be concerned for others, and ourselves, for receiving God's Mercy.

(2) The leaders of the unbelievers told Noah: 1. He was a mere man; 2. He and all his followers were low class; 3. He was a liar.

(3) God will accept all who follow his guidance, as one day they will all meet God.

(4) The people basically said 'bring it on' and God certainly did.

(5) Once God's guidance is rejected there is nothing a person can do to save himself. It is also important to know that God's Mercy is not going to be available forever. Once punishment comes there is nothing we can do to protect ourselves from it.

(6) God commands that Noah doesn't talk to him anymore about the unbelievers.

(7) Just like there is a covering (robe) of righteousness (**Al Arraf (7):26**), so for those who reject God's guidance will be a covering of shame. So God covered Adam with his mercy, so he will cover unbelievers with shame.

(8) Noah's own son disobeyed.

(9) Noah's son tried to make his own way of escaping God's wrath, but he couldn't do it. The fact that he was the son of a prophet meant nothing when he rejected the Mercy of God. Adam tried to do the same thing with covering himself with leaves. (**Al Arraf (7):22**) The wrath of God is just as clear as the Mercy of God.

(10) The ones on whom God has mercy are the ones who receive God's mercy when it is available.

(11) The Lord told Noah that because of his son's disbelief his son is not even a member of his own family and then rebuked him for asking about it since he was commanded not to (37).

(12) Noah asks for God's forgiveness because he violated the command of God from verse 37 and questions the judgment of God. Realizing his mistake Noah then makes the same request Adam did in the garden (*Al Arraf (7):23*).

The Faithful (23):24

(23) (Further, We sent a long line of prophets for your instruction). We sent Noah to his people: He said, "O my people! worship Allah! Have no other god but Him. Will you not fear (Him)?"

(24) The chiefs of the Unbelievers among his people said: "He is no more than a man like yourselves: his wish is to assert his superiority over you: if Allah had wished (to send messengers), He could have sent down angels; **(1) never did we hear such a thing (as he says), among our ancestors of old.**"

(25) (And some said): "He is only a man possessed: wait (and have patience) with him for a time."

(26) **(2) (Noah) said: "O my Lord! help me: for that they accuse me of falsehood!"**

(27) So We inspired him (with this message): "Construct the Ark within Our sight and under Our guidance: then when comes Our Command, and the fountains of the earth gush forth, take thou on board pairs of every species, male and female, and thy family- except those of them against whom the Word has already gone forth: And address Me not in favor of the wrong-doers; for they shall be drowned (in the Flood).

(28) And when you have embarked on the Ark - you and those with you,- say: "Praise be to Allah, Who has saved us from the people who do wrong." (29) And say: "O my Lord! enable me to disembark with your blessing: for You art the Best to enable (us) to disembark."

(30) Verily **(3) in this there are Signs** (for men to understand); **(4) (thus) do We try** (men).

(1) The unbelievers say that this revelation was never spoken about by their ancestors. In other words, they were clinging to the traditions of men rather than the revelations of God.

(2) Noah cries out for God's help and God responds by sending his guidance.

(3) The story of the believers being saved by the ark is a sign for all men to understand.

(4) God commands us to understand and obey the signs, so let's be like Noah and ask God to guide us.

The Moon (54):13-15

(13) But **(1) We bore him on an (Ark)** made of broad planks and caulked with palm-fibre:

(14) She floats under our eyes (and care): a recompense to one who had been rejected (with scorn)!

(15) And We have left this as a Sign (for all time): then is there any that will receive admonition?

(1) The meaning of the word "bore" in Arabic "hamala" means to take upon oneself the burden of someone else; to carry or assume a burden. The picture is that God was the one carrying the ark.

Genesis 6:5-22

⁵ **(1) The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.** ⁶ The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹ This is the account of Noah.

(2) Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

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. 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. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress ^[c] 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. ^[d] ¹⁶ Make a roof for it and finish ^[e] the ark to within 18 inches ^[f] of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. 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. ¹⁸ But 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. 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 **(3) Noah did everything just as God commanded him.**

- (1) Man was exceedingly wicked.
- (2) Noah was righteous.
- (3) Noah did whatever God asked him.

Genesis 7

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. ² Take with you seven ^[a] of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³ and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. 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."

⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸ Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹ male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—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.

¹³ On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴ They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷ For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. 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. ²⁰ The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet. ^[b], ^[c] ²¹ Every living thing that moved on the earth perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³ Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals

and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

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

Genesis 8

¹ But **(1) God remembered Noah** and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. ² Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. ³ The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, ⁴ and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

⁶ After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹ But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹² He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

¹³ By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it."

¹⁸ So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹ All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

²⁰ **(2) Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.** ²¹ **The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma** and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though ^[a] every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

²² "As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."

(1) God is faithful to all who are faithful to Him.

(2) Noah built an altar to the Lord and the Lord was very pleased by it.

Genesis 9:1-17

¹ **(1) Then God blessed Noah and his sons**, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ² The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. ³ Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

⁴ "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man.

⁶ "Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed;
for in the image of God
has God made man.

⁷ As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ **(2) "I now establish my covenant with you** and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ **(2) I establish my covenant with you:** Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹² And God said, **(3) "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."**

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

- (1) The Lord was so pleased with Noah that He blessed him and his sons.
- (2) The Lord was so pleased with Noah that He established several covenants with him.
- (3) The Lord gave a rainbow as a sign of this covenant.

Main Points of the story:

1. Noah was sent to give a warning to his own people, but they rejected him and were punished.
2. Noah and the true believers were the ones who were saved by the ark, not the ones who rejected the message as Noah's own son did.
3. Ultimately it is the Lord who can save us and take our burden upon Himself.

Spiritual meaning of the sign:

Just like we see the promise of a future Mercy in the story of Adam and Eve, we see more detail on what that will look like through the story of Noah. Just like the true believers got on board the ark, the true believers today will act upon the Mercy of God and receive it into their lives.

Application:

We need to ask ourselves if we simply receive God's Mercy by faith or if we are trying to get it by our own efforts. We need to believe and receive the Mercy that God provides.