

Everyday FAITH Family Page

H2Oh!

Law/Gospel

From the moment of birth, my heart is inclined toward evil and unbelief. I deserve to be drowned in the flood of God's wrath. **Out of His pure goodness and mercy, God rescues me from sin, death, and the devil, washing away my sins for the sake of His Son, Jesus, who suffered, died, and rose again for me.**

Bible Words

The Lord will rescue me . . . and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom.
2 Timothy 4:18

Fun Facts

Genesis 6:14 says Noah built the ark from "gopher wood," an unknown material today. The Bible only uses this Hebrew word here, and its meaning is obscure. Because of this, many Bible translations simply keep the original word, writing it as "gopher" (e.g., ESV, King James). Others versions translate the word as pine or cypress (e.g., New International Version). Early Church Fathers Ambrose and Augustine thought either wood may have been intended. The Greek Septuagint translates the word as "squared beams."

SOURCE: creationwiki.org/Gopher_wood

H2Oh! Everywhere: Noah

Genesis 6:9–9:17

The worldwide flood is both one of the most scandalous accounts in the Scriptures and most beautiful Gospel presentations at the same time.

The Bible reports that God became angry with people because of their unbelief, but still showed compassion toward believers and His creation. Grieved that judgment was necessary, God would rather have not created humanity than destroy it (Genesis 6:6–7). The Lord saved Noah and his family because they believed and trusted in Him (Hebrews 11:7). Noah was a righteous man (Genesis 6:9), which the Scriptures always ascribe to faith, never good or righteous deeds (Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:7–9).

After Noah and his family entered the ark, God shut the door, taking responsibility for the flood. He alone has authority to execute judgment against the unbelieving world.

The New Testament uses the saving of Noah's eight family members to point to God's rescue through Baptism. In Baptism, God saves us and grants us forgiveness of sin and a clean conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:18–21). The flood shows that because of sin, we all deserve wrath, death, and destruction. The ark shows that we receive eternal life on account of God's mercy, earned for us by Christ on the cross and transmitted through the waters of Baptism.

Other Worldwide Flood Accounts

The ancient epics of Gilgamesh and Atrahasis both tell of a worldwide flood where the gods decided to destroy the world because people were so noisy they couldn't sleep. They saved one family to worship them.

Some people think Scripture plagiarized these Near Eastern accounts, making the biblical flood fictional with no historical or theological value. Two things make this unlikely. First, these accounts might have copied the biblical account. Second, the other accounts show self-serving gods that cared nothing for humanity, contrary to the Bible's teaching.

Prayer

Lord God, help us remember that we are Your baptized children, saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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